

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Qumer (Chair)

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

1 **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 asked by Peter Brown:

 “Why does this Council allow Councillors to lie and deceive the public?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council did not allow Councillors to lie. A process was in place for a member of the public who believed they had lied to, to make a complaint. The member of the public was expected to identify the elected member and bring forward evidence. It was not appropriate for every member to be besmirched.

2. Question asked by Joe Fitzpatrick:

 “Who owns the land and buildings of the Collective Spirit free school, that is due to close at the end of this month, and if the land is sold for residential development, will Oldham council receive any payment for what was recently in the ownership of the residents of Oldham?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the land occupied by the school had been transferred to the school by the Department for Education. The Leader had written to the Secretary of

State as under current legislation it was still a matter for the Secretary of State to decide. The Council was seeking for the land to be returned and proceed with the plans before the school for a capital receipt to be obtained.

3. Question received from Henry Stewart via email:

“When the transfer of housing stock took place between Oldham Council and FCHO was this conducted under 1) English Contract Law and 2) European Contract Protocols? Yes or no answers to each question will suffice.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded yes to both questions. The matter had been considered at the Council meeting held on 15th December 2010 which included a report entitled “Housing Stock Transfer – Transfer Agreement” which was a matter of public record and available to view on the Council’s website.

4. Question received from Ian Bond via email:

“Regarding the "Oldham Masterplan": Given that you are confident enough to state that the development will bring in £50m to the local economy per annum (Oldham Chronicle, 3rd July 2017), can you inform the Taxpayers of Oldham how much this "Masterplan" is expected to cost and who will pay for it?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the forecast development costs were in excess of £350m as stated in the Cabinet report. It was not intended that the Council would invest on its own but would seek a joint venture partnership. The detail was not yet known. A period of consultation would be entered with the appropriate discussions. A joint venture partner was sought to share costs, risk and reward in order that the full costs of self-development did not fall to the Council alone. When a partner was in place, the procurement would be reported to Cabinet and Council later in the year.

5. Question received from Louise McCallum via email:

“Please can someone at the council meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening ask what action is going to be taken in the Hathershaw area, regenerated and now worse than it was before the regeneration.

This area is in serious rapid decline, there are so many urgent issues need addressing, the few good residents left in this area now just feel as though we are expected to be resigned to accept this is how the area is and we are not going to receive any support.

Not seen a single Labour councillor door knocking in my area despite my constant contact with various agencies regarding the horrendous problems we are encountering. Its about time they made themselves visible around the area to show that they care and are taking action. Fly tipping, litter, low level crime, prostitution, brothels, anti social behaviour, the list goes on and we're just expected to live amongst this. What is being done to address these issues?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Hathershaw neighbourhood was included in the Selective Licensing of Private Landlords scheme where agencies worked closely together to respond to local issues. The Environmental Enforcement team worked alongside the police for the discharge of warrants on identified households and where required, enforcement action had been taken. Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued to individuals where evidence had been found dumped and the Council had invested in CCTV cameras to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour and flytipping. Where the Police had evidence of criminal activity, arrests had been made and action taken. The Police had also seized a number of vehicles in the neighbourhoods and issues fines for driving offences. The District Teams had dedicated resources to the neighbourhood for the engagement of residents, community organisations and local schools to support community activity such as adult education classes, children's activities, social activities and community projects which improved the area.

6. Question received from Shaun McGrath via email:

"Oldham council have contracts with First Choice Homes Oldham and the tenants for the stock transfer and the '3 tenants on the board' condition is part of the paperwork. Will Cllr. Barbara Brownridge, a member of said board, confirm that there are indeed 3 tenants represented?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that currently there was no legal requirement on First Choice Homes Oldham to have three tenant representatives or indeed to have any tenant representatives on the board. The 2010 offer document promised to have an initial FCHO board of 5 tenants, 4 independents and 3 councillors. The board was put into place from the stock transfer in 2011 and maintained for the duration of the offer document promise of 5 years until 2016. A full review of governance arrangements had been completed in 2015/16. Customer forums, tenants & residents associations, shadow customer congress and all tenants were formally consulted over an 8 week period. The recommendations of the review were agreed and involved moving from a board of 12 with selected

constituent members to a more flexible board of between 8 – 12 members who are recruited based upon a skills and knowledge person specification. The rules for the FCHO had been changed to reflect these new arrangement and agreed with the regulators, the Homes Communities Agency and the Financial Services Authority. All tenants were notified of the changes. A tenant can be on the board if they can represent the skills required.

7. Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via email:

“The money that Oldham Council spend on services is raised through council tax collections. The majority of the funding is raised through government grants. The remaining funds are raised through charges that are paid directly by service users. These include charges for sports facilities, parking and contributions towards care packages. As a resident of Werneth/Coppice Ward I would like to know what percentage of the council budget is spent in Coppice/Werneth Ward per person compared with other wards in Oldham in the following categories:

Adults Service
Homelessness
Community sport and events
Child protection and other children’s services
Travel Assist
Library and community libraries
Waste management
Parks and nature conservation
Education, employment and training

Please keep the town centre investments separate from Werneth/Coppice Ward.”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources, responded that the majority of services were funded on a boroughwide basis and not ward based. When the budget was approved by Council, the Council allocated spending on particular services and did not specifically earmark or ringfence spending to a particular ward for the services listed. Furthermore, whilst some individual wards host facilities such as schools, parks, libraries, sports centres and community centres, these were provided for the benefit of all Oldham residents not just residents that lived within a particular ward. Oldham Council’s net revenue budget for the current financial year was almost £210m or approximately £909 per resident. Around 5.7% of Oldham’s population live in the ward of Werneth which meant the share of the Council’s revenue budget for Werneth residents on a per person basis was around £12m.”

8. Question received from Barbara Caffery via email:

“When are you going to do something about the constant fly tipping behind Belgrave road OL8 2JU, this is a constant issue which the council don't appear to be doing anything apart from clearing them nearly every week. Also when is the next resident meeting for hathershaw?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, reassured that every flytipping referral was investigated for any evidence that could lead to a prosecution before the waste was removed. There was also a dedicated team of Council and police officers who were working in the Hathershaw area and would make contact with the resident to discuss local issues.

9. Question received from Peter McCoy via email:

“Why do I a disabled person coping alone on minimal benefits have to pay bedroom tax?”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources responded that the Coalition Government had brought in changes as part of the Welfare Reform Act. Of all the austerity measures this was one of the most shameful which penalised the most disadvantaged. Sympathy was offered but this was out of the control of the Council. The Council supported those residents suffering a hardship as a result of the application of the size criteria through the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme. Assistance could be made by contacting the team on 0161 770 6633. The Welfare Rights Service could also help maximise income for residents and they could be contacted on 01761 770 6655.

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

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 Jacques asked the following question:

“At the Hollinwood Park and Ride Metro station the new parking restrictions have seen an increase in the use of the multi storey parking, however, there has been an ongoing issue with anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the much valued facility. This has resulted in residents feeling less confident to use the service. Taking into account the current conditions would the relevant cabinet member advise what action TfGM are taking to improve passenger confidence and safety, whilst maintaining

parking restrictions and whether there are any plans for additional parking at this or an adjacent site?"



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Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the TfGM Metrolink Team was working in partnership with organisations such as the Travel Safe Unit, Greater Manchester Police, the new Metrolink operator and the Oldham Youth Team to target the individuals responsible and an enhanced presence along the Oldham-Rochdale line be given. The team were repairing the lighting in the Park and Ride and were also working towards upgrading it to LED as a high priority. TfGM was also funding an additional team of security patrols who would operate on this line after 6 pm in the evening and included planned patrols at Hollinwood. On the network as a whole, there would be a significant uplift in staff presence from mid-July as the new operator increased the number of customer services representatives and deployed a dedicated team of new recruited travel safe officers where they were most needed.

2. Councillor Haque asked the following question:

"Can the relevant cabinet member please tell us what plans there are for improving the traffic flow at the Elk Mill roundabout? Over the last few months we have seen queues building on roads leading to the roundabout especially coming on from Burnley Lane.

I have personally received a number of complaints from my constituents about build up of traffic from the roundabout going up to North Chadderton School. I feel we need to look at this urgently and find a solution."

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the Council was aware of the limited capabilities and performance of the Elk Mill roundabout with regards to how it was able to deal with high volumes of traffic at peak periods. In recent months increased queuing had taken place along the Burnley Lane approach to the junction. This has been primarily due to the closure of Streetbridge Road in order for essential gas main replacement works to be carried out by a utility contractor and this would be re-opened within the next week which should assist. The Council was working with Transport for Greater Manchester to proactively develop a bid to the Department of Transport for funding for the whole signalisation of the junction to be completed.

3. Councillor Gloster asked the following question:

"Is the Cabinet Member aware of the recent incidents of serious criminal activity in Shaw, namely fighting between gangs over the weekend and the apparent arrest of a

man carrying a machete outside the Blue Bell Inn on Monday 10 July?

These are the latest in a series of serious public order issues that have occurred in Shaw Town Centre on an increasingly frequent basis, usually involving youths, not necessarily from the Shaw and Crompton area, who are meeting up to cause disturbance, fight between each other, intimidate my constituents and steal from the local supermarkets.

Shaw and Crompton ward members are gravely concerned by this ongoing unacceptable situation, which is having a serious impact on the quality of life of Shaw and Crompton residents and visitors to our town and an impact on the local economy.

Does the Cabinet Member agree that this situation is unacceptable and that additional resources, both Police and youth services, are urgently required to combat this issue? And can she please reassure me and my colleagues that she will do all that is possible to make these resources available at the earliest possible date?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that everything possible was being done with the resources available. The Detached Youth Team were in regular attendance in the Shaw district and were working with many young people on the streets. This work included challenging young people's behaviour, providing guidance and supporting them into positive activities. The team were also working with TfGM and had access to the tram network which enabled them to work with young people who used the trams. Actions had been taken against a number of individuals who were engaged in anti-social behaviour in the area and Community Safety Services continued to work closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Resources had been deployed where they were most needed, whenever possible. This was in addition to the work being undertaken to develop Pubwatch schemes in the area which ensured a safe night time economy and engagement work which was undertaken within schools in the area.

4. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

"The Manchester Arena terrorist atrocity had devastating consequences for families across the North West and beyond, including for a family living in Royton North. The Royton District team, supported by colleagues across the council, worked extremely hard to support people affected by this and to help the family and community organise the two events on Tandle Hill as commemoration and remembrance. As well as sending condolences and sympathy to the two Royton families directly affected, would the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods join me in thanking the Royton District

team and other Council staff for their contribution at this sad time?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives thoroughly endorsed the sentiments of the question and placed on record not only her thanks to Council staff who gave support and advice to the families and friends of those killed but also to the greater community who rose and supported the families with great dignity.



5. Councillor M. Bashforth asked the following question:

“Despite constant pressure from the Royton South councillors and the best efforts of our Environmental Team (who have been very helpful) we are still struggling to get the owners of the derelict former furniture factory on Holden Fold Lane to fulfil their obligation to knock down, clear and make safe the site.

Will the cabinet member responsible give Environmental officers the authority to get the site cleared immediately and make the area safe for the residents who live next to the site?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that relevant permission required demolition of the structure. A condition had been imposed which ensured that appropriate mitigation measures were put into place to safeguard protected species currently at the site during the implementation of the application. The building could not be demolished until the measures were in place. The applicant has been requested to implement the measures.

6. Councillor Phythian asked the following question:

“Could the cabinet member for neighbourhoods outline the action that has been taken in response to complaints from elected members and the public about rats at Thornham Mill and confirm that the owners will be recharged for any costs arising to the Council in getting rid of this problem?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives confirmed that in response to complaints from both elected members and members of the public, officers from Environmental Health had served legal notices on the owners of the mill for the removal of waste that contributed to the problem. This notice was not complied with, therefore the Council had instructed contractors to carry out the works and this cost would be invoiced to the owners of the mill.

7. Councillor Turner asked the following question:

“Following the spate of antisocial behaviour and vandalism at the empty ambulance station on Moor Street, Crompton, although I was disappointed that the Council had to take on this responsibility, due to the failure of the new owner to co-operate, I was pleased to see that the Council had partly secured the premises yesterday. Can I please ask the relevant Cabinet member, in the interest of health and safety, when the broken shutter will be repaired or replaced? because although the windows, interior doors and side doors have been boarded up, the building is still easy to access and I’m sure it will only be a matter of time before the boards on the interior office doors (which once inside the building are invisible to public view) will be removed and this cycle of vandalism, setting fires and antisocial behaviour will continue.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, confirmed that the empty ambulance station was in private ownership and that officers from Environmental Health had been contacted on Monday of this week by the Police regarding problems at the building and the fact that it was empty and open to access. The new owner had been contacted and asked to carry out emergency works by Tuesday or the Council would them and reclaim the costs. As on Tuesday evening, the building had been secured by the owner and not the Council. Officers had been asked to inspect the building again to make sure that the owner had carried out the works to a satisfactory standard and had also been asked to monitor the situation and keep in touch with the new owner with regard to long term plans.

8. Councillor Chadderton asked the following question:

“Residents adjacent to the OAFK car park have been asking why it doesn’t appear to have any sort of management in place. Residents experience asb in the form of cars racing around the car park at all hours of the night, people turning up in cars with loud music playing and regular noise and road rage at the one way gate leading into the site which does not have any indication who has right of way. This is on top of the many years it is taking to tidy up the site which still has a way to go. Can the cabinet member responsible please ask officers to investigate who is responsible for the upkeep and management of this car park and use whatever powers they have to get them to deal with the entrance gate and ensure the site is not left open to anyone who wishes to use it for asb purposes?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the District Team and Community Safety Services would take action as appropriate against any persons identified as being involved in anti-social behaviour in the locality. The

land was not in Council ownership or control, it was understood to be owned by Oldham Athletic Football Club.



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9. Councillor Iqbal asked the following question:

“Local residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the large number of high speeding cars driving in residential areas.

The speed humps that were installed many years ago have started to become worn out. Could the relevant Cabinet Members update me on the plans for Oldham council in replacing these speed humps?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded assured that the Council took road safety very seriously and were committed to reducing the number of road traffic accidents on Oldham’s roads. In previous years, the introduction of road humps had not only helped reduce traffic speeds significantly but also the likelihood and severity of any traffic collision.

However, as had been pointed out, some of these features were in excess of 20 years old. There were an increasing number of road humps in the Borough that were in need of refurbishment or repair to help maintain their speed reduction capabilities. This issue would be addressed by the exploration of the most appropriate funding mechanism for a programme of remedial work to be delivered.

The Council worked with Transport for Greater Manchester Casualty Reduction Partnership to regularly monitor the injury collision rates on Oldham’s roads, particularly where excessive speed may have been a contributory factor.

10. Councillor Dearden asked the following question:

“Taylor Street in Chadderton Central is part of an estate managed by First Choice Homes, a number of properties in this area were purchased in the 'right to buy scheme'. Unfortunately, at least one such property that could and should provide a good family home has stood empty for at least 3 years, 'right to buy' was and is a scheme that is open to abuse and this is just one example of that abuse. Could the relevant Cabinet Member advise me what if any steps can be taken to prevent properties that should be available to Oldham residents standing empty?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives explained that deterrents coupled with advisory help had a degree of success with the number of long term empty properties which was currently 1,143. There were a number of steps that officers in Environmental Health were taking, working with colleagues in Council tax, to focus the

attention of owners of empty properties whilst offering advice and assistance which included the following:

- Council tax was still payable on empty properties, with the exception of the ones awaiting probate or required major/structural works.
- Council tax increases to 150% on properties that remained empty two years and over;
- Officers offered advice and assistance to property owners who wanted to consider options for the property;
- Enforcement action could be taken where empty properties were considered detrimental requiring owners for improvement to be made;
- Enforcement action could be taken where empty properties caused a statutory notice/affecting others.

It was not an offence for a property to be left empty if it was kept secure and in good order, the Council had no legal powers to bring the property back into use.

11. Councillor Hudson asked if there had been any news from TFGM regarding the upgrade of the rail line which affected Greenfield, if there were plans in place as the closure of the bridge would cause significant disruption.

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that he was not aware of any plans at the moment but would advise and get back to him.

12. Councillor Hewitt asked the following question:

“Cars and lorries are part of our lives, for better or worse. Rural life depends on the highway network for connections and communication. Many villages lie along the route of busy country roads connecting villages together into Oldham and beyond.

Developers have an appetite for building new homes in and around our villages attracted by higher market prices in semi - rural and rural areas increasing traffic and pressure on the infrastructure.

Lees, Springhead and Grotton suffer greatly with lack of parking and narrow roads as well as heavy traffic on the main arterial road through all 3 villages towards Lydgate, with traffic travelling at speed whenever possible especially after passing the speed camera or exiting a bottle neck and being stationary in a queue of traffic. Would the member whose portfolio it is sit down with me to discuss creating a Safety and Civility plan for traffic management in the villages around the Borough?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that a meeting would help and would ask officers to contact Councillor Hewitt.

13. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

“Collective Spirit was opened by the Department for Education and closed by the Department for Education. Can the Cabinet Member for Education update us on the work being done by the Council to ensure that students are supported in their transfer to a new school from September 2017 and would she agree with me that this is a further example of a failed Conservative policy which has used Education as an ideological weapon rather than meeting the needs of Oldham's young people?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that when something went wrong with a school it was felt that this was the Council's fault as the general public see the Council's role as the leadership of the town. The Council had not opened or closed the school. The school had been opened and closed by the Department for Education. The Council had done an immense amount of work, the time of which was three weeks before the end of term with many families panicking and angry as to where their child would attend school in September. The Council was offering support to the families and support to Oasis. Drop in sessions had been arranged over the next two weeks. Priorities were being made which ensured every child was offered a place. Chadderton Councillors would be kept informed.

14. Councillor Mushtaq asked the following question:

“I have recently been contacted by a resident with concerns about guide dogs being prevented from entering taxis. Can the relevant cabinet member please inform me of the council policy on this issue?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the drivers of hackney carriages or private hire vehicles were bound under the Equality Act 2010 to taken as assistance dog in their vehicle unless they had a medical exemption certificate issued by the Council. The Council had and would continue to take action against drivers who took it upon themselves to refuse to take an assistance dog in their vehicle. This included taking court action where necessary and reviewed whether they were a suitable person to continue to hold a licence with this Council.

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 Ahmad, Ames, Brock, A. Hussain, Kirkham, Larkin, Murphy, Sheldon and Williamson.



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3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ANNUAL COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH MAY 2017 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2017 be agreed 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 Sykes declared a personal interest by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor McCann declared a personal interest by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board, Unity Joint Venture Board and the MioCare Board.

Councillor Harkness declared a personal interest at Item 12 due to his employment at a school.

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

Councillor Jabbar declared a personal interest by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and Unity Joint Venture Board.

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

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

Councillor Ur-Rehman declared a personal interest by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

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

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor advised Council he had received a communication from the Leader of the Council regarding the recent tragic events which had occurred.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, spoke on the non-stop chain of events that had occurred and included the attack on 22nd May in Manchester where the youngest were targeted at a venue which was seen as a home for fun and entertainment, 22 people were killed and 116 injured. Emergency services had been deployed. Residents of Oldham were at the event, two had gone to collect their daughters. The impact on the borough had been significant. Events had been held in memory of those

lost with work carried out by officers and staff volunteers. Reference was made to an incident at a mosque which was condemned across communities. Reference was made to the other atrocities at Westminster, London Bridge, Borough Market, the fire at Grenfell Tower and Seven Sister Road. The aftermath of Grenfell was distressing. The Leader raised that the Government should seek the reintroduction of fire safety accreditation. The Leader offered the sympathy of the Council to all those affected by these recent events. The Council would continue to support residents and communities and would stand against those who would do harm. Extremists would not be allowed to change our way of life.

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resource on being awarded an MBE.

7

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

The Mayor advised that two petitions had been received for noting by Council.

Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Objections to the Proposal for the Installation of a Hackney Carriage Rank on St. Thomas' Parade, Thomas Street, Lees, petition received 19th April 2017 with 552 signatures (Ref: 2017-03)

Petition to Reduce Parking Problems on Thomas Street, Wild Street, Princess Street, Church Street, Albert Street and Stamford Street, Lees (Saddleworth West and Lees Ward) received on 16 May with 112 signatures (Ref: 2017-04)

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

8

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Mayor informed the meeting that there was one item of outstanding business from the previous meeting:

Motion 1

Councillor Ur-Rehman MOVED and Councillor Fielding SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council supports the TUC’s Dying to Work Campaign’s charter as being an imperative way of preserving the rights and dignity of its workers who are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Currently, workers with a terminal illness do not have a ‘protected characteristic’, and therefore have limited legal protection. Employers are free to dismiss terminally ill workers once they can prove they have made ‘reasonable adjustments’ to the employee’s job to assist with the illness. In addition, this

leaves an employee facing the possibility that they will lose their death in service benefits, adding further stress at a time when security for a family's future should be protected.

This Council believes that it should be the right of the employee to choose when or if they leave employment. An employee who is diagnosed with a terminal illness should be properly informed of their options and decide what is right for them, safe in the knowledge that they will not be put under undue pressure by their employer.

This Council recognises that in order to encourage other organisations to respect the rights of any of their terminally ill employees, the Council must lead by example.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- 1) Sign the Dying to Work charter and integrate its contents into our HR procedures.
- 2) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions lobbying for an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 that safeguards the rights of terminally ill employees.
- 3) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three MPs asking them to do everything they can to press for an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 that safeguards the rights of terminally ill employees."

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Gloster spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ur-Rehman did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Dying to Work Charter be signed and its contents integrated into the Council's HR Procedures.
2. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions lobbying for an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 that safeguards the rights of terminally ill employees.
3. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Borough's three MPs asking them do everything they can to press for an amendment to the Equality Act 2010 that safeguards the rights of terminally ill employees.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council moved the following MOTION:

"The mental health and wellbeing of young people is suffering due to lack of appropriate funding by Central Government, in a recent survey of primary school head teachers, almost 80% of those who responded said a lack of money prevented them providing mental health services in schools. We know that more

than half of all mental illness starts before the age of 15 and it is clear from front line school teachers and head teachers that they are increasingly faced with problems of mental health issues among their students. It is therefore a false economy to cut funding for services for children and young people.

As a Youth Council we have held Mental Health as a priority issue for 6 years, because young people in Oldham tell us it's a priority issue, professionals we work with tell us it's a priority issue, our regional and National counterparts tell us it's a priority issue and the Government need to acknowledge and address this priority issue. In Oldham there is cross sectoral agreement recognising the problem of mental ill health and the will to act jointly with government support. The Council, CCG, schools, colleges and other partner organisations are working in partnership with our young people on projects such as MH2K, the school and college emotional and mental wellbeing framework and the Youth Councils 'Kerrching' funding stream. We have also been lucky enough to receive some funding from the CCG to commission training around a range of children and young people's Mental Health topics for front line practitioners in Oldham. But this isn't enough, without adequate funding from Central Government these initiatives will have limited impact.

In 2015 we were part of a Youth Select committee on young people's mental health services so it is no longer the Cinderella of Cinderella services but rather receives funding proportionate to that of Physical health.

A whole school approach to addressing The Emotional wellbeing of students that includes mandatory minimum training for teachers on Mental Health, the inclusion of trained counsellors in all schools and improved access to Counselling services. Additional support for young people during the stressful exam period and a call for the Department of Education to lead on piloting, evaluating and sharing good practice projects to promote this.

The Youth Council acknowledges and supports the excellent work being done by the Council and its partner agencies including Oldham Youth Council and thanks all those involved in developing and implementing this work.

Increased funding from government specifically to address mental health and wellbeing for pupils, students and young people would enable the council to sustain current programmes that are meeting with success but are limited by funding.

We therefore ask the Chief Executive to resolve to asked the Chief Executive to write to both the Minister of State for Education and the Minister of State for Health, requesting the Government to ensure that adequate funding is made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention services and that services such as CAHMHS receive the funding they need to deliver the services for our young people."

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Williams spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Heffernan spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Chadderton spoke in support of the motion.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive write to both the Minister of State for Education and the Minister of State for Health, requesting the Government to ensure that adequate funding is made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention services and that services such as CAHMHS receive the funding they need to deliver the services for our young people.

NOTE: Councillor S. Bashforth entered the Chamber during this item.

10

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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

Question 1:

“I am sure that every member in this Chamber will have been as horrified as I as to see the image of the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower and the impact that it had on both the building, the tower’s residents and its neighbours.

The latest estimate is that there will be at least eighty lives lost; many residents are still missing; and the survivors of the blaze remain traumatised; coping with injuries and missing loved ones; without any possessions and with no certainty about their future housing circumstances.

It would be remiss of me at this point not to condemn the woeful response of this Government to the needs of the fire’s victims and the shameful absence of Prime Minister; Theresa May in the aftermath of this enormous tragedy. Strong and stable – I think not.

I have a stark message for the Prime Minister – it is your job to lead the nation in times like this and on this occasion you failed miserably.

It would also be true to say, in my opinion, that the local council for the area; Kensington and Chelsea; was an embarrassment to all involved in local government.

Both the Officer and Political Leadership of that council has failed their residents big time.

I am pleased to say this is in stark contrast to Oldham Council when we have had to face emergencies such as Maple Mill and the tragic gas blast in Shaw.

On a more positive note, it was however a tremendous relief to learn, following enquiries made by my Liberal Democrat colleague; Councillor Chris Gloster; that none of the tower blocks in this Borough have been clad with any inflammable material as Grenfell appears to have been.

At a time like this, I am sure the Leader will want to reassure members of this Chamber; and more importantly the residents of our Borough’s tower blocks; and their friends and relatives; that

all of the components of any type of external cladding system used in this Borough are safe.

Also that the evacuation procedures for tower blocks in Oldham have been thoroughly reviewed in recent days to ensure that they are up-to-date and follow best practice.

I would like to ask the Leader for this reassurance tonight and also for a brief summary of what advice to tenants and occupiers of such tower block is in the event of a fire?

Also, what is happening to other public buildings in the Borough that could possibly be clad with similar materials as used in Grenfell such as leisure facilities, education buildings and health service accommodation to name just three?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that by saying she agreed with the assessment of the Government's and local authority's response to Grenfell. The Leader explained that it has been established that there were no social housing blocks with cladding similar to that used at Grenfell in Oldham. One privately owned block, not currently occupied, was affected. Work on ongoing with the Fire Service in terms of advice and support for tower blocks. The Council was working with social landlords in terms of a review. The Mayor of Greater Manchester had established a task force on which the Council was represented. As soon as information was available, it would be shared.

Question 2:

"For my second question to the Leader, I want to return to an issue that I have raised many times in this Chamber before – namely the education of our Borough's children.

I was disappointed, and, in all honesty, sad, to read recently that once more Oldham was bottom of the class when it came to the number of our children who miss out on attending a secondary school of their choice.

And I am not just talking here about pupils (and their parents) not getting their first choice of school – I am talking here about them not getting their second or third choices either.

In this Borough almost 9 percent – to be exact 8.9 per cent – did not secure a place to start at any of their preferred schools in September, which is nearly 1 in 10 pupils or approximately 300 of them.

So now we have another mark of failure against our education system as according to the Department for Education, Oldham was the sixth worst performer in the country and the worst in the North West for school choices.

Compare this to the national figure – 3.6 percent – we are three times higher. Three times as many denied the secondary place that they seek.

The Borough is also second worst in the region for the percentage of pupils being offered a place at their first preference school and only 1.5 percent of pupils in Rochdale did not get a place at one of their three preferred schools.

In Oldham our primary sector is not much better; 6 percent pupils or 181 children; failed to get a place at their first, second or third choice schools.

It is scandalous – we can do better, much better and we must do better, for the sake of our children and their educational future. Because if we do not offer children a place at a secondary school they want to go to we are hardly providing them with an inspiring start to help spur them on to do their level best in their final years of compulsory schooling.

I look forward to the Council meeting when I can ask the Leader a positive question about Education in our borough – but I am sorry to say that with the current level of performance that I cannot see this as being at any point soon.

Let's hope that the new Saddleworth School, the new Royton and Crompton School and the expanded Crompton House school and Oasis Academy will be able to meet the educational expectations of all of our young people; but these are long-term and not immediate gains, and some of them are still far from certain.

So my second question to the Leader tonight is; what is being done now to ensure that every child in the Borough receives a secondary school place of their choice in the future?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that she agreed that it was desirable for a child to get first place of choice. This was not possible at the moment with a situation beyond the Council's control. Two secondary schools had closed which was appropriate due to the services they had provided. The closures had created issues. Plans were being brought forward with a free school provider for a secondary school and for the school to be built as soon as possible. Plans were in place for Saddleworth School and a major rebuild for Royton and Crompton. The figures quoted were from 41 councils surveyed, not all had responded. This did not mean that it was right. Work was being done to ensure the situation improved.

Question from the Leader of the Conservative Party:

Councillor Hudson raised the issue of Saddleworth School. He commented that he had received representations from his constituents about being kept up to date on the school and if any funding would be lost at any stage for the new school. He requested an update.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that the Council was still awaiting information from the EFA. Due to the fragmentation of education, Councils had little control over educational establishments, however still had an obligation legacy. The Council was still awaiting information, when it was received it would be shared.

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 Briggs asked the following question:

“Among many of the cuts to welfare benefits starting from April 2017, was a very late reduction in the scope of Personal Independence Payment which reverses a recent court decision which ruled people with severe mental health problems were entitled to claim PIP. Is the relevant Cabinet Member able to tell us how this will affect Oldham residents in need of help and support to cope with their mental health challenges?”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources responded that the government had introduced new regulations in March in response to Upper Tribunal decisions, which had ruled in favour of people with mental health problems being awarded points in particular activities when applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The Upper Tribunal decision widened the scope for people with mental health conditions which maximised their points in the mobility activity.

In response, the Government had changed the eligibility related to the Mobility Criteria around ‘Planning and Following journeys’. The new wording for this had made it more difficult for people with mental health problems to be awarded the same points as before since points were now only awarded in some cases ‘for reasons other than psychological distress.

The new regulations did not prevent people with mental health conditions from claiming PIP which could still be awarded. However, in this particular activity, people with mental health conditions would find it more difficult to be awarded points due to the change in regulations.

Oldham residents would be impacted by the change, as customers who were currently in receipt of PIP and had scored under the previous criteria, may no longer score the same points when their claims were reviewed. New claimants with a mental health condition such as depression and anxiety which affected their ability to go outdoors, would now find it harder to be awarded points. The Welfare Rights Services helped residents to challenge PIP decisions and supported new claims to PIP as well as the maximisation of household income across the range of Welfare Benefits. The Government was going against the most vulnerable in the community.

2. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

“There have in recent months been devastating attacks carried out here in the north west as well as London, with, as we all know, dire consequences. There has also been the tragic loss of life at Grenfell Tower in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Decisions taken when such atrocities occur by those who lead the emergency services that we rely upon are paramount, and our trust in such decisions must be made, whatever our own feelings are.

Would the Leader agree with me that all members of the public owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to those brave men and women who are the first respond to such incidents, and who, on many occasions, risk their own life in order to save others, and that she should write to the Heads of each emergency service offering sincere thanks from all within this Chamber and the Oldham public. Such thanks should also be extended to the medical staff at the Royal Oldham Hospital.”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise referred to her earlier comments. All members owed a debt of gratitude to the emergency services. The courage and dedication was evident on a daily basis and would be recognised with thanks.

3. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“At a recent school governors meeting, concerns were raised regarding the DBS status of Schools Meals staff who are employed by the LA but work in schools. Could the relevant Cabinet member, assure us that all Schools Meals staff working in schools have received relevant training in Safeguarding, and that these staff have had or are in the process of having DBS checks carried out?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that all staff had relevant checks that were required by statute at the time of their appointment. The Council was in the process of arranging safeguarding training for staff and this would be completed for cleaning staff by September 2017 and catering staff by May 2018. In addition, all schools were required to advise staff of any arrangements and processes within individual schools.

4. Councillor McCann asked the following question:

“Oldham Planning Committee & its chairman do a good job in applying planning law and setting conditions on some developments that are unpopular but cannot be stopped on planning grounds. Someone is always upset. However when conditions or actual detail of a condition are not followed by a developer then I feel there is a lack of urgency and/or positive action in enforcing such matters.

There are many cases, and I have sympathy for departments short of resources, but in the case of Well-I-Hole Farm PA335111/14 not only has the developer failed to conform with conditions set by the council, but also by the Inspector who allowed the applicant’s appeal.

So landscaping has not taken place around an area granted permission for all year occupation by caravans by

the Inspector, whilst areas with time limits on occupation have in fact had caravans on them. Numerous representations have been made for action to be taken against this flouting of planning and so I ask that serious consideration be given to legal action. Would the Cabinet Member be able to offer any hope, although I am aware resources are stretched, for a developer to ignore conditions since 2014 is 'taking the mick' on a grand scale?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, shared the principle in the reduction of resources in Planning especially in respect of enforcement of conditions. Enforcement of any details planning application were not mandatory but discretionary and a judgement to be made whether or not to try in law or negotiate a solution. The background to the Well-i-Hole application was complicated. Councillor Brownridge proposed to send a full written response. The situation related to an original planning application and subsequent appeal against a non-determination of the application to vary the conditions. It was the conditions that the Inspector had imposed at the appeal and part of those related to the landscaping conditions. An application had been made to discharge those conditions, however the view had been taken that the species were not appropriate. There were ongoing negotiations to get the scheme made more appropriate on which it would sit. It was not felt appropriate to enforce the other elements as the other issue would be resolved soon. With regard to the caravan site, the site was being monitored as to who was living there and a register had to be kept as to who was on site.

5. Councillor Williams asked the following question:

"In the light of the appalling loss of life in the Grenfell Tower fire and subsequent action on cladding, could the relevant Cabinet Member tell us what action is being taken to ensure that buildings in the borough – especially high-rise blocks of flats - are safe?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that there were nine high rise residential blocks in Oldham, two were the Council's responsibility, six which were managed by First Choice Homes Oldham and Great Places Housing and the ninth was in private ownership. No public blocks were clad with material that the Government was not happy with. There were concerns with the private block, however, this was not currently occupied and issues were being addressed. It was important to note that First Choice Homes Oldham and Great Places Housing had done sterling work in contacting all the tenants to reassure them what is going on as well as regular meetings as well as letters.

Councillor Brownridge had attended a meeting with the Mayor of Greater Manchester and there had been a number of issues, especially fire safety was dealt with especially when there was only one escape staircase. The advice of the Fire Service was that more people could be killed in the crush to get down the stairs. It was important to have compartmentalisation in place and maintained. There were no concerns on publicly owned blocks in Oldham. There was confidence in the advice given was the correct advice. A task force had been established by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to look at the tower blocks across Greater Manchester and to come up with recommendations which Oldham would take into account.

6. Councillor G. Alexander asked the following question:

“Many employees working in the care industry are paid minimum wage and work in excess of 40 hours a week to make ends meet. Working extra hours at the weekends and even nights with no extra reward. Take into account the mobile carers who do not get re-numeration for using their own vehicle on the job and a small fuel allowance. Their hourly rate can be less than the legal limit paid to employees.

Organised workplaces are better workplaces, employees have a voice and are valued, they have a say in how the company treats them and through collective bargaining can improve terms and conditions in their work contracts. An organised workplace is a safer workplace, where everyone is treated the same and staff retention and sickness improves.

Can the member responsible for the portfolio in Health and Social Care help to bring trade union recognition to the commissioned private health care sector employers and give those unrepresented but very important people who care for our most vulnerable people in our society by writing to The Private Health Care Sector to allow trade unions to speak to employees in the care homes.”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding, responded that the Council was aware of Unison’s Ethical Care Charters for care at home and care homes, and in the main, both charters accord with the Council’s quality standards approach to residential and care at home services. Whilst the Council could not insist on the role a union should play in a private business, the quality standards included the principle of encouraging and supporting union membership.

Oldham commissions care services with a number of contractual conditions which included that care staff were paid a minimum of £8 per hour and required that at least 80% of the workforce were not on “zero hours” contracts. As part of negotiations and discussions with providers and interview with staff, there were considered to be mutual benefits for some from having zero hours

contracts. Therefore, contractual obligations were that at 80% of staff should not be on zero hours contracts as insistence of a level above that may not be in the interests of the entire workforce.

In addition, the hourly rate the Council paid for care at home had been calculated to include travel costs. As part of the Council's ongoing quality monitoring of care services, compliance with these conditions were checked.

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.

11

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 20th March 2017 and 24th April 2017 were submitted:

Members raised the following question:

Councillor McCann – Cabinet Meeting, 24th April 2017, Item 9: Oldham Community Leisure Update. Councillor McCann asked for confirmation that any support for OCL that regarded cash flow covered short term imbalance and not covered by immediate income or reserves. If it was long term, and an early review was required, that the core business of OCL could continue and provide a good service and was a sound model.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources responded that OCL provided a fantastic service and managed its facilities in a great way. OCL was a key partner in the corporate approach. The issue raised in the minutes was temporary due to an interruption in the business plan related to anticipated income. There was no long term issue with the organisation.

Members raised the following observation:

Councillor Harkness – Cabinet Meeting, 24th April 2017, Item 7: Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers. Councillor Harkness commented that he was pleased to see a concrete outcome.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources welcomed the observation. Councillor Jabbar was glad to bring the proposal forward. Councillor Jabbar was grateful for cross party support

and hoped that the scheme benefitted those establishing an independent way of living.



Oldham
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RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 20th March 2017 and 24th April 2017 be noted.
2. The question and response on the Cabinet minutes be noted.
3. The observation and response on the Cabinet minutes be noted.

12

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1:

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Mushtaq SECONDED the following motion:

“Funding cuts have been imposed on public services by Conservative and Conservative-led governments since 2010. In the 2017 General Election voters delivered a verdict that saw the Conservatives lose their overall majority in the House of Commons. This was a clear message to the Government that the British people were fed up with austerity. Locally this was reflected in results that saw all three Oldham Labour MPs increase their share of the vote by more than 10 percentage points compared with 2015.

This Council urges the Government to end the austerity programme that has decimated public services, depressed wages and pushed more children into poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out our opposition to austerity with details of the impact it has had on the Borough of Oldham.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the three Oldham MPs, thank them for the work they are doing to campaign against austerity and offer our support in continuing this campaign.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mayor Andy Burnham, compelling him to campaign for a fairer funding model for the Greater Manchester region.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association and offer our support in his campaign against his party’s cruel cuts to Local Government.”

AMENDMENT

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“Insert in Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 after ‘public services’ ‘and a pay cap imposed on public sector workers.’

Insert in Paragraph 2, Sentence 3 after ‘austerity’ and ‘continued pay caps on public sector workers’.

Insert at the end of Paragraph 3 ‘and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers’.

Insert in the first bullet point of Paragraph 4 after ‘austerity’ ‘and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers.’

Insert in the second bullet point of Paragraph 4 after ‘austerity’ ‘and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers.’

Insert a final bullet point in Paragraph 4 ‘Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Royal College of Nursing to express this Council’s support for their “Scrap the Cap” campaign, which seeks to end the 1% pay cap on nursing staff and other public sector workers.’

Amended motion to read:

“Funding cuts have been imposed on public services and a pay cap imposed on public sector workers by Conservative and Conservative-led governments since 2010.

In the 2017 General Election voters delivered a verdict that saw the Conservatives lose their overall majority in the House of Commons. This was a clear message to the Government that the British people were fed up with austerity and continued pay caps on public sector workers. Locally, this was reflected in results that saw all three Oldham Labour MPs increase their share of the vote by more than 10 percentage points compared with 2015.

This Council urges the Government to end the austerity programme that has decimated public services, depressed wages and pushed more children in to poverty and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out our opposition to austerity and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers with details of the impact it has had on the Borough of Oldham.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the three Oldham MPs, thank them for the work they are doing to campaign against austerity and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers and offer our support in continuing this campaign.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mayor Andy Burnham, compelling him to campaign for a fairer funding model for the Greater Manchester region.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association and offer our support in his campaign against his party’s cruel cuts to Local Government.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Royal College of Nursing to express this Council’s support for their ‘Scrap the Cap’ campaign, which seeks to end the 1% pay cap on nursing staff and other public sector workers.’

Councillor Chadderton in moving the MOTION ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

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

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

Councillor Fielding spoke in support of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

Councillor Hudson spoke against the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

Councillor Ali spoke in support of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

Councillor Chadderton exercised her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 49 were cast in FAVOUR of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and 1 vote was cast AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTION. The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

- The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out our opposition to austerity and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers with details of the impact it has had on the Borough of Oldham.
- The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the three Oldham MPs, thank them for the work they are doing to campaign against austerity and the 1% pay cap on public sector workers and offer our support in continuing this campaign.
- The Chief Executive be instructed to write to Mayor Andy Burnham, compelling him to campaign for a fairer funding model for the Greater Manchester region.
- The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association and offer our support in his campaign against his party's cruel cuts to Local Government.
- The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Royal College of Nursing to express this Council's support for their 'Scrap the Cap' campaign, which seeks to end the 1% pay cap on nursing staff and other public sector workers.

Motion 2:

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor Akhtar as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Jacques as Seconder of the Motion requested the Motion be put to the vote.

“The UK Science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills deficit has been reported widely for many years, in Oldham we have endeavoured to address this problem by working with schools and colleges.

This Council understands the need to address local skills needs and social aspiration by developing a keen and able future workforce in the industries that matter to the region. To do this we must ensure that young people are able to develop the skills in science, technology, engineering and maths in ways that will excite them and inspire them to consider science or engineering careers.

The Oldham Enterprise Trust has successfully worked in partnership with schools, colleges and a wide variety of other organisations to make STEM subjects both exciting and enjoyable. They have done this via the Primary Engineer Programme which allows schools to introduce basic engineering principles to young people in primary schools.

Similarly the Go4SET project allows secondary schools to link teams of Year 8/9 pupils with employers and universities to offer a 10 week Science, STEM Project. These projects also allow them to develop their business, organisational and interpersonal skills that further education establishments and employers will be looking for.

This council acknowledges the success of the Primary Engineer and Go4Set projects and requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Oldham Enterprise Trust thanking them and asking them to pass on our thanks to all those involved in these projects and for their commitment to the young people of Oldham.

We also acknowledge and celebrate the success of the students who participated in these events.

Councillor Akhtar did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive write to the Oldham Enterprise Trust thanking them and asking them to pass our thanks to all those involved in the success of the Primary Engineer and Go4Set projects and ask them to pass on our thanks to all those involved in these projects and for the commitment to the young people of Oldham.

Motion 3:

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Jabbar as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Ball as Secunder of the Motion requested the Council permit the following Motion be rolled over for discuss at the next Council meeting:

“This Council notes that Universal Credit (UC) is a single monthly payment which replaces six working age benefits

(known as legacy benefits). These are Housing Benefit (HB), Income Support (IS), Working Tax Credits (WTC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), Employment and Support Allowance (Income-related) and Job Seekers Allowance (Income-related). It supports residents on low incomes who are both in and out of work.

Oldham has been a pathfinder for Universal Credit since 2013. However, the numbers of residents moving onto Universal Credit from 2013 have been restricted to new claimants and straightforward cases. The roll out of the full service of Universal Credit which commenced in Oldham on 26 April 2017 is a new entirely online-based system and claimants must apply for and manage their claim online. It also brings in a wider range of claimants including more complex cases. It affects claimants when they make a claim for the first time or have a change in circumstances that means their existing claim for one of the legacy benefits has to be cancelled.

Oldham is one of the early boroughs subject to the rollout of Universal Credit full service. The delivery of the new service has been an area of particular concern across the country and was subject in the last parliament to an investigation by the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

As a result, and while the DWP and Job Centre Plus are the agency responsible for managing the change, the Council is committed to pro-active and continued work with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that as much support is provided to residents as possible to help achieve a smooth transition to the new service.

However, this Council has a number of concerns about Universal Credit

- The wait times between the date of application and date of assessment. There is a built in waiting period of 6 weeks before Universal Credit is awarded and this creates hardship for residents. Any delay in DWP processing times exacerbates this hardship still further.
- The level of deductions applied to monthly payments to clawback advance payments and sanctions can be high leaving residents with little money to cover basic income needs for their families for the weeks ahead.
- The high number of Universal Credit claimants that have been subject to sanctions in Oldham
- That the provision of housing costs support for short term temporary accommodation for Oldham's homeless population is not an appropriate fit for Universal Credit and should be returned to and covered by Housing Benefit at the earliest opportunity

This Council resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the following to register these issues and request that solutions are explored which would improve the design and delivery of Universal Credit which would mitigate impacts for low- income, working age residents in the borough;

1. The Rt. Hon David Gauke MP Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

2. Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, Jim McMahon MP for Oldham West and Royton and Angela Rayner MP for Ashton Under -Lyne, Droylsden and Failsworth
3. The Local Government Association (LGA).”

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting scheduled on 13th September 2017.

13

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1:

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor TURNER seconded the following motion:

“This Council:

- Notes that in 2014/15 there were an estimated 1.3 million female victims and 600,000 male victims of domestic abuse and that, on average, 100 women and 30 men a year are killed in situations involving domestic abuse.
- Remains totally committed to opposing domestic violence in all its forms, to supporting its victims, and to working for a society where all members of our community treat one another with compassion, kindness and respect.
- Believes that Government should share these priorities and is therefore bitterly opposed to Conservative Government proposals requiring victims of domestic violence seeking legal aid to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse.
- Notes that such evidence can include a letter from a General Practitioner for which some GPs charge a fee of up to £75, as this sits outside of the NHS contract.
- Believes that it is totally unreasonable to expect the victims of domestic violence to pay such a fee; that many such victims will struggle to find the fee.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of Justice outlining this Council’s opposition to the imposition of a requirement for victims of domestic violence to produce letters or similar evidence of abuse to access legal aid and asking the Government to scrap this requirement.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Borough’s three Members of Parliament and the new Mayor of Greater Manchester asking them to support this position.
- Ask the Health and Well-being Board and the Domestic Violence Partnership to contact local GPs asking them to make a commitment not to charge victims for letters until such time as this requirement is scrapped.
- Register as a supporter of the ‘Scrap the Fee’ campaign established by Tom Watson MP and Wythenshawe Safe Spots.”

Councillor Roberts spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Dearden spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor S. Bashforth spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Jacques spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Minister of Justice outlining this Council's opposition to the imposition of a requirement for victims of domestic violence to produce letters or similar evidence of abuse to access legal aid and asking the Government to scrap this requirement.
2. The Chief Executive be asked write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the new Mayor of Greater Manchester asking them to support this position.
3. The Health and Well-being Board and the Domestic Violence Partnership be asked to contact local GPs asking them to make a commitment not to charge victims for letters until such time as this requirement is scrapped.
4. The Council be registered as a supporter of the 'Scrap the Fee' campaign established by Tom Watson MP and Wythenshawe Safe Spots.

Motion 2:

Councillor Gloster MOVED and Councillor Hudson SECONDED the following motion:

"Council notes with revulsion that, at 10.31 pm on Monday 22 May 2017, a terrorist attack took place at the Manchester Arena when a 22 year old British Muslim man detonated an improvised explosive device within the confines of the arena killing himself and 22 innocent adults and children and injuring a further 119 adults and children, 23 of them critically.

Although any deaths or injuries in such a terrorist outrage are horrific, the Council and people of Oldham were especially saddened to hear that amongst the dead were two women from Royton, Alison Howe and Lisa Lees.

The perpetrator of this atrocity, Salman Abedi, claimed to have performed this act of terrorism in the name of Islam.

This Council condemns terrorism in any form, and does not recognise or believe that this horrific act had anything to do with Islam, but was committed by a deranged man who had been radicalised into the mistaken belief that he would be going to a better place, when in fact his only achievement was to bring

death to himself and others and worldwide condemnation of his actions from people of all religions, creeds, beliefs and people of no faith alike.

This Council recognises, and commends:

The courage, professionalism and dedication of the many members of the Emergency Services at the scene and in local hospitals.

Although the majority of first responders had never faced an incident of such mass violence and brutality, or dealt with injuries of this type, they acted selflessly without hesitation and in so doing saved many lives that otherwise would have been lost.

In our hospitals, National Health Service staff at Accident and Emergency Units across Greater Manchester, unflinchingly pulled together to treat the injured, saving lives and in some cases limbs, of those most seriously injured.

Council notes that many of these casualties were treated at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

The many selfless acts that took place at the time of the attack and since the attack from members of the public from all walks of life, who have come together as a community to help people whom they do not know and have never met.

Council especially commends the local vigils held and the tremendous fund-raising effort to support the victims of this tragedy and their families.

The work of staff of Transport for Greater Manchester, Metrolink and bus and rail companies in seeking to minimise the disruption to public transport services resulting from the closure of Victoria Station.

In recognition of these efforts, this Council directs the Chief Executive to write to:

- The Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police
- The Chief Constable, British Transport Police
- The Chief Fire Officer, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- The Chief Officer, North West Ambulance Service
- The Chief Executive, NHS Pennine Acute Trust
- The Chief Executive, Transport for Greater Manchester

To extend the gratitude and admiration of Council for the efforts of their staff both on the night and post incident.

Furthermore, Oldham Council places on record its admiration for the general public of Greater Manchester in facing up to the enormity of this tragedy; the public's actions have demonstrated that we really are stronger as a Greater Manchester community when 'We Stand Together'."

Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Brownridge spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Williams spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Bates spoke on the motion.

Councillor Gloster exercised his right of reply.

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



RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to:
 - The Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police
 - The Chief Constable, British Transport Police
 - The Chief Fire Officer, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
 - The Chief Officer, North West Ambulance Service
 - The Chief Executive, NHS Pennine Acute Trust
 - The Chief Executive, Transport for Greater Manchesterto extend the gratitude and admiration of Council for the efforts of their staff both on the night and post incident.
2. It be placed on record, Oldham Council's admiration for the general public of Greater Manchester in facing up to the enormity of this tragedy; the public's actions have demonstrated that we really are stronger as a Greater Manchester community when 'We Stand Together'.

Motion 3:

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor Gloster as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Blyth as Seconder of the Motion requested the Motion be put to the vote.

"On average 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink drive collisions on Britain's roads.

Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

Council notes that:

- The current permitted limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood
- In Scotland the limit was reduced in December 2014 to 50mg
- The Local Government Association has recently called on the Government to reduce the limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to that of Scotland.

This Council believes that, as a contribution towards a further reduction in road deaths, the drink drive limit should be reduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to 50mg per 100ml of blood to bring it into line with Scotland.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:

- The Secretary of State for Transport to outline this Council's position and to ask him to introduce this measure as soon as is practicable.
- Our three local Members of Parliament asking them to make representations in support of this position to the minister."

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to outline this Council's position and to ask him to introduce this measure as soon as is practicable.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to make representations in support of this position to the minister.

14a 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:

MioCare	16 th January 2017
	13 th March 2017
Health and Wellbeing Board	31 st January 2017
	14 th March 2017
Unity Partnership Board	27 th February 2017
Oldham Leadership Board	9 th March 2017

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

14b 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:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 th February 2017
	31 st March 2017
	28 th April 2017
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	24 th February 2017
	31 st March 2017
Police and Crime Panel	27 th January 2017
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	17 th March 2017
	26 th April 2017
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	20 th April 2017
Transport for Greater Manchester	17 th March 2017
	16 th June 2017
National Park Authority	17 th March 2017
	7 th April 2017

In moving the National Park Authority minutes, Councillor McLaren confirmed that he had been present at the meeting held on 7th April 2017.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor McCann – Transport for Greater Manchester, 16th June 2017, Item 17/21b) – Councillor McCann noted with thanks the efforts of TfGM for the improvement of carriage capacity.



Councillor McCann – Transport for Greater Manchester, 16th June 2017, – Councillor McCann noted with interest the proposal for the transfer of rails stations to oversight and management by TfGM and would be grateful of any acknowledgement for any input to problems and provisions for disabled access.

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Councillor Briggs responded that Greenfield, along with other stations, were put into a bidding process and this continued. Officers would continue the bidding process. Councillor Briggs said his colleague who would be taking over as the spokesperson would progress this as well.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Williams, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, 20th April 2017 – Councillor Williams noted that the Fire Authority had been abolished with effect from 8th May 2017. The Fire Committee which had been established would be set up from 30th June and spokespersons arrangements would be finalised under the new arrangements in order for members questions to receive a response.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Joint Authority meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.
3. The observation be noted.

15

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the report of 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 Actions from Council be noted.

16

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval for the establishment of a Charitable Trust Committee to exercise the Council's common law/statutory duty to act as Charitable Trustee and sought agreement for the terms of reference of the Committee as attached to the report.

The Council had a responsibility to discharge its legal duty to act as charitable trustee in respect of any assets held by the Council which were subject to charitable trusts for which it was the sole trustee. The Council had performed this duty by means of full Council. However, owing to the extent of its responsibilities to act as charitable Trustee, it was not always convenient for the Council to discharge its legal duty in full Council. Therefore, it

would be expedient for the Council to establish a Committee to be convened on an ad-hoc basis, as and when the need arose.



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RESOLVED that:

1. The establishment of a Charitable Trust Committee to exercise its role to act as charitable trustee on behalf of the Council as and when necessary be approved.
2. The terms of reference for the Charitable Trust Committee be approved.
3. The Charitable Trust Committee which comprised five members and would meet on an ad-hoc basis be approved.
4. The principle that membership of the Committee should remain outside the political balance of the Council be approved.
5. The membership of the Charitable Trust Committee, as circulated, be approved.

17

RESULT OF THE ROYTON NORTH BY-ELECTION AND REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which detailed the results of the Royton North Ward By-Election and the subsequent review of the composition of political groups with the change in committee seats from 75 to 74 and changes to the Performance and Value for Money Selection Committee.

RESOLVED that:

1. The result of the Royton North Ward By-Election be noted.
2. The composition of the political groups as outlined in the report and changes to the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee composition and the Members from that agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2017 be agreed.

18

**WORKING TOWARDS A CO-OPERATIVE BOROUGH:
CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2020 AND OLDHAM PLAN 2017-2022**

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the refreshed Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and endorsement of the Oldham Plan 2017-22.

The Corporate Plan required to be updated due to the significant changes to the Oldham Plan and changes in the Council's approach. The Plan also needed to reflect key changes such as Greater Manchester Devolution and the emerging corporate messaging around the reworked corporate objectives with the new #outbit, #yourbit and 'result. The revised corporate objectives were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Oldham Plan was the Partnership Plan for the Borough. It was a collective statement of intent about the borough and set above all organisations and drove Partnership delivery. It had been agreed by the Oldham Leadership Board to resent the direction for the borough and the Partnership for the next five years. The review was required due to fast changing policy context of devolution, austerity and Brexit.

The Oldham Plan was detailed at Appendix 2 of the report and had been approved by the Oldham Leadership Board on 3 May 2017.

RESOLVED that:

1. The reviewed Corporate Plan 2015-2020 be approved.
2. The Oldham Plan 2017-22 be endorsed.

19

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016/17. 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 and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The report contained a summary of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny in 2016/17 and outlined how individuals could get involved in Overview and Scrutiny. Councillor McLaren expressed his thanks to members and officers in the support of Overview and Scrutiny over the last twelve months.

Councillor Hudson spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016/17 be approved.

The meeting started at 6.08 pm and ended at 9.28 pm