

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

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, Bates, Blyth, Brock, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Goodwin, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hewitt, A Hussain, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Jacques, Kirkham, Klonowski, J Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon, 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 received from Joe Fitzpatrick via email:

“The planning approval for the new Saddleworth School was overturned because of incompetence by the planning department. Will you be seeking external consultants for the next attempt, and when will you submit the planning application for this much needed new school in Saddleworth.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Saddleworth School application had not been turned down because of incompetence. The Judicial Review judgement noted clearly that “it is not correct to characterise the main (planning) report as defective in the general sense asserted by the claimant. The report is lengthy but it is not unclear, nor factually misleading”. The Judicial Review was upheld relative to site selection issues, this would clearly need to be addressed when the application was returned to the Planning Committee. Professional legal advice from a QC will be in place.

2. Question asked by Valerie Lees:

“Having been in correspondence with St James Councillors since 22/06/2014 regarding my

concerns about the dilapidated condition of London Road and Acre Lane Derker. I have been informed that Keepmoat were responsible for resurfacing the lower section of London Rd. once the building and the heavy traffic involved with the developments. Building was completed over 2 years ago, to date no works have commenced on the roads despite my repeated enquiries to what timescales to expect. We seem no nearer to a resolution or clarification of timescales or responsibilities. Would the relevant cabinet member explain the reason these works haven't been carried out and also when we can expect the promised works to be completed.”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that talks between Unity Partnership and Keepmoat regarding the surfacing of London Road were close to completion. It was anticipated that work would begin on site over the next few months.

3. Question received from Ian Bond via email:

“How much Oldham Council spent on the ‘Your Oldham’ festival, and if they have figures for how many people attended the events, especially the concert on the 9th September 2017. Additionally, if the attendance figures for the concert were not collected, how many people the Council estimated attended.”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the cost of the Your Festival totalled £17,500. During the festival week over 1,000 people attended the various events. Many more had attended the Market Street but these were not able to be quantified. The Oldham LIVE music event was the first of its type and offered established music acts from across recent decades for free in the town centre. The event ran all day from Noon until 10.00 pm in Parliament Square and attendee numbers were not able to be officially recorded as it was an unticketed event given it was a free and open event. The event had been discussed with local businesses and they were generally delighted with their trade throughout the day and evening. Overall, the numbers could only be estimated. There were hundreds of spectators who dropped into Oldham LIVE at various points during the day. The attendance was at its peak when The Farm closed the event with hundreds of spectators who danced and enjoyed themselves.

4. Question received from Liam McCallion via email:

“In light of the recent announcement regarding Oldham Council's preferred construction partner to redevelop

the former Counthill School site, please can I ask when local residents in the Moorside area are to be consulted on this work as we are yet to receive any communication on this development apart from what has been issued to the media. Furthermore, with an increasing number of cars now parked on an already congested Haven Lane following the Meadow View development, what measures will be put in place to prevent further congestion in this area when the Counthill School site is later built? An accident is waiting to happen, just like in January 2013 when Andrew Paul Faragher lost his life on Haven Lane. On a number of occasions my neighbours and I have experienced several near misses due to there being not enough space on the roads, especially on the bend between Counthill Road and Haven Lane.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that a public consultation event was arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 which would give residents the chance to see and comment on the proposals for the new housing and the former Ski Slope before they were submitted for planning consideration. The District Partnerships Team would be in attendance to address any other queries residents had. As with similar roads in the Borough, the safety record along Haven Lane and Counthill Road was monitored by the Council on an annual basis. In the last three years, there had been no injury collisions along this route between Crowley Lane and Ripponden Road. As part of the Planning Conditions associated with the Meadow View development, a series of Traffic Calming measures would be introduced along Haven Lane which ensured that vehicles could safely enter the main road from the new development and that there was no significant increase in parking on the lane. Full consideration would be given to additional traffic calming measures as part of any future development of the Counthill School site. However, these would include new parking spaces for users of the Sports Hall, a good level of driveway parking provision and a financial contribution towards further measures in the immediate area.

5. Louie Hamblett asked the following question:

“At the last council meeting a motion was put to the council about Level 1 heart provision in the region. Sadly the council did not join the central Manchester NHS trust and Manchester MPs such as the Shadow Education Secretary Lucy Powell fighting against this proposed downgrade. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell concerned congenital heart patients what, if any, steps are being taken to work with local NHS bodies in order to ensure that, since the Manchester Heart Centre at Manchester Royal Infirmary's care

provision is being significantly downgraded, the transition process to an appropriate standard of care will be as smooth as possible for all patients concerned, particularly those who are the most vulnerable, either by disability or due to lack of finances, within the borough.”



Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that when NHS England took on the role of congenital heart disease services in 2013 it had an opportunity to drive service improvement and reduce variation in access and quality by the implementation of a set of nationally agreed standards which governed a truly national service. The standards described how congenital heart disease services of the very highest quality would be delivered. The NHS believed that implementation of these standards was the only way to ensure that patients were able to access care delivered to the same high standards, regardless of where they were treated. The previous service provided at MRI was below the proposed standards for Congenital Heart Disease services in terms of staffing provision, number of operations provided annually and the need for appropriate provision of 24/7 surgical or interventional cover. The decision to cease surgery and interventional cardiology for adults in Manchester ensured that the residents of Oldham had access to a higher quality service, understanding that ensuring safety and quality required further travel for patients and families. All other care, with the exception of surgery and interventional cardiology continued to be provided in Manchester. Assurances were provided that liaison was happening with NHS England, the national commissioners of the service to ensure there was a smooth transition for all adult congenital heart disease patients in Oldham to have access to the high quality services being provided a specialist centres.

6. Question asked by Mr. Brown:

“Why has this Council used the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 to allow Councillors Blyth and Klonowski to breach the Council's Code of Conduct putting a member of the public to distrust the Council and now face a Magistrates Court in search of the truth?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council had not used the legislation to allow a breach of the code. Standards Complaints had been made. The relevant Councillors were asked for their comments and the complaints had been sent to the Standards Sub-Committee for assessment. The Sub-Committee had decided that an investigation was not required into the complaints. That this resulted in Mr.

Brown distrusting the Council was regrettable. The Leader had discussed the decision which had led to a magistrates summons with Mr. Brown and had advised against the course of action that had been taken. The final decision was Mr. Brown's made in the knowledge of the likely outcomes.

7. Question asked by Mr. Kenyon:

"As a member of the public hearing a gentleman's protest, I would like to know why results from Council discussions at the meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee on 19th January 2017 are withheld from the public domain. Are we living in a culture of secrecy and, if so, what have Oldham Council got to hide?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that when complaints were first assessed, they were considered exempt information and, in this instance, this was agreed by the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee. However, if a matter came before the Standards Committee, if an investigator had concluded that a breach of the code had taken place that hearing would be open to the public unless there were any aspects of the matter to be considered that required an exemption. This was normal practice with Standards proceedings across the country.

8. Question received from Mr. McGrath via email:

"To quote from the RSPCA website: "We recognise that religious beliefs and practices should be respected. However, we also believe animals should be slaughtered under the most humane conditions possible. Evidence clearly indicates that slaughter without pre-stunning can cause unnecessary suffering". In light of Lancashire council voting to ban schools from serving non-stunned halal meat, will Oldham council now be following suit? I would like a written response to this question."

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that all meat provided by the Catering Service conformed to the UK Assured Food Standards (AFS). These criteria ensured that all meat was fully traceable back to the farm and adhered to UK legal minimum welfare standards. All meat supplied to the Catering Service, including halal meat, was from animals which were pre-stunned before slaughter.

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 Salamat asked the following question:

“The streets in the Glodwick area flood when there is heavy rain. Could we please have a site survey to find out if this is because of blocked gullies or for another reason and a report given to elected members with estimated dates of work of any necessary work being carried out?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that he had already asked for this problem to be looked into and reported back to Members.

2. Councillor Larkin asked the following question:

“I regularly receive complaints from residents living close to schools in my ward complaining about the car parking and congestion caused by thoughtless parents and carers dropping children off at school. Please can the relevant cabinet member advise what schemes the council are currently supporting to encourage children to walk to school, rather than rely on being driven to the gates? Not only would more walking lead to less congestion, but the health benefits would also help our young people to start off life on the right foot.”

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that this was something everyone understood regarding parking at schools. Walking to school brought many benefits and that children who walked rather than used the car tended to be generally more active than other children. Walking had the advantage that it required no preparation, no special equipment or venues and no expenditure of money. Local schools could choose how much or little they got involved with walking to school activities whether this was school or parental daily co-ordinated walking buses, walk to school once a week initiatives or one off walk to school weeks (the next national campaign was 14 – 18 May 2018). The Council had invested in the School Partnership which offered schools a suite of activities to support increased and sustained physical activity for children and young people. This included, but was not limited to: walking (walking to school, but mainly the daily mile), cycling, swimming, competitive sports and information on health food choices. The most popular walking activity was participation in the daily mile.

3. Councillor Toor asked the following question:

“I’m really concerned that recent weather especially heavy rain caused lots of flooding in different parts of Oldham including some streets in Medlock Vale Ward, for example Gainsborough Avenue. There has been a big puddle and there is no way for water to go anywhere, it looks as though the gullies have not been cleaned in all parts of the ward. I have witnessed the same situation on Ashton Road. Can the relevant cabinet member tell us some the reason for this flooding, and what action will be taken to improve the situation in Medlock Vale Ward.”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that highway drainage systems in the UK were designed for average rainfall events. During times of heavy rain and storms, water would inevitably remain on the carriageway at low points. A site visit had been arranged to inspect the location reported on Gainsborough Avenue to determine a potential solution and it was reported that the road gullies were last cleared on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Road gullies on Ashton Road were last cleared on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

4. Councillor McCann asked the following question:

“I have a few times consulted the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework website for details of sites offered by land owners for development. As the window for offers is now closed, I am surprised at how lacking in clarity and detail the site maps are. There is, it seems, no comprehensive list of sites, and there is no information about the amount of land available for development on each site, or estimates about the possible number of houses that could be developed on each site. Would the Cabinet Member please ask Council officers to supply me and my colleagues in Saddleworth North, Shaw and Crompton with this information in an accessible and understandable format or ask whoever manages the GMSF website to do so?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that a comprehensive list of sites submitted to the GM Call for Sites was available on the GM Mapping website. Officers could provide a list of those sites submitted within Oldham. Sites put forward that were not within the Green Belt had been forwarded to individual districts for assessment as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments.

5. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“The Chadderton Mill is a Grade 2 listed building and is currently used for storage and distribution purposes, Ward Councillors are constantly receiving complaints

about operation at the Chadderton Mill, these complaints include damage to street furniture and buildings caused by HGVs turning off Fields New Road and Denton Lane into a narrow unnamed road in to access the mill. We have also received many complaints regarding HGV engines being left running for long periods while vehicles are waiting to the mill, and excessive amounts of litter spoiling the local environment due to poor housekeeping. Ward Members are aware that Officers from the Council and Heritage England have recently been in discussion with the mill owners, could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us if these discussions will help to alleviate the genuine concerns of local residents?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that he appreciated the concerns raised and understood that officers arranged a joint meeting with the mill owners, Heritage England and ward members to discuss potential options for the future of the building. It was also understood that a follow up meeting had taken place with local members and officers and were now in a position of waiting for any proposals which may come forward from the representatives of the mill owners.

6. Councillor Malik asked the following question:

“I am delighted to welcome the opening of a new Audi Showroom and new B & M store at Ellen Street, Can relevant cabinet member tell us how many people have been recruited from the locality at Audi Centre and has there been any new recruitment at B & M Store.”

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills responded that the new Audit and B&M developments had demonstrated a confidence in the economic growth in Oldham Council. The economic growth had seen exceptional performance in Get Oldham Working which had created more than 1,400 opportunities of which to date the team had supported 856 citizens in sustainable employment and filled 194 apprenticeships. The B&M store had relocated to a bigger store so the majority of the 60 jobs were existing staff. The Audi garage created over 40 jobs which 20 were Oldham citizens through the Get Oldham Working team support programme. The remainder came from other Audi sites which ensured a smooth opening period, but the Council expected to support the company with new opportunities within the coming months.

7. Councillor Fielding asked the following question:



“The layout and upkeep of the car park fronting Tesco at Failsworth District Centre has been longstanding concern since the opening of the supermarket in 2007.

- Bollards and lamp posts have been knocked over and not replaced.
- The white lines on the car park are not visible in many areas.
- The sign at the exit points the wrong way.
- There is persistent flooding at the Ashton Road West entrance.

I called a site meeting almost four years ago and was given assurances by employees of Brookhouse that the above matters would be resolved. They have not been. The District Executive also allocated some money to a range of layout improvements for which plans have been drawn up by officers of Unity Partnership. To date these improvements have not taken place and there is no sign that they will be doing soon. Could the Cabinet member responsible urgently look in to this matter and clear whatever blockages are preventing a solution to the state of Tesco car park from being realised.”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the Council and Brookhouse were aware of the ongoing issues with Tesco as they had failed to engage in September 2017. The Leader of the Council wrote again to the Chief Executive of Tesco and asked them to promptly consider and approve the car park and highway improvement schemes designed by Brookhouse. Despite chasing, this letter had failed to yield a response. As the land was leased to Tesco, the Council and Brookhouse had very little ability to make changes to what was, in effect, third party land and therefore reliant on the cooperation of the food store. Some of the issues raised, namely the missing bollards, lamp posts, fading white lines, signage and flooding were issues which should be managed by Tesco as part of their full repairing lease. The Council and Brookhouse would seek to ensure that Tesco complied with their repairing covenant and general lease obligations and insisted that any defects were repaired at the earliest opportunity.

8. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“Crompton House School’s expansion plans have shown a clear lack of engagement with elected members both from the School and Oldham Council. My colleagues and I want to know what is going on in our patch as it will be us left picking up the pieces when this goes to planning committee for approval; members of the public need to know that we have had no input whatsoever, which I feel has been quite deliberate. We have not been kept in the loop with reference to updates or input and have found out any information by

chance. To add to the conspiracy every single Shaw & Crompton Parish Councillor received a delivered invite letter to a consultation event at the School, but the Borough Councillors were missed from the invite - would the Cabinet Member agree that this is unacceptable and agree to work with elected members on this project?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that this was an administrative error by the school that ward councillors had not received an invitation. The planning application had not yet been submitted. A meeting would be arranged with ward councillors to allow feedback and discussion before the planning documents were submitted.

9. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

"It is my understanding that the junction on the A663 Broadway at Foxdenton Lane will be developed to ensure the best flow of traffic as part of the nearby housing development. Can the relevant Cabinet member reassure residents in Chadderton South that actions will also be taken at the A663 Broadway junctions with the M60, and adjacent roads, to improve the flow of traffic and to reduce congestion which is a regular problem?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that planning permission for Broadway Green specifically required that the developer made provision for improvements to the Broadway/M60 junction. The details with regard to this were currently being discussed and finalised between the developer and Highways England.

10. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

"The Grasmere Road and Dogford Road areas of Royton North have suffered from severe flooding in recent years. Ward councillors recently received a briefing about probable causes (culverts appear to be to blame) and potential remedies which will need funding from the Environment Agency. Can the Cabinet Member update us on progress in getting the necessary funding from the Environment Agency?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that discussions had taken place with the Environment Agency (EA) that informed them of the flooding issues at the Grasmere Road and Dogford Road areas of Royton. An application was being prepared to carry out a feasibility study to forward to the EA looking for grant funding. A proposed shared solution would be the EA

carrying out works to the River Irk with the Council  
carrying out works to the Grasmere/Dogford Road area.



**Oldham**  
Council

11. Councillor Hewitt asked the following question:

“A Lees resident, Mr Mike Platter, has asked me to see if I can get an answer to his question about the improvements to the Ring and Ride service. His mother attends day care at Laurel Bank, her doctors feel this helps her with her dementia’ and is wheelchair bound - her main carer does not drive and they rely upon the Ring and Ride service to get to and from Laurel Bank. Booking is a nightmare: just this week they could find her a trip home but no trip out and on Friday they got an outward bound but no return. The booking system is unhelpful - you need to ring in advance a week before but when they rang last week they were first in the queue but still could not get lifts booked in for their mother. Ring and ride will not take advanced bookings for less than 6 people, despite offering a large window for pick-ups, users are still not guaranteed a pick up. The web site does not give any information about booking conditions. Could the Cabinet member responsible press TfGM to improve the booking system so passengers can use essential services such as day care?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the Ring and Ride booking system had been raised with Transport for Greater Manchester who confirmed that the Ring and Ride Service was very popular and experienced high demand. An ongoing review of the service had identified that the booking system required to be reviewed. There was a wish for an online booking facility to be introduced to reduce phone congestion. A significant issue was the number of trips that were cancelled, 18%. By enabling an easier way to cancel journeys, it was hoped that this would free up spare capacity that was currently wasted.

12. Councillor Sheldon asked if there had been any progress with the speed reduction at the Royal George and also raised the issue of the safety at the junction of Oldham Road and Platting Road and the junction of Wall Hill Road and Huddersfield Road where cars were sliding off the road.

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services thanked Councillor Sheldon for his questions. He would look into the issues raised and respond with an update.

13. Councillor Williams asked the following question:

“Please can the Cabinet Member update us on progress with recent new housing developments in Hollinwood?”



**Oldham**  
Council

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that there had been several major residential developments in Hollinwood. In 2015 Countryside Properties completed 52 new family homes at the former Royd Mill site and in August 2017 the same development had also finished 80 homes at the former site of Durban Mill. Keepmoat Homes had also been developing in Limehurst Village on land that had been vacant since 1997. Keepmoat had so far completed and sold 64 homes at Rowan Tree Road and were mid-way through building a further 69 homes on cleared sites along Whitebank Road.

14. Councillor Jacques asked the following question:

“Failsworth has been subjected to increasing number of criminal acts over the last month, attacks on taxi cabs and two serious "Ram Raids" in an attempt to remove the ATM machines and other valuables. This has caused significant inconvenience and concern amongst residents who are feeling extremely nervous and worried about increasing crime levels. Can the cabinet member responsible provide some reassurances to constituents that this isn't the start of a crime wave and press upon those responsible for policing that current staffing levels, leave many of us feeling vulnerable and less confident in our ability to rely upon police force to keep people safe?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Neighbourhoods responded that the Community Safety and District Teams were working closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Failsworth and Hollinwood and all efforts were being made for the identification of the persons responsible for the anti-social behaviour and criminality. Action would be taken as appropriate against persons identified as involved. Other alternative options for intelligence gathering in the area was being considered which included the potential issue of dash cams to taxi drivers in the area. Dash cams had been used successfully in other areas, with evidence from the cameras being used in prosecutions, with the long term impact being a reduction in incidents being reported. The Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership did not believe this to be the start of a crime wave and the Partnership endeavoured to provide the best service possible with the resources available. The concerns raised about the level of police staffing will police staffing would be brought to the attention of the Divisional Commander and the Deputy Mayor.



15. Councillor G. Alexander asked the following question:

“When will Persimmon complete the snaggings on the Northgate Estate so the Council can finally adopt the Estate”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that officers continued to pursue Persimmons for a meeting and a resolution to the outstanding issues. However, unfortunately the Council did not have powers to force the adoption process.

16. Councillor Turner asked the following question:

“Under the Armed Forces Covenant, this authority has agreed to award Medium Priority to service applicants on our social housing register. Six such applicants have been registered - I believe that one is from my ward. At present it is not recorded how long such applicants remain on the register before being housed. Will the Cabinet Member for social housing agree to request that housing allocations staff record such information?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives confirmed that the Council did record the length of time households had been on the Housing Register and included those who had served in the Armed Forces. It was noted that the length of time on the Housing Register did not automatically improve a household’s chances of getting a social housing tenancy, either with the Council or housing association partners. As a result of the vast majority of homes being allocated via our Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme, all households on the Housing Register were encouraged to actively participate in the scheme by regularly looking for suitable homes advertised on the CBL website and place bids on the homes in which they were interested. Evidence showed that those households who actively participated in the scheme stood a much better chance of securing a tenancy than those who did not.

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.

2

## **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ames, M. Bashforth, S. Bashforth, Briggs, Dearden, Hudson, Shuttleworth and Williamson.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2017 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 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 Sykes declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Jabbar declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and the Unity Joint Venture Board.

Councillor Ur-Rehman declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Dean declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and the Unity Joint Venture Board.

Councillor Stretton declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor McCann declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board, the Unity Joint Venture Board and the MioCare Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board. Councillor Harrison also declared a pecuniary interest at Item 12, Cabinet Minutes, 18 September 2017, Counthill Moorside: Selection of Preferred Developer for Residential Development by virtue of owning a property adjacent to the development.

Councillor G. Alexander declared a personal interest in Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Brownridge declared a personal interest in Item 15b by virtue of her appointment to the Police and Crime Commission.

Councillor Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 13, Motion 3 and Item 15b by virtue of his employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest at Item 13, Motion 3 and Item 15 by virtue of her spouse's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

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**

There were no communications.

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

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



### Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Petition related to Saddleworth School: Stop the Delay, Find a Way (Saddleworth North Ward) received on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with 2,153 signatures (Ref: 2017-13)

Petition asking why Planning Permission was Granted at Keb Lane (Medlock Vale Ward) received on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with 457 signatures (Ref: 2017-14)

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

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

The Mayor informed the meeting that there was one item of outstanding business from the previous meeting. The Chief Executive had been notified that Councillor S. Bashforth was unable to attend the meeting to second the Motion and notice had been given that Councillor Larkin would second the Motion in his absence which was AGREED.

### Motion 1

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Larkin SECONDED the following motion:

“This council notes that:

1. DEFRA published the policy paper ‘Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide’ in July 2017 which sets out the Government’s strategy to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution and promises to make the UK a global leader in air quality.
2. Evidence from the World Health Organisation, Public Health England and the Royal College of Physicians outlines the damaging impact of poor air quality on our health, disproportionately affecting children, older people, people with pre-existing heart conditions and people on lower incomes.
3. Oldham has been designated as ‘urban with major conurbation’, which puts us in the top 23% most urban Local Authority Districts. DEFRA has also placed Oldham within the ‘above the legal limit but no feasibility study needs to be done’ category for air pollution, showing that Oldham’s urban nature affects the levels of pollution in the area.
4. Oldham’s nitrogen dioxide level is above the legal limit.

5. Oldham is making progress towards reaching the legal limit and is expected to achieve this by 2021, however more can be done.

This Council welcomes the Air Quality Plan as far as it goes, but believes that action needs to be taken at a local, Greater Manchester and national level to increase the rate of progress and keep levels to the legal limit in the future.

This Council resolves:

1. To ask the Health and Wellbeing Board's Air Quality Sub Group to move as quickly as possible to produce an Air Quality Improvement Scheme for Oldham which should include what we as individuals can do, as well as action by Oldham Council and by Greater Manchester bodies.
2. To press Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop a more inclusive approach to improving air quality including:
  - a. Improving orbital public transport links
  - b. Improving connectivity between city centres e.g. by revising the Low Carbon Strategy to include measures which will help Oldham
  - c. Investing in cycle lanes and facilities in outer boroughs
3. To inform and support the Greater Manchester bid for the maximum possible funding from the Clean Air Fund to support local action
4. To support the wider use of low emission vehicles e.g. by encouraging the installation of charging points for electric cars."

Councillor McCann spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Blyth spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Roberts exercised her right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Health and Well-Being Board's Air Quality Sub-Group be asked to move as quickly as possible to produce and Air Quality Improvement Scheme For which should include what individuals could do, as well as action by Oldham Council and by Greater Manchester bodies.
2. Transport for Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be pressed to develop a more inclusive approach to improving air quality including:
  - a. Improving orbital public transport links
  - b. Improving connectivity between city centres e.g. by revising the Low Carbon Strategy to include measures which would help Oldham
  - c. Investing in cycling lanes and facilities in the outer boroughs.



3. The Greater Manchester bid be informed and supported for the maximum possible funding from the Clean Air Fund to support local action.
4. The wider use of low emission vehicles e.g. by encouraging the installation of charging points for electric cars be supported.

## **LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stretton, delivered her Second Annual Statement. The Leader reflected on shocks and surprises, as well as highlights, achievements and progress for Oldham. There had been unexpected challenges and events beyond the Council's control. The Council had been tested on many levels and had shown great resilience as a place, a council, a partnership and as communities.

The Leader reflected on the Maple Mill fire which tested the Council's response to a major incident and the support provided to people who were displaced when police dealt with a siege in Shaw. There had also been localised flooding, allegations of a local Trojan Horse plot, the sudden closure of the Oldham Evening Chronicle and the closure of the University Technical College. The Leader also reflected on sad losses and the Manchester Arena Attack.

The Leader commented on the financial challenge to local government and the more than £200 million which had been taken since 2009 and the impact on public services which was unavoidable. The Leader reflected on Brexit and what it meant for the Council and the borough. The Leader highlighted the fantastic assets in the Borough and thanked those residents, partners and local businesses who made a significant contribution to the progress and successes.

The Leader highlighted the Inclusive Economy where opportunities could be accessed, the success of Get Oldham Working and the opening of new businesses in the borough which included Jardine Motors, the new B&M store and the DPD parcel delivery depot that was on track. Work was also underway at Hollinwood Junction. The Leader also highlighted on the commitment and support to businesses.

The authority had stepped up to the challenge of working with the Government as one of six Opportunity Areas in the country to ensure that Oldham's children and young people get the best chance to do well at school. The programme focussed on improving social mobility and meant extra funding from early years to lifelong learning. The Leader also commented that 89.5 percent of students were attending a school that was rated 'good' or 'outstanding'. Investments were being made in new facilities and expansions to cope with growing pupil numbers.

The Leader highlighted Co-operative Services and the vision for the integration and innovation to improve outcomes for

people. This included recycling which had jumped by 8% to 46 percent and the public response to other behaviour change initiatives. Oldham was a recognised leader in collaborative service innovation. The work that Oldham Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners to integrate health and social care work into one system was recently showcased. One example was Warm Homes Oldham which had lifted four and a half thousand local homes out of fuel poverty. Another example was Get Oldham Growing which had expanded to five growing hubs and great partnerships that was helping hundreds of residents get healthy new life skills. Fantastic feedback had been provided by the Chief Executive of Public Health England on Oldham's focus on prevention and early intervention. The Leader thanked every partner organisation, resident and voluntary group who had played their part in making the vision a reality. The Leader also highlighted the opening of the Maggie's Oldham Care Centre.

The Leader reflected on Thriving Communities and Oldham being a place where society and social action really meant something and for people and communities to have the power to be healthy, happy and to make positive choices. The Leader highlighted the impact on Universal Credit in Oldham which had been dramatic. The Oldham Food Bank had seen a 77% increase in people getting food parcels due to benefit delays or changes. The Leader also highlighted events for families that had been held, the Arts & Heritage Centre, Coliseum Theatre, Cultural Quarter and the continued investment in the Borough's districts and facilities.

The challenge was to continue work hard in the areas that the Council controlled, had a real impact and looked for opportunities to make circumstances work best for residents.

The Leader highlighted the Town Centre Masterplan which looked ahead to 2035 which was the biggest forward planning exercise ever taken for the town centre to make it a place that was thriving around the clock and offered new housing, employment and leisure opportunities.

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

10

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council **PROPOSED** the following **MOTION**:

"The Youth Council believes that work experience is an essential component of young people's transition into responsible and confident citizens, and is an excellent introduction into the world of work. These short term placements inside an organisation help young people become acquainted with the work place, which will improve their employability skills to create well-rounded individuals. It may also provide an insight into a particular industry which can help decide their future career paths.

The Youth Council is aware of a survey by the City & Guilds vocational training organisation, about 80 per cent of employers think work experience is essential and two-thirds of employers would be more likely to hire a young person with work experience over someone with none. There are also multiple benefits for the local community when businesses offer work experience to young people not least due to the links forged which may help get a foot in the door of the world of employment, and the firm may find that they have an enthusiastic and experienced new recruit on their hands in the future. The Youth Council believes that if a young person has a worthwhile work experience in Oldham, it can only incentivise them to remain in the area after completing their education or training as they have become more aware of the career possibilities on their doorstep. They have a goal to aim for, and as a result have a purpose to work hard to gain the relevant qualifications after completing work experience, thus raising both aspirations and academic achievements in the town. Indeed, people who had four or more interactions with employers during their schooling years were five times less likely to be unemployed at the end of them, according to recent research.

Throughout Oldham, however, provision is inconsistent as work experience is not a statutory obligation in schools. It can often be challenging for young people to find suitable placements themselves, and as a consequence many miss out on this vital experience.

As a Youth Council which strives to represent the views of young people and champion their issues, we feel that it would be imperative to urge the Council to take this issue seriously. In this year's UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark campaign we balloted over 17,000 young people which represents approximately 70% of Oldham's 11 – 18 year olds (the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest turnout in the UK #JustSaying). Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds, was the number one issue that our young people were concerned about, with over 2600 voting for this topic.

The Youth Council's long term commitment to campaigning for a Curriculum for Life, an educational experience which adequately prepares students for responsible adulthood, also extends to a genuine demand for work experience which is beneficial to both parties involved and leaves young people feeling optimistic for their future. The Youth Council believes that it is an invaluable opportunity and it should not be decided on by the connections your family has or a postcode lottery that your school has the resources and a well-developed work experience programme.

The Youth Council would like to take this opportunity to recognise the work done at Oldham Council for the past overview and scrutiny of the work experience provided in Oldham. From this work we know that schools may not offer any work experience opportunities, some may offer a small cohort of placements and only a tiny majority of schools organise work experience for an entire year group. With our Make Your Mark results the Youth Council plan to work closely with organisations such as Get Oldham Working and Positive

Steps to see how this offer can be increased and how young people can be supported so they are aware of how to maximise their usage. The Youth Council also hope to look at the feasibility of a face to face or an online work experience hub.

However, there is only so much that the Youth Council is able to do and we call on the Council to support the following resolution:

The Youth Council ask Council to resolve:

That Oldham Council recognises that Oldham is committed to providing quality work experience opportunities for all its young people and write to the Secretary of State for Education and the three MPs in our area asking that work experience arrangements becomes a statutory duty for all schools.”

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Chadderton MOVED the Motion and Councillor Akhtar SECONDED the Motion.

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

**RESOLVED** that Oldham Council recognised that Oldham was committed to providing quality work experience opportunities for all its young people and the Secretary of State for Education and the three MPs in our area be written to asking that work experience arrangements becomes a statutory duty for all schools.

11

## **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1:

“My first question tonight concerns the latest developments or lack of them at Princes Gate. When plans for this site at Oldham Mumps were first unveiled in November 2014, former Council Leader Jim McMahon described them as a ‘game-changer for the new Oldham’.

Now we are three years on and we have yet to hear the details of who will replace Marks and Spencer as the flagship retailer on this gateway site. Embarrassingly there are still many graphics in the town centre and elsewhere on display showing Marks and Spencer at the heart of this development.

This saga seems to be lasting as long as Game of Thrones – but it is not so captivating, bloody or exciting. Businesses in the area, local residents and many others want and need to know what is happening – the silence is deafening.

Earlier this year we were promised an announcement in the near future and that was five months ago. Has a commercial deal been struck? Did Cabinet approve a deal for Princes Gate in June? So why such a long delay in making an

announcement? Now five months on from the Cabinet meeting earlier this year and still now news. I am sure lots of people in our Borough will be keen to hear what is going on and what the plan is? It is long overdue some 'game-changing' on this site started to happen would the Leader of the Council agree."

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, agreed that it needed to happen soon. It needed to be understood that whilst deals may have been struck, there were formal commercial arrangements which had to be put in to place before formal announcements could be made. As soon as formal announcements were able to be made, they would be.

Question 2:

"For my second question tonight I would like to turn to another issue that is currently of great public interest and concern. I am sure that colleagues in this chamber will have been as unsettled as I was to hear news of seemingly widespread instances of sexual harassment in Parliament.

Such reprehensible behaviour will bring Parliament further into disrepute; something we as Councillors should very much regret as this will also further undermine the electorate's overall faith in the functioning of any aspect of British democracy – including that of local government.

Prime Minister Theresa May has indicated that she will be instituting a new code of conduct in Parliament and we must hope that this will help address the issue. Tonight I would like to ask the Leader for reassurance that here at Oldham Council we are one step ahead of the crowd in having robust and exemplar policies regarding sexual harassment in place.

Policies that enable and encourage those amongst our staff, or indeed our elected officials, who suffer this indignity to report such incidents. That we have a support network in place for victims. All such reports will be rigorously investigated.

Offenders will be swiftly disciplined. But we also provide protection from malicious allegations.

Apparently in Parliament an idea is being explored that staff will be able to report concerns to an external, independent body. I would suggest to the Leader that perhaps to make our own procedures even more robust this might be worthy of consideration? But above all, I would like the Leader tonight to strongly affirm that we at Oldham Council have a policy of zero tolerance for such behaviour, whether it is by an employee, senior officer, contractor, partner or councillor."

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, agreed for the measures to be in place. The Leader agreed and reassured that policies and procedures were in place and was happy for these to be re-examined to ensure that they were fit for purpose. A commitment was given to speak to the Chief Executive about arrangements in place and to take on board the suggestion of reporting to an external body. The range of issues which could occur included cases of harassment and sometimes malicious allegations being made. The Leader

was committed that the Council was a place where people were treated fairly whether they be victims or falsely accused. The matter would be taken seriously.



Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to staff sharing. Councillor Sheldon asked if would it be possible to offer the assistance of District Partnership staff to ease other departments under pressure. For example the following is such a case where secretarial staff could speed up necessary work. Flooding at Arthurs Lane Greenfield caused problems to residential properties and Shaw Street School. The cause had been identified by the highways team as a major drain which needed replacing. The funds were likely to be available from the EA, but this required a comprehensive report which lists in detail those affected, the solution and costing for such work. With secretarial help this report could have been completed months ago and the work possibly completed. To date the report had not been filed with the EA. Councillor Sheldon had great admiration for the work staff carried out, but he did think some jobs could be speeded with a little help.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, requested that Councillor Sheldon provide details of the root of the issue in order to ask senior officers to review what could be done.

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 Toor asked the following question:

“Young people sitting their GCSEs this summer coped with big changes including a new marking method – how confident is the Cabinet Member for Education that examiners understood the new system and were fully trained in the new marking to ensure our children’s hard work has not gone to waste? Can she tell us if there are any plans to evaluate this change?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that that the local authority was not responsible for assuring the quality of national examinations. The role was undertaken by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) which regulated qualifications, examinations and assessments in England. Councillor Chadderton understood that examiners were evaluated every summer to ensure there were not many variances.

2. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“I have been contacted by parents who have been rejected home to school transport. It is likely that stringent criteria have been put in place to meet allocated budget costs. This clearly denies a lot of

parents that essential service. These are families who are under immense pressure from all angles. I would be interested to know, how much budget is allocated to this service; and if consideration can be given in reviewing the criteria and hopefully increasing the budget so that more families can benefit from this essential service.”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that the current overall budget was set at £1,636,670 which was forecast to overspend. The service supported 510 children and young people. There was no proposal to review the policy as a full review had been carried out last year and agreed at Cabinet. There was an appeals process in place for those whose applications were rejected. Applicants had an opportunity to present their case in person to members.

3. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for Social Care and safeguarding, please tell us how many LAC Champions we currently have in Oldham and describe the impact that they are having on the lives of some of our most vulnerable young people. Could they also advise us how the Champions are recruited and what training they receive prior to taking up the role?”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding responded that the Children’s Champion scheme had been in existence for approximately 4 years. The aims of the Children’s Champions Scheme were:

- Senior Decision Makers (Champions) within Oldham Council and our partners to gain a greater understanding of the needs of Looked After Children and care leavers
- Young people to build positive and meaningful relationships with Champions that supported the achievement of positive outcomes
- Young people to be given the opportunity to gain work experience
- Young people to be provided with an advocate who could champion a quality experience from services provided for Looked after Children and care leavers.

There were currently 14 champions within the scheme which included officers from Oldham Council, Elected Members, Police and Health. Champions were recruited via the manager’s brief, corporate parenting panel and information passed to senior officers in partner agencies. Interested people put in an expression of interest and undertook a one-to-one induction training meeting with the participation officer. Sixteen young people had benefitted from the scheme in the last two years. Outcomes for champions included

an improved knowledge and understanding of how the care system worked, the ability to gain a better understanding of Looked After Children and care leavers needs and experiences, the ability to create a rewarding and meaningful relationship with a young person and a rewarding and enriching experience. Outcomes for young people included the development of positive relationships with trusted adults who were role models, support and guidance on a range of issues, new opportunities and experiences and development of confidence and self-esteem. Specific outcomes for individual young people had included gaining an apprenticeship, gaining work experience opportunities, support with placement moves, support to move from unsuitable accommodation, successful appeal for a secondary school placement and attendance at events.

4. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“At the same time that this Administration is talking about the upsurge in trade in the Independent Quarter and the possibility of an enhanced retail offer at Princes Gate, Lendy, an investment loans company published research in August showing Oldham as having the largest decline in retail planning applications last year, being the last of 339 local authorities in the UK. Lendy said that Oldham Council received only four retail planning applications in the year to March 2017, down 87 percent from 30 the previous year. If true this is worrying news and hardly an encouragement to prospective retailers thinking of locating to our borough. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm what the figures for 2016/17 were and how they compare to 2015/16?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the information on Oldham’s retail performance was inaccurate. There were 36 applications which involved retail (Class A1) accommodation that were determined between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in the borough. Of these, 23 were granted permission, 11 were refused and 2 were withdrawn. It was clear that retail conditions across the country were challenging, the number of retail applications in Oldham actually increased compared to 2015/16.

5. Councillor Fielding asked the following question:

“The Psychoactive Substances Act came into force on 26 May 2016. Could the relevant Cabinet member please tell us if the legislation brought about any significant impact on the distribution and use of Psychoactive Substances in Oldham?”



Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that the Psychoactive Substances Act had had a significant impact on the visible distribution of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) across Oldham borough. Prior to the Act a number of shops (Head Shops) were openly selling NPS to members of the public. Since the implementation of the Act, all of these premises had shut down or ceased to trade visibly. The Psychoactive Substances Act's main intention was to shut down shops and websites that had traded in 'legal highs' and although this had partially achieved its aim with retailers, the sale of NS on the internet was still easily accessible. One of the most contentious issues was the sale of Nitrous Oxide by retailers. Recent work had been conducted in partnership with Community Safety Services, Trading Standards and Police. Known retailers were targeted and visits conducted to ensure they were aware of their responsibilities under Home Office guidance. This would be further reviewed in the near future and further action taken as necessary. At the recent meeting of the Oldham NPS Steering Group, partners described a changing picture in the community and in prison establishments. It was felt that the use of NPS substances that mimicked the effects of cannabis 'Spice' and 'Mamba' had reduced significantly in Oldham. It was recognised that there were more localised problems across Greater Manchester or with certain demographics of the population. Information provided by OASIS (Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service) and One Recovery (Adult Substance Misuse Service) indicated that the number of clients entering treatment and specified NPS use were less than 1% of all new treatment journeys recorded between April 2016 to March 2017 and this was in line with the national average. Oldham Council was working with partners for the development of a new Psychoactive Substances action plan for the borough.

6. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

"Oldham's under 5s have some of the worst teeth in the country – this means children are in pain, get abscesses and in many cases need to have their teeth taken out. Oldham Council and NHS have tried hard to get children to brush their teeth regularly and to reduce sugar in their diet. Scientific data tells us that fluoridation of the water supply significantly reduces tooth decay – can the Cabinet Member tell us whether there are any current discussions at a Greater Manchester level about fluoridation to help our children have better teeth?"

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that community water fluoridation schemes were first introduced in the US in 1945.

Following successful trials in the UK in the 1950's, Birmingham led the way in the UK in 1964 by implementing water fluoridation and this was quickly followed in the 1960's by some other local authorities. Many cities and areas across the world had introduced fluoride to water supplies. All water contained the mineral fluoride naturally in varying amounts. Water fluoridation involved adjusting the fluoride level in drinking water supplies. Other sources of fluoride for dental health included toothpaste and professionally applied fluoride varnish. Water fluoridation had an effect over and above that achieved by these methods. United Utilities was the main operator of the water distribution system in Oldham and across the North West. Therefore, any feasible fluoridation scheme would need to be undertaken with United Utilities for Greater Manchester and the North West. There were no plans for the introduction of water fluoridation across Greater Manchester. A new Greater Manchester oral health strategy would be developed in 2018 which provided an opportunity to consider the priorities for action in improving oral health of children and adults. Oldham Council would contribute to the development and shaping of this strategy. The Council acknowledged the poor health of children in Oldham and the impact it had on children's lives. Oldham had been identified as one of 13 high national high priority areas for oral health and in 2018 an expanded programme of oral health for all 0 – 5 year olds would take place. This included oral health advice and free toothbrushes and toothpaste for all children from Health Visitors, supervised toothbrushing schemes in early years settings and encouragement to visit a dentist by the age of 1 year.

7. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

“Following the recent Bonfire Night and seeing the vast number of incidents responded to by our Fire & Rescue Service, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to our brave firefighters who responded professionally to every incident, including one in my ward of Chadderton South where it was reported a woman was injured after a firework was thrown into a shop causing serious damage. Can I ask the Leader if she would be willing to discuss with the Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, how local authorities and the combined Authority can act to curtail the number of incidents occurring due to irresponsible individuals lighting bonfires, setting bins, cars or premises on fire and using fireworks dangerously?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership shared the serious concerns about the behaviour of

individuals both in Oldham and across Greater Manchester during the Bonfire period. In Oldham a dedicated partnership operation 'Treacle' was undertaken with officers from the Council and Greater Manchester Police working together with the Fire and Rescue Service. The operation involved the delivery of key safety messages, community engagement and regular liaison with retailers selling fireworks. The behaviour of a number of individuals had been completely unacceptable and had endangered the lives of others. A full review of what had occurred over the period was being undertaken by the Partnership and work was ongoing to identify the persons responsible in order that appropriate action could be taken. The incidents that had occurred over the period across the entire conurbation would be reviewed in detail by the Greater Manchester ABS Group and a full report would be provided to the Mayor's office with a request for an action plan to be developed with the objective of preventing a recurrence of the behaviours in the future. A meeting had been requested between the Leader and the Chief Executive and senior police officers to be followed by an all member meeting with police in attendance for wider concerns about policing to be discussed.

8. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

"I am sure that the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services will be aware that there is currently no budget to repair or replace Vehicle Activated Speed signs, which means there are a number of signs that are not working at all or are faulty throughout the Borough. I understand that a review is currently being conducted as to whether these signs should be repaired or replaced. I hope that the review will recommend that they are repaired and maintained as they make a significant contribution to road safety. This review is now also holding up other much needed road safety measures in Shaw and Crompton. Could the Cabinet Member please tell me when this review will be complete, if the signs will be repaired and maintained, and therefore when locally in Shaw and Crompton we can get on with other much needed road safety improvements?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services confirmed that work was being undertaken to examine the condition of each of the Vehicle Activated Signs, a number of which had been installed at members' discretion. The report would identify those where data and evidence supported their retention saving, saving the cost of repairs where such evidence did not exist. However, members would also be able to use local budgets to support repairs which fell outside the criteria should they choose.

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.

12

**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 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the urgent key decisions taken between 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor McCann, Cabinet Minutes, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Items 8 and 17 – NSL Parking Enforcement/Service Contract – Councillor McCann fully supported the bus lane enforcement. Councillor McCann asked for reassurance that the appropriate signage was in place and the running space was adequate to merge into the other lane.

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he would look into the signage and the lanes issues. There had been 50 prosecutions in one week.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the Urgent Key Decisions taken between 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be noted.
2. The question and response provided on the Cabinet minutes be noted.

13

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED the following motion:

“The Council considers its duty towards Children’s Social Care and Early Help to be one of its most important statutory duties. It is vitally important that the Council provides as comprehensive a service as possible to ensure that children

have the best start in life. Therefore, the Council notes with grave concern that across England:

- Approximately 350 Sure Start centres have closed since 2010.
- Child poverty is now at its highest level since 2010, with 100,000 children nationally in relative poverty and 4 million children considered to be in poor households.
- The analysis by the Local Government Association that suggests that: 75% of councils exceed their children's social care budget to a total of £605 million, that councils are dealing with an increase in demand with child protection inquiries up by 140% in the last 10 years and that Children's services face a £2bn shortfall by 2020.
- A survey conducted by Action for Children outlines that 53% of Conservative Councillors are concerned that recent funding cuts make it more difficult for local councils to deliver legally required responsibilities for children and young people, with three quarters saying that in the longer term children services is a major cause of concern.

Council further notes that:

- The Council has invested an additional £4m into Children's Services in this financial year. This is to cover the cost of the vast increase in demand. As this trend is expected to continue, the budget reduction requirement for 2018/19 has been increased by £4m to reflect this.
- Despite this in year investment, our Month 3 Financial Monitoring report considered by Cabinet on 23 September showed a projected overspend of £1.066m on Children's Social Care. This is clearly challenging in the context of cuts to the Council's budget totally £202m over the period 2009/10 to 2017/18 and the use of £6.5m of reserves to balance the 2017/18 revenue budget. As a result of the increased funding requirement in addition to Government funding cuts, the Council currently faces a budget reduction target of £24.8m for 2018/19 with further cuts required in future years.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Make urgent representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining the Council's continuing struggle to meet its statutory requirements with the funding available, and request the release of adequate funds so that the Council can properly safeguard its children's services.
- Make representations to Robert Goodwill MP, the Minister of State for Children and Families, outlining the Council's continuing struggle to meet its statutory requirements with the funding available, requesting that the Minister lobbies the Chancellor of the Exchequer for adequate funds so that the Council can properly safeguard its children's services.

- To write to the Local Government Association expressing the Council's support for the organisation's lobbying for adequate funding for Children's Services.
- To write to the Local Government Association expressing the Council's support for the organisation's lobbying for adequate funding for Children's Services.
- To write to the borough's three MPs asking that they continue to lobby government for adequate funding for the Council's children's services.

Councillor McCann spoke in support of the Motion.  
Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Motion.  
Councillor Ali spoke in support of the Motion.  
Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Urgent representations be made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer which outlined the Council's continuing struggle to meet its statutory requirements with the funding available and request the release of adequate funds so that the Council could properly safeguard its children's services.
2. Representations be made to Robert Goodwill MP, the Minister of State for Children and Families which outlined the Council's continuing struggle to meet its statutory requirements with the funding available, requesting that the Minister lobbied the Chancellor of the Exchequer for adequate funds so that the Council could properly safeguard its children's services.
3. The Local Government Association be written to expressing the Council's support for the organisation's lobbying for Children's Services.
4. The borough's three MPs be written to and be asked that they continue to lobby government for adequate funding for the Council's children's services.

Motion 2

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED the following motion:

"This Council

- i. Recognises the importance of local action in coordinating and commissioning accessible and effective HIV testing to reach the undiagnosed and reduce late HIV diagnosis
- ii. Commits to strengthening its own provision of HIV testing services through working with local providers of

- Sexual Health Services, NHS partners, HIV charities and patient groups
- iii. Recognises that late HIV diagnosis is a Public Health Outcomes Indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
  - iv. Recognises the volume and quality of public health and local government guidelines and performance indicators designed to support local authority implementation and monitoring of appropriate and effective testing guidelines.

The Council further notes:

- i. That an estimated 101,200 were living in the UK with HIV in 2015; 13% of people were undiagnosed and unaware of their condition. It is estimated that 984 people are currently living with undiagnosed HIV across Greater Manchester.
- ii. HIV testing is integral to the treatment and management of HIV. With an early diagnosis and put on a clear treatment pathway and guaranteed access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can expect to have a near-normal life expectancy and live healthy and active lives.
- iii. Oldham's HIV testing coverage has significantly declined. The testing coverage rate for men has increased both regionally and nationally while Oldham's rate decreased slightly by 3.7 percentage points. Over the same period, has been a sharp decrease in the testing coverage for women in Oldham particularly since 2013 while decreases regional and national level have been less severe. Testing coverage for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) was similar to national rates.
- iv. Late diagnosis is the most important factor associated with HIV-related morbidity and mortality in the UK (BASHH 2008). There is an impact of late diagnosis on individual health, public health and health budgets. Late diagnosis increases the likelihood of the need for complex and expensive treatment and the risk of onward transmission to others. In 2015, 39% of people were diagnosed with HIV at a late stage of infection (with a CD4 count <350 cells per mm<sup>3</sup>).
- v. The lifetime treatment cost of living with HIV is estimated to be around £360,000. Late diagnosis increases further the cost of HIV treatment by 50%.
- vi. Developing a Greater Manchester city-region approach to the eradication of HIV within a generation is an objective of the Greater Manchester Population Health Plan.

Recognising the weight of evidence in favour of expanding local HIV testing services, Oldham Council resolves to:

- Work, with partners, towards attaining the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 90-90-90 targets; 90% of all people living with HIV will know their status 90% of all people living with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART)

90% of all people living with HIV on ART will have durable viral suppression.

- Support the Greater Manchester (GM) city region approach to eradicating HIV within a generation.

Council further resolves to:

- Ask the Director of Public Health to provide a report outlining what needs to be done locally in the commissioning and provision of services in order to support the 90-90-90 targets and GMs ambition to eradicate HIV within a generation.
- Work with sexual health services to address the decline of HIV testing rates for men and women in the borough.
- Adopt the GM Model to increase HIV testing and associated interventions.
- Support the provider of our Specialist Sexual Health Service to successfully implement the NHS England funded Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention programme. Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV, but who are at substantial risk of HIV infection to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV.
- Promote the National HIV Testing Week which starts on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017.”

#### Amendment

Councillor Gloster MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“On Page One in the paragraph starting ‘The Council further notes:

Insert at the end of Point IV: ‘Fortunately Oldham does not have a high rate of diagnosed HIV with 1.35 persons diagnosed with the condition in every 1,000 of the population; however worryingly there is a high incidence of late diagnosis in 42.9% of cases.’

On Page Two in the paragraph starting ‘Recognising’ after the first bullet point insert two new bullet points:

- ‘Look to introduce HIV testing services in primary care settings in this Borough including GP surgeries and health clinics, as per the recommendations made in national HIV guidance, guidance issued by NICE, and by the sexual health charity The Terrance Higgins Trust.
- Conduct a review of the current services available in this Borough in consultation with people living with HIV, their partners and carers, and relevant bodies such as local LGBT+ groups, The Terrance Higgins Trust, the George House Trust and Healthwatch Oldham, to determine how else they may be improved or made more accessible.’

Insert at the every end of the motion after 2017’,and promote both the It Starts with Me campaign and the National HIV Testing Week each year.’

Amended motion to read as follows:



‘This Council

- i. Recognises the importance of local action in coordinating and commissioning accessible and effective HIV testing to reach the undiagnosed and reduce late HIV diagnosis
- ii. Commits to strengthening its own provision of HIV testing services through working with local providers of Sexual Health Services, NHS partners, HIV charities and patient groups
- iii. Recognises that late HIV diagnosis is a Public Health Outcomes Indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- iv. Recognises the volume and quality of public health and local government guidelines and performance indicators designed to support local authority implementation and monitoring of appropriate and effective testing guidelines.

The Council further notes:

- i. That an estimated 101,200 were living in the UK with HIV in 2015; 13% of people were undiagnosed and unaware of their condition. It is estimated that 984 people are currently living with undiagnosed HIV across Greater Manchester.
- ii. HIV testing is integral to the treatment and management of HIV. With an early diagnosis and put on a clear treatment pathway and guaranteed access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can expect to have a near-normal life expectancy and live healthy and active lives.
- iii. Oldham’s HIV testing coverage has significantly declined. The testing coverage rate for men has increased both regionally and nationally while Oldham’s rate decreased slightly by 3.7 percentage points. Over the same period, has been a sharp decrease in the testing coverage for women in Oldham particularly since 2013 while decreases regional and national level have been less severe. Testing coverage for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) was similar to national rates.
- iv. Late diagnosis is the most important factor associated with HIV-related morbidity and mortality in the UK (BASHH 2008). There is an impact of late diagnosis on individual health, public health and health budgets. Late diagnosis increases the likelihood of the need for complex and expensive treatment and the risk of onward transmission to others. In 2015, 39% of people were diagnosed with HIV at a late stage of infection (with a CD4 count <350 cells per mm<sup>3</sup>). Fortunately Oldham does not have a high rate of diagnosed HIV with 1.35 persons diagnosed with the condition in every 1,000 of the population; however worryingly there is a high incidence of late diagnosis in 42.9% of cases.
- v. The lifetime treatment cost of living with HIV is estimated to be around £360,000. Late diagnosis increases further the cost of HIV treatment by 50%.
- vi. Developing a Greater Manchester city-region approach to the eradication of HIV within a generation is an

objective of the Greater Manchester Population Health Plan.

Recognising the weight of evidence in favour of expanding local HIV testing services, Oldham Council resolves to:

- Work, with partners, towards attaining the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 90-90-90 targets;  
90% of all people living with HIV will know their status  
90% of all people living with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART)  
90% of all people living with HIV on ART will have durable viral suppression.
- Look to introduce HIV testing services in primary care settings in this Borough including GP surgeries and health clinics, as per the recommendations made in national HIV guidance, guidance issued by NICE, and by the sexual health charity The Terrance Higgins Trust.
- Conduct a review of the current services available in this Borough in consultation with people living with HIV, their partners and carers, and relevant bodies such as local LGBT+ groups, The Terrance Higgins Trust, the George House Trust and Healthwatch Oldham, to determine how else they may be improved or made more accessible.
- Support the Greater Manchester (GM) city region approach to eradicating HIV within a generation.

Council further resolves to:

- Ask the Director of Public Health to provide a report outlining what needs to be done locally in the commissioning and provision of services in order to support the 90-90-90 targets and GMs ambition to eradicate HIV within a generation.
- Work with sexual health services to address the decline of HIV testing rates for men and women in the borough.
- Adopt the GM Model to increase HIV testing and associated interventions.
- Support the provider of our Specialist Sexual Health Service to successfully implement the NHS England funded Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention programme. Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV, but who are at substantial risk of HIV infection to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV.
- Promote the National HIV Testing Week which starts on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and promote both the It Starts with Me campaign and the National HIV Testing Week each year.”

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply. Councillor Moores ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

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



On being put to the VOTE, the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that in recognition of the weight of evidence in favour of expanding local HIV Testing services:

- To work, with partners, towards the attainment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 90-90-90 targets;  
90% of all people living with HIV will know their status;  
90% of all people living with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); 90% of all people living with HIV on ART will have durable viral suppression.
- Introduction of HIV testing services in primary care settings in this Borough including GP surgeries and health clinics, as per the recommendations made in national HIV guidance, guidance issued by NICE, and by the sexual health charity The Terrance Higgins Trust be looked into.
- A review be conducted of the current services available in this Borough in consultation with people living with HIV, their partners and carers, and relevant bodies such as local LGBT+ groups, The Terrance Higgins Trust, the George House Trust and Healthwatch Oldham, to determine how else they may be improved or made more accessible.
- The Greater Manchester (GM) city region approach to eradicating HIV within a generation be supported.
- The Director of Public Health be asked to provide a report that outlined what needs to be done locally in the commissioning and provision of services in order to support the 90-90-90 targets and GMs ambition to eradicate HIV within a generation.
- To Work with sexual health services to address the decline of HIV testing rates for men and women in the borough.
- The GM Model to increase HIV testing and associated interventions be adopted.
- The provider of our Specialist Sexual Health Service be supported to successfully implement the NHS England funded Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention programme. Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV, but who are at substantial risk of HIV infection to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV.
- The National HIV Testing Week which starts on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be promoted, and both the It Starts with Me campaign and the National HIV Testing Week be supported each year.

### Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Ali as Mover of the Motion and

Councillor Jacques as Secunder of the Motion requested the Council permit the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.



“This Council notes with great concern that Greater Manchester Police’s budget has been reduced by £180m since 2010, reducing nearly a quarter of its front-line officers and 1,000 support staff as government austerity budgets sought to reduce the cost of Britain’s public services. With 6,200 officers, reduced from 8,000 a decade ago, GMP is so stretched that officers from specialist divisions are being drafted in to help with community policing. Officers are being directed away from the Serious Crime Unit, which usually deals with robbery, kidnapping and drug dealers. In Oldham, 4,839 more crimes were reported per annum in 2017 than in 2011, an increase of 27%. This reflects the regional picture, with crime up across Greater Manchester by 13% in the same period. Oldham performs worse in 11 of the 17 categories identified by official police and crime statistics which include huge rises in categories identified by official police and crime statistics which include huge rises in violence (131%), shoplifting (75%) and public order offences (244%). The Government has not protected police budgets as promised. Home Office Figures in England and Wales between September 2010 and September 2016 record that the number of police officers fell by 18,991, or 13%. The problem is compounded by sickness absence rates. Nearly 2,500 officers – about 2% of the total workforce – were classified as being on long term sick leave, an 11.5% increase on 2015. Overall police budgets, excluding counter-terrorism grants, fell by 20% between 2010 and 2015 which is completely unsustainable. This Council condemns these cuts in policing in the strongest possible terms threatening as they do the excellent policing we have in Oldham and putting at risk the safety and security of our local diverse community.

This Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to convey this Motion and the Council’s strong concerns about these matters to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Home Secretary.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary asking her to increase Police numbers in order to safeguard our residents and communities.”

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

14

## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1:

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes, with great sadness that:

- There is growing evidence that the use of acid and other corrosive substances as a weapon in violent attacks is increasing.
- Victims of these crimes are often left with life changing injuries as well as long-term psychological and emotional damage.
- Data collected by the National Police Chiefs' Council covering a six month period between November 2016 and April 2017 identified 408 attacks involving corrosive substances across 39 police forces. 21% of offenders were found to be 18 years or under.

Council welcomes:

- The recognition by the British Government that the law is currently unsatisfactory as the products are legal for anyone to purchase, but shops are required to report suspicious sales.
- The recent Home Office consultation on proposals to enact new legislation in which retailers will be committing a criminal offence if they sell products containing harmful corrosive substances in shops or on-line to persons under 18 and where a new offence will be created of possessing a corrosive substance in a public place.
- Proposals by other Councils to roll out voluntary schemes urging shopkeepers not to support sales of corrosive products which contain acid or ammonia to under 21 year olds in advance of future legislation.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board, with the Trading Standards team and retailers' associations, to examine the merits and practicalities of introducing such a voluntary scheme in this borough in advance of new legislation, and to report back their findings to full Council.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester to request they make representations to Government ministers supporting the urgent introduction of new legislation to regulate the sale of these substances and to outlaw under-age sales.

Councillor Blyth spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Ur-Rehman spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board be asked, with the Trading Standards Team and retailers' associations, to examine the merits and practicalities of introducing such a voluntary scheme in this borough in advance of

new legislation, and to report back their findings to full Council.

2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester to request they make representations to Government ministers supporting the urgent introduction of new legislation to regulate the sale of these substances and to outlaw under-age sales.



Motion 2:

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes that:

- The Government have recently announced that the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme (or SMI), administered by the Department for Work and Pensions, will come to an end on 5 April 2018.
- Homeowners who are on a qualifying benefit for long enough can currently receive help towards the interest charges on a mortgage or eligible home improvement loan.
- From 6 April 2018, new and existing claimants will instead be offered SMI loans; there will be no transitional protection.
- If a loan is not accepted, SMI will end and claimants will start to accrue mortgage arrears, putting their home at risk.
- If the loan is accepted, homeowners will have to repay the loan, including accrued interest if there is sufficient equity, once the property is sold or ownership is transferred.
- The Department of Work and Pensions has estimated that of the 140,000 households currently receiving SMI around 50% are of pension age.

Council is concerned that:

- Such claimants will end up being in further debt should they choose to participate in the new scheme.
- Other claimants who do not take up the loan may find themselves in mortgage arrears and be evicted.
- There is no transitional protection scheme for existing claimants.
- As claimants fall into more debt, or are faced with homelessness, they will make a greater call on Council services and those provided by partner agencies (such as the Oldham Food Bank) placing these under greater strain.

Council believes that the proposals are grossly unfair as:

- Tenants living in social or private rented housing can receive housing benefit payments that are greater than those made to homeowners through SMI.
- Existing claimants are immediately affected without being offered access to transitional protection.

- Older homeowners with an interest-only mortgage will be hardest hit.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister responsible outlining our concerns and objections, and to our three local MPs asking them to make representations on this matter.
- Ask the Cabinet Member responsible to ask officers to draw up a briefing paper for Councillors identifying what the impact of these changes will be in Oldham and what actions can be taken by the Council and its partners to mitigate them.”

Councillor Ball spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Fielding spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor McCann exercised his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Minister responsible outlining our concerns and objections, and to our three local MPs asking them to make representations on this matter.
2. The Cabinet Member responsible be asked to ask officers to draw up a briefing paper for Councillors identifying what the impact of these changes will be in Oldham and what actions can be taken by the Council and its partners to mitigate them.

Motion 3

Councillor Gloster MOVED and Councillor Turner SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes with grave concern that children’s Halloween and other seasonal / themed party costumes are classed in law as ‘toys’ and are not subject to the rigorous standards of fire retardancy required of other children’s clothing. Tragically this leads to unnecessary deaths or injuries to children when these flammable items are exposed to heat. Council notes that the British Retail Consortium has just introduced voluntary guidelines for manufacturers, to reduce the speed at which these costumes will burn, but these remain voluntary guidelines and regrettably they do not require manufacturers to make such costumes fire-proof. Council welcomes the work done by officers of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to raise public awareness of the risks and supports the aspiration of the

Association of Chief Fire Officers that such costumes should be reclassified as 'clothing'.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Government Minister and to the three MPs representing this Borough asking them to support the urgent introduction of the necessary legislation or regulations to bring this about to prevent any further needless deaths and injuries of this nature."

Councillor Williams spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Gloster did not exercise his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the relevant Government Minister and to the three MPs representing this Borough asking them to support the urgent introduction of the necessary legislation or regulations to bring this about to prevent any further needless deaths and injuries of this nature.

- 15a 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:

Unity Partnership Board	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
MioCare Group	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2017
Health and Wellbeing Board	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2017

Councillor Murphy, Health and Wellbeing Board Minutes, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Item 11: Dementia Buddy Guardian Angels – Councillor Murphy was pleased to see the scheme on the agenda and would soon make a difference.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Partnership meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The observations be noted.

- 15b 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 Waste Disposal Authority	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2017



Police and Crime Panel

5<sup>th</sup> June 2017



Greater Manchester Combined Authority

29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Oldham**  
Council

Transport for Greater Manchester

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

National Peak Park Authority

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (AGM)

Members asked the following questions:

Councillor Bates: GMCA, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Councillor Bates raised a question regarding the retirement of the Chief Fire Officer. The issue was not reflected in the minutes and could therefore not be discussed.

Councillor Rehman: GMCA, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Item 65/17 Brexit Monitor – Monthly Report – Councillor Rehman noted that a Brexit report would be brought to the next Council meeting and asked about representations to Whitehall and specifically about Oldham.

Councillor Stretton provided assurances that as the representative on GMCA she provided an input on all agendas as appropriate.

Members made the following observations:

Councillor Sykes: GMWDA Minutes, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Item 40 – Waste Management Strategy and Policy Update – Councillor Sykes asked what was meant by a need to get to a 70% recycling rate? This was a challenging target, an increase in recycling was to be celebrated and needed to be as others in Europe and asked how the target would be tackled.

Councillor Hewitt, GMWDA Spokesperson, responded that the target related to the recycling at the plants and new contracts.

Councillor Sykes: GMCA Minutes, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Item 159/17 Metrolink Fares - Councillor Sykes asked about the fares increase which would be retail price index plus 1% for an organisation which already generated income and had a greater footfall than anticipated. There had been a fare freeze and now this increase would do two things – make metrolink more expensive and drive residents back onto the bus network or worse back into cars. Why were the fares increased above and beyond inflation? This would have a detrimental impact on the people of Oldham.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that there had been a fare freeze during the disruption. Metrolink needed future investment and the provision to give a 50% rate to 16 – 18 years olds. It was regrettable that fare had to increase but this was the only to ensure future investment.

Councillor Bates made an observation that there were no Fire

Committee minutes on the agenda.



Councillor Harkness: GMCA Minutes, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Item 157/17 – School Readiness – Councillor Harkness commented on the number of reception age students who were not school-ready. This was a priority for Greater Manchester and hoped that this was a priority for Oldham as well but was not sure what the plan was.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that this is a priority and already a number of meetings had been held with officers and members across Early Years and would be carried forward.

Councillor Williams, GMCA Minutes, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Item 158/17 – Update on High Rise Towers – Councillor Williams commented on a recent incident in Manchester to a high rise building and the number of appliances which had responded and the impact of the recent inspections.

**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 observations and responses provided be noted.

16

**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

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

Councillor Sheldon sought further clarification on the flooding issue he raised at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Update on Actions from Council be noted.
2. Clarification be sought from United Utilities on flooding at Dovestone Reservoir.

17

**YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Youth Justice Plan 2017/18. It was a statutory duty on the Local Authority to produce an annual plan. The plan set out the strategy for Oldham's Youth Justice Service and demonstrated how the Youth Justice Service would achieve its primary functions and key objectives. The primary functions of the service were:

- Reduction in First Time Entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system;
- Reduction in Re-Offending following both pre and post court disposals

- Reduction in the use of custody for offenders
- Effectively safeguard children and young people
- Effectively protect the public.

Oldham was the only statutory Youth Justice Service which is sub-contracted by the Local Authority and directly delivered by an independent charitable trust – Positive Steps. Positive Steps also provide an integrated range of targeted services. The Service is overseen by the Youth Justice Management Board which included representatives from the Local Authority and other statutory partners. The Board held the service to account for the achievement of performance targets.

**RESOLVED** that the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2017/18 be noted.

18

### **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which outlined a response to the Boundary Committee Consultation on the Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.

In 2016, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the review and was required to report back to Parliament in September 2018. Initial proposals were proposed in 2016 and the Council agreed a response at its meeting on 9 November 2016. The response was to submit an alternative proposal which allowed for two parliamentary constituencies wholly contained within Oldham Metropolitan Borough, allowed for the retention of the existing constituency names and kept the electoral size limit and involved minimum disruption. The proposal also brought the Failsworth East and Failsworth West Wards into the Oldham West and Royton Constituency.

The Council had recently received the “Revised Proposals for the new constituency boundaries in the North West”. The new proposals were for the Oldham Wards to be placed into the proposed new constituencies of Oldham, Littleborough & Saddleworth and Failsworth and Droylsden as outlined in the report.

It was proposed that the response from Council reiterated the preferred position as agreed in November 2016.

**RESOLVED** that the alternative option proposal as outlined in the 9 November 2016 report be approved.

19

### **DISTRICT PLANS 2017/18**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Health and Wellbeing which set out the District Plans for the municipal year 2017/18. The action plans were based on thorough consultation, analysis of data and deliberation by elected members in each district. The action plans had also been approved by their respective District Executives.

Priorities had been set on a two year basis in 2016 but action plans on the delivery of the priorities were for one year. The report also outlined the approach on how ward and member budgets would be spent in the delivery of the plans as agreed on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016.



**RESOLVED** that the District Plans as agreed by each District Executive be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.30 pm