COUNCIL
13/12/2017 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Qumer (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Briggs, Brock, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Gloster, Goodwin, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hewitt, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Jacques, J Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, 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 Syed Maruf Ali via email:

"What duties do Oldham authorities have to children and young people with SEN/Disabilities? I would like to know how many EHC needs assessments have been carried out by the Oldham Authority? How many young people in Oldham has been referred for EHC plan but the panel decided not to assess for EHC plan? How many has been successful in getting a EHC plan? What percentage of young people in west oldham area are on EHC plan compared to other wards? Can you please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity. Once special educational provision has been specified in an EHC plan, the LA has a legal duty to provide it. This cannot be overruled by the LA's SEN funding policy or internal funding arrangements including banding, matrixes, or notional SEN spending levels such as £6,000 or £10,000. Can you please share with the public the amount of resources/monies spent/used in west oldham compared with other wards in Oldham?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, legal duties were placed on Local Authorities (LAs) to identify and assess the special education needs (SEN) of children and young people for whom they were responsible. This, together with the Special Educational Needs and Disability

Regulations 2014 provided the legal framework for Oldham Council and partners in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Since September 2014, 716 assessments had been carried out, 151 had been referred for EHC plan which were not progresed and 705 had been successful in getting an EHC plan. The local authority did not currently collect data in a way that would allow comparisons between wards on EHCP data, resources or monies. The matter would be kept under review and reconsidered in the light of efficient use of resources and usefulness of the comparator data.

2. Question received from Paul Turner via email:

"I was shopping late last week in Shaw when the temperature was below zero and noticed a poor soul sleeping in a doorway on Market St. After buying food for him asked if he could not find shelter he told me he didn't know anywhere. Does OMBC have shelters & are they advertised?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council did not have any specific shelters within the borough but did have cold weather provision in place for people who were sleeping rough in Oldham. During periods of very cold weather, short term accommodation would be provided to people who were at risk of sleeping rough. Threshold and Depaul UK, who were the supported accommodation providers in Oldham, were part of these arrangements. The commitment included the provision of somewhere to sleep along with food, warm drinks and access to washing and laundry facilities. Where people could not be placed into supported accommodation due to risk or any other issues, they would be placed by the Oldham Housing and Advice Service into bed and breakfast accommodation. The Oldham Housing and Advice Service, which included the Council's Homelessness Services, was delivered by First Choice Homes Oldham in the centre of Oldham and anyone who was homeless or at risk of homelessness was encouraged to contact this service. The service was open Monday to Friday between 10.00 am and 5.00 p.m. and could be contacted on 0161 393 7117 and there was also an emergency 24-hour telephone line on 0800 988 7061for households to access homelessness services which included temporary accommodation outside of office hours.
Government guidance advised that Severe Weather Emergency Provision arrangements were triggered when the night time temperature was predicted to be zero degrees or below for three consecutive nights. In Oldham, Cold Weather Provision arrangements had always been slightly more generous and were based on

any night that the temperature in Oldham was anticipated to drop to zero degrees or below.

3. Question received from Ann Coggan via Twitter:

"Those huge fireworks caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage to my car. Could have been worse! Organised displays only? Can those big rockets be banned?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council encouraged everyone to enjoy Bonfire Night and attend organised events and displays only. Over the past few years the Council had organised its own large bonfire and fire work display and this had been very well attended. The Council was not in a position to ban the sale of fireworks.

4. Question received from Gareth Evans via email:

"Could you please ask the following on behalf of Hollinwood FC and Oldham Girls Football League Regarding Chapel Road at the next full meeting. We were originally told back in August Chapel Road was to shut and we expressed an interest in taking over the management of the site as a community club and football league. We were originally told that the tender process would be put out with the criterion to be agreed by Mid October and we would be informed by the council by email or phone call of the criterion. The deadline passed and after chasing up Mr Consterdine at the council we were informed that the criterion still hadn't been agreed but would be out early November. We have chased it up again in the middle of November and still no Criterion. We are now in December nearly 2 months past the original deadline and was wondering if the full council could please give us any idea when this criterion will be agreed. We are conscious that time is passing another season will soon be passed and the venue not manned could fall into disrepair with Vandalism etc. We are constantly be asked if you can hire the facility it which further proves it is a viable site."

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that the release of the Chapel Road synthetic pitch to the market had taken longer than originally anticipated and the Council was working through a number of issues which included the use by a local school. The Council would like to ensure that all of the issues were worked through beforehand in order not to delay the process longer term. The Council was keeping all those who had expressed an informal interest in the site up to date of the situation. The use of the pitch at the weekend including Hollinwood FC and the Girls league would continue and the site would continue to be maintained. A new timetable would be developed in

January and be communicated to those who had expressed an interest.

5. Mr. Peter Brown asked the following question:

"What should a member of the public expect from Oldham Council and its Councillors, and what should Oldham Council and Councillors give back to the members of the public?"

The meeting was adjourned at 18.17 and reconvened at 18.32.

Councillor Bates was given a warning as to his conduct.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded to the question as submitted. The roles and functions of elected members were set out in Article 2 of the Constitution which was available online. Section 2.3 set out the roles and functions. Key roles included that all councillors collectively be the ultimate policy makers, carry out strategic and corporate management functions, represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision making process, contributed to the good governance of the area and actively encourage citizen involvement in decision making, deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents and effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents.

6. Question received from Susie McConnell via Twitter:

"Do those of us not having our steep lanes not gritted this winter (as advised by highways) receive a rate reduction? When will OMBC start recycling a wider variety of plastic? Plastic is killing our planet."

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that it was not possible to treat every road on the network, however, the Council did have six primary gritting routes that covered over a third of the total highway network. These routes comprised the most heavily trafficked roads in the Borough. In general, they included classified "A" roads, the most important "B" roads, key bus routes and important local roads which served local communities. The Council had treated country lanes where possible over the last seven days and if Ms. McConnell could forward the location of the lane to which she was referring officers could be asked to advise specifically. However, the Council was not in a position to offer any rate reduction.
In response to Plastic recycling, there were really good reasons why only plastic bottles could be recycled in Greater Manchester. Manufacturers that make new products demanded high grade plastics. Plastics like yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic trays were low grade plastics and manufacturers did not want these.

The sorting machines could not sort between plastic pots, tubs and trays and plastic bottles and the low grade plastic contaminated the high grade plastic bottles. During the recycling process the plastic was melted. A plastic pot, tub and trays melted at different temperatures which mean the pots, tubs and trays contaminated the bottles and the batch could not be used to make new products. Other areas may collect plastic pots, tubs and trays, but currently very little was being recycled with most of it being turned into green energy. The low grade plastic pots, tubs and trays did not go to waste. Residents were asked to put them in their general rubbish bin and they were turned into green electricity.

7. Question received from Andy Hunter Rossall via email:

"Every year over 9 million tons of plastic is dumped in our oceans. By 2050 there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish. Much of this plastic is only used by humans for a few minutes before being binned or littered. Once in our oceans, plastic waste can injure and kill fish, seabirds and marine mammals, and some of the chemical additives can enter the food chain, ultimately ending up on our plates. What is the council doing to reduce the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in Oldham? Will the council commit to phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in its buildings and supply chains? Will the council write to the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove MP, and ask that he sets up a national plastic bottle deposit scheme? Will the council commit to supporting local businesses and individuals to reduce their use of SUPs?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives referred to the response to the previous question. The Council was also in constant negotiation with supermarkets and manufacturers with regard to single use plastics and talk about the general reduction of all sorts of packaging. There was no reason why a letter could not be sent to the Environment Secretary about a deposit recycling scheme as he had said recently that it seemed a good idea. No scheme had yet been introduced as it had not stacked up financially. If the Government got behind the scheme the Council would be happy to participate. The Council was doing what it could for the reduction of packaging within its gift and keep its own to a minimum.

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 Mushtaq asked the following question:

"The Gemini short breaks service in Netherhay Street is a service delivered jointly with Rochdale Council, can the relevant Cabinet Member outline the progress of this venture?"

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding responded that Gemini house was a short term respite provision for children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. In December 2015, the service had become a joint venture between Oldham and Rochdale Councils with a number of staff joining from Rochdale to provide a service for Oldham and Rochdale families. The service was Ofsted regulated and had a judgement of 'Good' in January 2016, however, over the summer period issues had arose regarding the amalgamation of the two teams which impacted directly on the delivery of the service. In October 2016, Ofsted inspected Gemini House and downgraded the judgement. Oldham Council immediately put an action plan in place that ultimately resulted in a change in management and staffing. It was necessary for the service to close to families for a period of 4 weeks to allow the manager and the staff to work together as a team for the issues highlighted by Ofsted to be resolved. The staff were committed to making the improvement for the children and families and as a result of the implementation of the plans, Ofsted revisited in January 2017 and graded the service as 'Good' in every judgement category. The service and staff team continued to strengthen the quality and care provided and were far more engaging of parents in the service. More recently Ofsted had revisited and the service continued to be judged as 'Good'.

2. Councillor Iqbal asked the following question:

"Fly tipping in Werneth has increased recently, in particular in the Coppice neighbourhood, including 20 black bin bags dumped in the alleyway behind the mosque on Stuart St. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please give an update on the roll out of mobile cameras that have been piloted in some wards across the Borough to tackle this issue?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the incident was investigated the same day and evidence was discovered in the black bags which resulted in a fixed penalty notice being issued to the culprit. Where flytipping happened regularly, officers gave consideration to the installation of deployable cameras, however, this was on a case-by-case basis and depended on the infrastructure being available in the neighbourhood. The Council had also introduced an online reporting service for flytipping which enabled the public to report an incident online and receive email updates that detailed the progress and when the flytipping had been removed.

3. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

"On Broadway in Chadderton, close to The Henry Newman College there is a pedestrian crossing. I have received many complaints regarding this crossing, firstly that there is no audible signal when it is safe to cross and this is obviously an issue for those who have a visual impairment. It was also brought to my attention that this type of crossing (PUFFIN) utilises a system that senses when a pedestrian is waiting to cross, residents have raised the issue that on one side of the crossing the system is not picking up pedestrians unless they are stood very close to the carriageway. Could the cabinet member responsible for highways please address the concerns of residents using this very busy crossing?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that traffic signal installations were the responsibility of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) who had confirmed that audible signals could only be introduced at signal installations where pedestrians cross on an all red phase. If audible signals were introduced at installations where crossing was permitted at different times on different arms they could become confusing to pedestrians if they heard a signal for a different arm of the junction. Rotating cones had been provided for the blind/partially sighted which indicated when that particular arm of the junction could be crossed. With regards to the pedestrian detectors, TfGM had suggested that there was a problem with the kerbside pedestrian detectors for the crossing across Broadway. The matter had been reported to TfGM's contractor who would check the operation and area of detection.

4. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

"Drainage on Grampian Way has proven to be hydraulically inadequate the issue of raw sewage on especially rainy days has been ongoing for a number of years, in fact the road collapsed just a little way down due to a collapse in the drainage system.
In the last 14 months or so United Utilities have met with Oldham Council Officers - could the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services please update Crompton ward as to the outcome of this meeting?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the Council had been leading the investigation and responsibilities lied between United Utilities (UU) and/or the private Riparian owner. UU were instructed to investigate the integrity of their assets at this location and they had confirmed that their assets had not defects. As such, it was concluded that surface water flooding was primarily a private issue and the responsible owner was advised to investigate and maintain their

assets. The foul sewer flooding on Cotswold Way was a separate UU issue which occurred during a severe weather event. Unity would take up the issue with UU since the 'continuing' flooding had now been brought to the Council's attention, however, again it was primarily a private issue between UU and the land owner.

5. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

"Environmental Services have recently begun enforcement action against unauthorised signs on council and highway land outside Thornham Mill, however, it is proving difficult to proceed against signs on the mill itself as departments have differing views about who is responsible for taking action. Please could the relevant Cabinet Member sort out which council department has the responsibility to get these unauthorised signs removed? This lengthy saga highlights a wider issue about the proliferation of advertising signs across the borough and I wonder if it is possible to make business owners more aware of their responsibilities regarding this?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that planning enforcement action had been taken recently following a complaint regarding advertising boards as a number of businesses had erected signs on the public green space at the junction of Oozewood Road and Rochdale Road in Royton without planning permission. The wider issues regarding unauthorised advertising were recognised, however, the enforcement officer responsible had recently left the Council and recruitment of his replacement was currently underway. When the team was fully staffed, further work to make business owners more aware of their responsibilities on this point could be undertaken as suggested. More specifically, where reports of advertising boards were affecting the use of pavements, i.e. the public highway, were received, then control would fall to the Licensing team.

6. Councillor Larkin asked the following question:

"Royton North is badly served by public transport and I welcome the decision of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to instruct TfGM to prepare an assessment of a Bus Franchising scheme and compare it to other options which include creating partnerships with operators. The assessment will enable the elected Mayor to make an informed decision on future reform of the bus market and whether to opt for a franchising scheme. Could the relevant Cabinet member assure me that the assessment will include criteria which will improve bus services for Royton residents such as integration of different modes of transport (so that Royton

residents can get to the tram), direct services between Royton and Oldham Town centre, and value for money?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the Bus Services Act 2017 granted the mayoral combined authority new options to improve bus services for passengers. On behalf of GMCA, TfGM was currently exploring new options to improve bus services and the creation of an integrated network, with a simplified fares system, offering great customer experience and value for money for the city region. This included the preparation of an assessment for a franchising scheme for Greater Manchester, and working with Greater Manchester's bus operators to explore partnership options. The assessment of the franchising scheme currently being developed aimed to improve bus services by better meeting local demand to travel, whilst ensuring good access to town centres and local amenities such as housing, education, jobs and shopping. Better integration between bus services and other modes of travel such as the Metrolink and local train services was a key consideration. Work was also underway to develop a simpler fares and ticketing system. Greater Manchester's proposals would be independently audited and subject to review by GMCA. Any future changes to the way the bus market in Greater Manchester was managed would be subject to a wide-ranging public consultation where passengers, residents, businesses and stakeholders would be asked to share their views on the proposals before the Mayor made a decision on how to proceed.

7. Councillor McCann asked the following question:

"I am delighted to see that the Police will once more have a zero tolerance campaign with regard to illegal, obstructive or dangerous parking in Uppermill this December. I can say that all of the Ward Councillors support this. Could the Cabinet Member confirm that as private hire cars continue to cause problems by parking on the High Street, including occupying disabled parking spots on occasion, that the Licensing Authority will support the Police initiative by taking action against offending drivers and notifying other local authorities, such as Tameside, where taxi drivers that are registered there cause problems here in Saddleworth?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services confirmed that Licensing Officers from the Council were supporting the Police and had recently been working in the Saddleworth area to address these issues. This work would continue during December and where offenders were found, the relevant action would be taken. Other neighbouring local authorities had also been notified of the ongoing work.

8. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

"Because of the Rose Mill Development in Chadderton South, the development of two high quality playing fields has begun nearby off Granby Street. This was to compensate for the loss of the lower quality playing field which was incorporated as part of the housing development. Can I ask when the new high quality fields will be completed and brought into use and when the changing facilities will also be completed?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that work to lay the new pitches was completed in September 2017. However, the pitches playing surface now needed to bed-in. As such, they would be ready for use in September 2018. The changing facilities were to be tendered in January 2018. Only once this process was completed, would a timetable for their use be established.

9. Councillor Moores asked the following question:

"A new DPD Express Courier depot is currently under construction on the former BAE Systems site in Chadderton Central Ward. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please update us on progress so far and tell us when the facility will be open for business, how many people will be employed there and how many new jobs will be created?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the site would be operational late Spring 2018. The development would initially create over 230 jobs (34 jobs based at the site with more than 200 drivers – with an expectation of rising to 64 site based workers by 2026). It was believed most were new jobs. The Get Oldham Working team would be meeting DPD in late January to develop a recruitment plan.

10. Councillor Malik asked the following question:

"Retiro Street in Oldham Town Centre is a one-way street running from Union Street to Yorkshire Street. Yorkshire Street is a one-way street running east from its junction with Saint Marys Way, and it is not permitted to turn left from Retiro Street onto Yorkshire Street. Unfortunately, many drivers are ignoring the 'no left turn' signs on Retiro Street to take a shortcut to Saint Marys Way. The actions of these inconsiderate drivers are inexcusable, and we are very fortunate that there has not been a serious accident. Could the Cabinet Member responsible for highways please tell us what action is being taken to protect pedestrians and innocent drivers?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the Council was aware of the contravention problems currently being experienced at Retiro Street and consequently a scheme had been designed which would see the reversal of the one way working along Retiro Street and Queen Street to stop the contravention of the one way order along Yorkshire Street. As part of the one way reversal, Retiro Street was to be refurbished which had given the Highways Team an opportunity to redesign the footways along the street. The redesign would result in a wider carriageway width which meant larger vehicles would no longer need to mount the footway to gain access along the street. There were some formalities to be approved with Transport for Greater Manchester and the Police, but all being well the scheme would be implemented early in the New Year.

11. Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to the Saddleworth Sports Facility in Uppermill. Two large recycling bins had been removed that were located on the sports centre car park which had originally been located at the museum. Would the bins be replaced?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that she would find out and let Councillor Sheldon know.

12. Councillor Chauhan asked the following question:

"Recent weather has caused significant problems for travellers and several Alexandra Ward residents have raised concerns about gritting. Could the relevant cabinet member explain the criteria used to decide priority routes?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he was not aware of any significant disruption to travel in the Oldham area during the recent cold weather. It was not possible to treat every road on the network, however, the Council did have six primary gritting routes that covered over a third of the total highway network. These routes comprised the most heavily trafficked roads in the Borough. In general they included the classified "A" roads, the most important "B" roads, key bus routes and important local roads serving local communities. The gritting teams had worked continuously since Thursday of the previous week and had received a significant number of positive comments from both the public and elected members. Councillor Hussain congratulated the team for the hard work being done in dangerous conditions.

13. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

"The Ancora car park adjacent to the Crossley playing fields, is heavily used by local football teams on match

days. Unfortunately not all of our residents appreciate this facility, the car park is constantly subject to fly tipping and ASB and this is a grave concern for local residents. Could the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, please tell us what if any action is being taken to prevent fly tipping and ASB in this area?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that a partnership meeting had been held on 28th November to discuss the issues occurring upon the car park, which was Council owned. A number of environmental measures were now being considered to secure the area. This included fencing of the area of concern and a lockable gate. It was proposed that the gate would be locked during the week and only opened at weekends for defined periods of time to allow access for those engaged in football activity. The installation of knee high fencing on the grassed area was also being considered to prevent vehicular access and associated damage being caused.

14. Councillor Dean asked the following question:

"Could the Cabinet member responsible for Education , update me on the governance arrangements for Clarksfield School, and any changes envisaged in the near future."

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that Clarksfield Primary School was placed in Special Measures in May 2017. The Governing Body was deemed to be ineffective and an Interim Executive Board (IEB) had been put in place in order to enable the school to improve as quickly as possible. As the school was placed in Special Measures, it was a statutory requirement that Clarksfield became a sponsored academy. Discussions were ongoing with the Oasis Academy Trust with a view to Clarksfield to joining that trust in 2018. No exact timescale had yet been set for the date of the conversion. At the point of conversion, it was for the academy trust to determine any governance arrangements.

15. Councillor Gloster asked the following question:

"Will the Cabinet Member join me in condemning the apparent new craze in Shaw of truck surfing, whereby young people are jumping onto the rear of articulated goods vehicles in Shaw Town Centre and riding along until the vehicle comes to a halt again. This practice is highly dangerous not only to the young people involved but also to other road users who may have to react to avoid a collision. Can I ask the Cabinet Member if he is willing to engage with the police, youth service and local

haulage companies to explore what outreach work can be done to nip this in the bud before a tragedy occurs?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives likewise condemned the new craze and responded that road safety bulletins were being undertaken with both primary and secondary schools by the Casualty Reduction Team. She also responded that the Detached Youth Team had been asked to include road safety within their work and to reinforce the message about the dangers. Officers from the Council would continue to work with Greater Manchester Police and action would be taken as appropriate against any person identified as being involved. It was recognised that the opportunity for young people to jump onto the trucks had arisen due to the level of traffic congestion at peak times in the area. A longer term response to the congestion issue was being considered with ongoing dialogue occurring between officers from the Highways Team and Elected Members.

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 received be noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ames, Dearden, Fielding, Garry, Hudson, Kirkham, Klonowski and Shuttleworth.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2017 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th November 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 G. Alexander declared a personal interest in Item 14b by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest in Item 14b by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest in Item 14b by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor McCann declared a personal interest in Item 14b by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Gloster declared a pecuniary interest by virtue of his employment by Greater Manchester Police in Item 8 and at Item 14a, Police and Crime Panel Minutes. Councillor Gloster left the room during Item 8 and did not vote or take part in the discussion thereon.

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

There were two items of urgent business.

As a result of the adjournment earlier in the Council meeting, the Council meeting guillotine would be extended by 15 minutes. On being put to the vote, this was AGREED.

Following the resignation of Rod Blyth, a political review had taken place. The report would be considered at Item 24 of the agenda.

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

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

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

There were no petitions to be noted.

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

Motion 1

Councillor Ali MOVED and Councillor Jacques SECONDED the following motion:

"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 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 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.
The 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."

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Haque spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Bates spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ali exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be instructed to convey this Motion and the Council's strong concerns about these matters to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Home Secretary.
2. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Home Secretary asking her to increase Police numbers in order to safeguard our residents and communities.

9 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

10 **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1:

"For my first question tonight I would like to refer the Leader to an initiative launched in connection with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) by the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on the 17th of last month.
Mayor Burnham announced that he wanted to move away from the 'developer-led, green belt approach of the past'.
This is an announcement that both I and my ward colleagues in Shaw and Crompton, as well as thousands of our constituents, will welcome, as in the original GMSF proposals Shaw and Crompton stood to be swamped by almost 3,000 new homes, other tracts of land were designated for industrial development, and our green belt and green spaces would be decimated.
After his election, the Oldham Liberal Democrats wrote to Andy Burnham to ask for the (and I quote) 'opportunity to work with you to establish a revised plan that is acceptable to local ward

members and our constituents, which mirrors our aspirations for housing and economic development in Greater Manchester'.
It has always been our view that there is no justification for the construction of a large number of properties (or indeed any properties) on Green Belt or Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) before new homes are first built on Brownfield sites, on sites where planning permission for housing development has already been granted and upon many derelict and the unloved site in our town centres and districts.
We also believe that every empty mill and factory should be converted and use for housing and that the large number of empty homes across Greater Manchester should be brought back into use.
Mayor Burnham has now invited all ten Leaders of the Greater Manchester authorities to nominate a town for inclusion in his Town Centre Challenge.
The Mayor is proposing to work with each council to bring together housing providers, public and private landowners, developers, community groups and other key stakeholders in a concerted effort to unlock the potential in these town centres, particularly to deliver 'viable housing markets and sustainable communities.'
At his launch event, Mayor Burnham promised to use new planning powers and Mayoral grants 'to build a new future for those towns through higher density mixed and affordable housing, with local retail and leisure facilities and supported by transport and digital connectivity.'
This sounds like potentially heady stuff, for we are not 'Luddites', Mr. Mayor, we recognise we need to release more land for more homes for more people.
What we do not believe in is concreting over the green bits!
His plan appears to hold that promise – with an emphasis seemingly placed upon Brownfield development in towns, rather than the 'death of Green Belt by concrete' approach we saw previously.
Mayor Burnham has asked Oldham to bring forward a town centre of its choice to be his development partner so Mr Mayor I would like to ask the Leader tonight whether Oldham will be nominating a town or district for the Town Centre Challenge?
If we will do make a nomination, how elected members and the public can become involved in the selection?
Will we have a say on the selection and when do we have to make our nomination by?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that whilst every district could nominate here in Oldham the Town Centre Master Plan for the centre of Oldham was a priority. Additional powers that the Mayor could bring, looking at Compulsory Purchase Orders, were not needed for the Town Centre Challenge in Oldham. If CPOs were required, the individual district would have to bring forward the money. The principle of brownfield sites to be supported before greenfield sites was supported. The ambition to turn every mill and factory into housing was not realistic. The mill would have to available. A number of mills and had been identified in Oldham as empty or derelict and the Council would want to do what had been in

Hollinwood. If the owner of the mill did not want to sell or bring forward the building for development that could not be enforced as there were no viable powers. The higher density development was clear in the Town Centre Master Plan. The Council wanted the right kind of development and the right kind of housing appropriate for the people of Oldham. The GMSF consultation would be reconvened next June and members would have the opportunity to contribute. Work was ongoing to respond to the consultation and revise in some cases some proposals going forward.

Question 2:

"I would now like to return to another very important issue that has again been raised in recent motions proposed by both sides in this chamber recently – the desperate plight of the homeless. It is an issue that is particularly topical and poignant at this time of the year with the onset of winter.
I would like to make a practical suggestion that I feel could make a big difference in this Borough.
I am referring to the Big Change Scheme, a charitable programme that operates in Rochdale, Manchester, Bradford and Leeds where donors are sked to make donations to a central fund which is used to help all homeless people rather than putting money in a hat or cup on the street.
Evidence suggests that unfortunately some on-the-street donations to people who are begging helps fund drug and alcohol dependency, and can discourage them from accessing services that can help them turn their lives around.
The Big Change scheme recognises that people who are homeless often face practical barriers which need to be overcome for them to become active, independent members of their community and avoid sleeping rough.
It provides homeless people with practical items which support a longer term change. This might include paying for a deposit for a home, a training course to help improve job prospects and clothes for a job interview. Or it could involve furnishing a new flat, including purchasing crockery, pots, pans and bed linen, as well as funding travel costs to their new home.
In the scheme run by our neighbours in Rochdale, the fund is administered by Just Giving and Forever Manchester, and applications for grants are considered by a panel which includes a former rough sleeper and representatives from charities working with the homeless.
I would therefore like to ask the Leader tonight if she will ask the Homelessness Forum to look into the practicalities of bringing Big Change to Oldham?"

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that homelessness levels were at a level never seen before and the Mayor of Greater Manchester had put the issue near the top of his agenda. The problem was complex whereby some rough sleepers did not want to engage due to lifestyle reasons, but this did not mean they should not be supported. Some people on the street did not have to spend the night on the street as they had homes to go to but chose not to go there. The Leader was

not aware of the Big Change but any programme able to help the local authority was worth a look. The Homelessness Forum would be asked to look at the programme and if it enhanced what the authority already offered, a way would be found to do it.

Question from the Leader of the Conservative Group:

Councillor Sheldon asked about the staffing levels in the Planning Section. He had received several complaints from residents that access to planning was difficult. He asked for assurance that the vacant positions would be filled or filled shortly. He also asked if Councillors could be informed of departures of staff and informed of new staff who were contacted frequently.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that with regard to staffing in planning, a restructure was currently taking place which would address the vacancies. The Leader requested details of those residents who were trying to contact Planning. The Leader also advised that it was not feasible to inform of departures of staff, District Team officers should be able to advise.

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 S. Bashforth asked the following question:

"The government has recently published a consultation paper 'Planning for homes in the right places' which contains a proposed standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need and sets out a number of proposals to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes and increase local authority capacity to manage growth. Can the Cabinet Member advise us of the implications for Oldham of these proposals and outline the Council's response to this consultation?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that Oldham was required to produce 716 dwellings per year according to the paper. Since this was roughly in line with Oldham's requirement set out in the recent GMSF consultation (685 dwellings), Oldham Council would continue to seek sites which allowed the Council to meet it legislative requirements to meet housing needs. The Council supported the GM view that the Council's aspirations for inclusive growth across the city region were jeopardised by the divide between established home owners and those unable to find a place on the property ladder or access to a safe, secure affordable home to rent. Concerns have been raised about the

impact of tying payments from the New Homes Bonus to Housing Delivery Tests for individual local authorities since that approach would penalise local authorities who failed to deliver their agreed housing numbers by withholding bonus payments and would therefore discourage local authorities from increasing their own housing requirements in order to meet a housing need from elsewhere. Furthermore it was pointed out that the major barrier to housing delivery in Greater Manchester and Oldham was rooted in relatively low values and fundamentally these were issues of financial viability and not actual planning policy.

2. Councillor M. Bashforth asked the following question:

"Over the last couple of months, the unemployment rate in Oldham has increased from being the third highest in Greater Manchester to be the highest. Could the relevant cabinet member explain the reasons behind this increase as I've not been informed of any major job losses across Oldham."

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills responded that until August, Oldham had seen a sharp increase in the Employment Rate which had coincided with a reduction in employment. However, there had been an increase in the claimant count over the last two months which presented a 21.8% increase between November 2016 and 2017. The increase was because of the roll out of Universal Credit. According to the House of Commons Research Briefing Paper, "Universal Credit and the claimant count in April 2017", on average the claimant could would increase by 50% after six months of full service. In Oldham, Full Service rolled out on 26th April 2017. Oldham should have seen an increase from 4,000 to 6,000 claimants by this point, but it currently stood at 5,995. There were two main reasons:

1. Universal Credit required a wider range of people to look for work than was the case. For example, the partners of claimants were now required to seek work. Previously, if someone was in employment and claiming tax credits, for example, but their partner was not in work (and not claiming Jobseeker's allowance), there was no requirement for their partner to look for work. This was no longer the case (subject to certain exceptions).
2. New claimants who were awaiting or appealing Work Capability Assessments were required to look for work, e.g. citizens claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) were initially subject to all work related requirements upon starting a new claim to Universal Credit, pending their assessment. A backlog in assessments meant more citizens would be subjected to full conditionality for an extended period which could

be very stressful if their health condition was limiting their ability in the first place. A new baseline would need to be created which would expect a claimant count increase from 4,000 to 6,000. Comparisons across GM would be able to be made until early 2019. The Council was working with Local Housing Associations, Job Centre Plus, Welfare Rights team, Get Oldham Working team and Citizen's Advice Bureau to support citizens to access the support needed.

3. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

"In Oldham we have approximately 500 children and young people in care, and around 30 – 40 children are placed for adoption each year. Some of these children who were placed for adoption would for genuine reasons have been separated from other members of their siblings group. Children who are placed for adoption do receive counselling to help them deal with separation from their birth families. Many of the young people who remain in Local Authority care after their sibling have been adopted, would previously have had a caring role for their younger siblings and they will find the separation caused by adoption to be traumatic. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us what arrangements are in place to help children who remain in the care system when their siblings are adopted?"

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding responded that the Children Act 1989 and the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 informed that wherever possible siblings should be placed together, unfortunately a placement together may not always be in the best interests for individual children due to neglectful experiences they may have experienced. Oldham Social Workers completed sibling assessments which was a thorough and in depth assessment, included observations of the siblings and input from professionals and foster-carers prior to any decisions about long-term placements being made. The assessment analysed the computability of each of the siblings needs, the level of parenting intensity needed in the sibling group and the nature of their attachment together. Any recommendations to separate siblings and plan how this would be achieved was not taken lightly. The recommendation was considered by the Agency Decision Maker at Final Care Planning Meetings who made the decision and considered what other support was needed. Support included ongoing direct work with children by the Social Worker, life story work books and memory boxes for children being completed and consultation and sessions needed by Healthy Young Minds if necessary. There were also different levels of contact including face to face contact and exchange of letters for siblings. Oldham had a letterbox system in place which was managed by a Co-

ordinator who acted as a third party between adopters and families, agreements could be made to maintain links for birth family and siblings through this system. Children in care remained supported via their social worker, foster carer or residential support worker.

4. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

"A recent report released from Ofsted and the Quality Care Commission has condemned Oldham Council for failures in its provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. Although the inspectors found some good practice and some motivated staff, it is clear from this report that there is a serious disconnect between what should be happening to meet the accepted standards of good practice and what is all-too-often happening on the ground and in our classrooms in Oldham. I know how important it is to provide the right support to these youngsters. It is my belief that all our children or young people has just as much right to expect an excellent education as any other pupil. The inspection team found that the revelation that Oldham is one of the worst-achieving areas nationally for educational achievement with these children and young people waiting too long for their needs to be identified. The poor achievement is exacerbated by high levels of fixed-term exclusions, persistent absences and failures of the school transport.
Mr. Mayor, this is simply unacceptable. We are leaving these children behind, abandoning them educationally. By not properly accessing the needs of these children, and the support that they need, at an early enough stage - sometimes not until they move from primary to secondary school - we are making it more likely that they will underperform at school. By excluding them and tolerating poor attendance, we are exacerbating this problem, and by having a school transport system that is not up to the challenge we make it harder to encourage parents to send their children to school in the first place. The report called for a Written Statement of Action to be produced because of 'significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice'. Can the Cabinet Member please tell me tonight what action this Administration is proposing to address the failings highlighted in this report and when?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years agreed that the report was not acceptable and the reports embarrassed and shamed the Council and the Health Sector in Oldham. It was right that the Authority apologised for the failings in the report. It could be seen as a weakness if the authority did not accept responsibility. It would take 18 months to rectify. Since the meeting held on 6 October 2017, the following immediate actions had taken place:

- Establishment of an SEND Transformation Assurance Board and associated supporting mechanisms chaired by the Executive Director for Economy and Skills with senior representation form Oldham CCG to manage the immediate concerns;
- Revised Governance structure developed and agreed by the SEND Transformation Board, new SEND Board would be chaired by Councillor Chadderton;
- Interim management arrangements in place for the post of Head of Access and Inclusion followin the previous postholder leaving the Council's employment;
- Clarification was being sought on all 'illegal' practice issues;
- Additional SEN EHC Plan writing capacity be brought in to address the shortfall in conversions of all remaining Statements of Education Needs into EHC Plans by the due date of 31 March 2018;
- Revised quality assurance processes put in place;
- Transport policy and decisions reviewed;
- Workload analysis undertaken on SEN Assessment Service;
- Additional capacity had been sourced by the CCG to support the implementation of the SEND reforms within the local NHS; and
- Quarterly Joint Monitoring and Support meetings held with DfE and NHS England officials 5 December 2017, at the meeting a report was provided which identified actions already taken since the Inspection against the 5 areas identified as the key themes for the WSOA.

The Authority had 100 days to respond with an action plan which was due at the beginning of March and this would be shared with all members. Whilst the Council took a lot of responsibility as elected members who put themselves forward, however the Council was not the only body criticised in the report and it was interesting to see how partners hid behind the Council. Exclusions were predominantly a school issue with five secondary schools accounted for 90%. Once a child was excluded it became a Council issue. Schools could not keep hiding behind the Council and it was hoped governors would ask challenging questions of schools about the impact of exclusions. Assurances were given that everything was fixable, but it would take time and resources. What could be done when the Government did not care about the most vulnerable and the authority had to save another £20 million in challenging times.

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

RESOLVED that the questions and responses given be noted.

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

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd October 2017 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Gloster, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 8 – Homelessness Pressures – Councillor Gloster asked that if there was an increase in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs),would stringent planning requirements in order to facilitate good living conditions still be applied.

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded – "Yes".

Councillor Williamson, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 13 – Homelessness Pressures – Councillor Williamson asked about the establishment of the Bond Scheme Officer and fund established and asked if the scheme set up in 2009 had been abolished?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that she was not sure but would find out and respond to the question.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Dean, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 8 – Homelessness Pressures - Councillor Dean made the observation that the legislation around Homelessness had put another burden on the Council with no additional funding at a time of financial constraint due to austerity and lack of housing plans over the last couple of years which had caused distress. There were a lot of families in and out of homelessness and suffering in many ways.

Councillor Harkness, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 8 – Homelessness Pressures made the observation the issues related to Universal Credit sanctions with a deliberate attempt to put people in hardship. If sanctioned, applicants could lose housing benefits. Councillor Harkness asked for assurance that universal credit sanctions were looked at in Oldham.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR responded that this was a serious issue. There had been motions to Council, the Leader had

written to ministers and Overview and Scrutiny Board had addressed the issue. The agencies did not address the issues put to them. The Council would be doing something about it. As Cabinet Member he looked at the issues every week and there seemed to be an issue in Oldham where Job Centre staff penalised claimants. Councillor Akhtar was also monitoring the situation. Councillor Jabbar offered to provide an update on the issue.

Councillor Bates, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 8 – Homelessness Pressures. Councillor Bates thanked the Council for caring for the homeless and congratulated Councillor Brock on providing a party for lonely people in Failsworth.

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Minutes, 23rd October 2017, Item 8 – Homelessness Pressures. Councillor Mushtaq made the observation of aligning work ongoing within portfolios, groups and voluntary initiatives.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd October 2017 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.
3. The observations and responses provided be noted.

12 **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Akhtar MOVED and Councillor Jacques SECONDED the following MOTION:

"Council notes that:

- Research conducted in 2015 by New Economy found that labour productivity as in Gross Value Added (GVA) per employment in Greater Manchester was lower than the national average in 14 of our 15 market sectors.
- National productivity has only grown by an average of 0.2% per annum, far below the ONS prediction of 1.6% per annum.
- It is estimated that the downgrading of national forecasts will cost the Treasury around £18 billion by 2021.
- The United Kingdom spends 0.5% of GDP on labour market programmes compared to Denmark and Ireland who spend over 3% and who productivity levels have risen over the last 5 years.

Council further notes that:

- The Oldham Strategic Investment Framework, Local Economic Assessment and Work and Skills Strategy all demonstrate the need to develop a skilled, education and dynamic workforce. The Skills deficit for citizens at Level 3 and/or 4 is 10 percentage points between Oldham and England Average.
- Consequently, Oldham residents earn £5k a year less than the England average (£23K vs £28K)

- The GM Economy will see double digit growth in Professional and Technical occupations with 50% of future jobs growth being office based.
- Re-skilling the workforce is a vital step to tackling these skills shortages across the city region.

Council is concerned that:

- The latest Government report into the impact of Further Education Reforms shows that there are 6.6% fewer learners entering further education per year since 2010, with nearly 9% reduction in the over 25s
- Since the introduction of Advanced Learning Loans, overall learner volumes in the years that loans were introduced, between 2012/13 and 2013/14, fell by -7.7%. Further, the fall in the number of learners aged 25 or older was steep at -10.4%
- 58% of Further Education loans funding, amounting to almost £1billion, has not been spent since 2013.
- That the advanced learner loan system, without improved marketing and wraparound support, is not fit for purpose.
- That without changes to the system, the UK and Oldham's productivity levels will suffer."

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Haque spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Akhtar exercised 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 Rt. Hon. Anne Milton, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, outlining the Council's request to reshape how Advanced Learner Loans operated, informing the Minister of our Careers Advancement Service as an example as to how citizens needed support to access skills funding, with a more flexible approach to the loan fund account management. Oldham Council also believed that employers should be able to take the lead in designing new mechanisms for employees to widen the choice to include non-apprenticeship pathways and flexible part-time qualification to suit employer and sector needs.

Motion 2

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Hewitt SECONDED the following MOTION:

"At present the performance of the Royal Oldham Hospital is deemed to be failing by the Greater Manchester Health and Care Social Care Partnership on the basis that the local economy is not consistently meeting the four-hour target at the front door of A&E.
In terms of delayed discharges from Hospital, Oldham is one of the best performing localities in GM and this is largely as consequence of the benefits of an integrated team combined with a robust service offer and significant financial investment.

In September 2017, Oldham had the second lowest number of delayed days both in terms of overall numbers and delays attributable to social care and the lowest delayed days attributable to the NHS.

At present the patient flow across the hospital is measured in several ways. All are interconnected and poor performance in one area will impact on another. The Royal Oldham has a comparatively high number of presentations to A & E. Royal Oldham hospital on average exceeds 300 presentations per day and on many days in the last three months has exceeded 350 people per day.

The Royal Oldham hospital currently has 166 beds, plus 27 beds on the discharge lounge which is referred to as G1. This is a total of 193 beds in the medicine division. Whilst the aim across GM is to reduce the number of acute beds in favour of supporting people as close to home as possible, the number of base beds at the Royal Oldham hospital is lower per head of population than other hospitals.

There is a great deal of pressure on the health and social care system, this is a direct result of high demand combined with a lack of adequate resources due to inadequate Central Government funding and the Government's cap on public sector pay.

In Oldham, the Council, the CCG and its partners are working with the GM Health and Social Care Partnership to address these issues and the recent £21.3 million Transformation Fund investment into Oldham is welcome.

But the transformation funding will not fully address issues such as recruitment and retention, particularly in specialist areas such as Paediatrics and Emergency Care. The Budget also failed to address the underlying problems such as poverty, poor housing and unemployment that impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Chancellor did have an opportunity to address some of these issues in his recent budget, but sadly failed to do so.

This Council notes:

1. The £21.3 million GM Transformation Funding investment in Oldham's health economy.
2. The fact that Oldham is one of the best performing localities with regards to delayed discharges from hospital.
3. The concern around waiting times at A&E.
4. Its disappointment that in his Budget announcement the Chancellor failed to meaningfully address the issue of public sector pay.
5. That the Budget fails to address issues such as poverty, poor housing and unemployment.
6. This Council thanks all those involved in the health and social care sector for their commitment and hard work.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health, asking them to ensure there is an urgent review of pay for NHS staff so that NHS organisations can recruit and retain staff with the right levels of skill to ensure that patients receive a safe, high quality and efficient service.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

"In paragraph one, line 2 after Partnership replace the words 'on the basis that the local economy is not consistently meeting the four-hour target at the front door of A & E' with 'because the four-hour A & E target is not being consistently met.'

Amended motion to read as follows:

"At present the performance of the Royal Oldham Hospital is deemed to be failing by the Greater Manchester Health and Care Social Care Partnership because the four-hour A & E target is not being consistently met.
In terms of delayed discharges from Hospital, Oldham is one of the best performing localities in GM and this is largely as consequence of the benefits of an integrated team combined with a robust service offer and significant financial investment.
In September 2017, Oldham had the second lowest number of delayed days both in terms of overall numbers and delays attributable to social care and the lowest delayed days attributable to the NHS.
At present the patient flow across the hospital is measured in several ways. All are interconnected and poor performance in one area will impact on another. The Royal Oldham has a comparatively high number of presentations to A & E. Royal Oldham hospital on average exceeds 300 presentations per day and on many days in the last three months has exceeded 350 people per day.
The Royal Oldham hospital currently has 166 beds, plus 27 beds on the discharge lounge which his referred to as G1. This is a total of 193 beds in the medicine division. Whilst the aim across GM is to reduce the number of acute beds in favour of supporting people as close to home as possible, the number of base beds at the Royal Oldham hospital is lower per head of population than other hospitals.
There is a great deal of pressure on the health and social care system, this is a direct result of high demand combined with a lack of adequate resources due to inadequate Central Government funding and the Government's cap on public sector pay.
In Oldham, the Council, the CCG and its partners are working with the GM Health and Social Care Partnership to address these issues and the recent £21.3 million Transformation Fund investment into Oldham is welcome.
But the transformation funding will not fully address issues such as recruitment and retention, particularly in specialist areas such as Paediatrics and Emergency Care. The Budget also failed to address the underlying problems such as poverty, poor housing and unemployment that impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Chancellor did have an opportunity to address some of these issues in his recent budget, but sadly failed to do so.
This Council notes:

1. The £21.3 million GM Transformation Funding investment in Oldham's health economy.
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4. Its disappointment that in his Budget announcement the Chancellor failed to meaningfully address the issue of public sector pay.
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6. This Council thanks all those involved in the health and social care sector for their commitment and hard work.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health, asking them to ensure there is an urgent review of pay for NHS staff so that NHS organisations can recruit and retain staff with the right levels of skill to ensure that patients receive a safe, high quality and efficient service."

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.

Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.
Councillor Ahmad spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.
Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health, asking them to ensure that there is a urgent review of pay for NHS Staff so that NHS organisations can recruit and retain staff with the right levels of skill to ensure that patients receive a safe, high quality and efficient service.

Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor Chadderton as SECONDER of the MOTION requested the Council permit the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

"This Council notes that Oldham, together with thousands more, will celebrate International Women's day on the 8th March 2018. Oldham Council has already agreed to mark the centenary of the Women's Suffrage Act by supporting the Suffrage to Citizenship Campaign throughout 2018 and this will include

marking the actual anniversary in November. Working with the Youth Council and local organisations, activities will focus on ways of encouraging young women (and men) to be more actively involved in the local community, an aim that fits well with our ethos as a Co-operative Council.
Oldham Council has previously affirmed its commitment to women's equality; acknowledged the unequal impact of austerity on women and supported the aims of the WASPI campaign for fair access to pensions.
Oldham Council further notes that the Government continues to put forward proposals which threaten vital services for women, this time the funding of refuges for women escaping domestic violence. The Government consultation paper 'Funding Supported Housing' includes proposals to remove the payment of Housing Benefit to women living in refuges, which provides over 50% of their funding, and replace this with a ring fenced grant to local authorities which will also have to pay the short-term supported housing for older people, homeless people, people with mental illnesses and drug addicts.
This council is extremely concerned that this threatens the sustainability of refuges, which are already unable to meet demand."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 28th March 2018.

NOTE: Councillors Roberts, Heffernan and Sheldon left the meeting during this item.

13 **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following motion:

"Council notes that planning officers do not notify Ward Members when the conditions attached to planning approvals are satisfactorily discharged by the applicant.
In order to establish greater transparency in the planning process and to keep Ward Members better informed and engaged, Council resolves that best practice be created by requiring planning officers to give such notification and that opportunities be provided for Ward Members to engage with members of the public on planning matters in the spirit of co-operation.

Councillor McCann did not exercise his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service be asked to liaise with the Head of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure that planning officers were made aware of these requirements and ensured that they happened.

Motion 2

Councillor Turner MOVED and Councillor Gloster SECONDED the following MOTION:

"This Council notes that:

- An amendment (New Clause 30) to the EU Withdrawal Bill, proposed by Caroline Lucas MP, was recently defeated by the Government in Parliament. This amendment sought to transfer the EU Protocol on animal sentience set out in Article 13 of Title II of the Lisbon Treaty into UK Law, so that animals continue to be recognised as sentient being under domestic law.
- Widespread concern has been expressed by animal welfare groups, members of parliament and the public that the defeat of this clause will lead to a weakening of the laws protecting animals.
- Gudrun Ravetz, Senior Vice-President of British Veterinary Association the professional body for practicing veterinarians in the UK, stated: 'Enshrining animal sentience in UK law would have acknowledged that we consider animals as being capable of feelings such as pain and contentment and, so, deserving of consideration and respect. It is a founding principle of animal welfare science, and for the way that we should treat all animals. There is now an urgent need for clarity from Government on how the provisions in Article 13 will be enshrined in UK law to ensure we do not fall short of the high standards we expect as a national of animal lovers.'
- In recognition of this concern, the Environment Secretary Michael Gove said in a ministerial statement that: 'This Government is committed to the very highest standards of animal welfare. As the Prime Minister set out, we will make the United Kingdom a world leader in the care and protection of animals.' In his statement, the Minister promises to increase the jail sentence for humans who abuse animals to five years, improve CCTV monitoring in slaughterhouses, and strengthen the ban on the ivory trade and ban microbeads in products.

This Council:

- Recognises that animals are sentient beings and deserving of the highest standards of legal protection.
- Shares the widespread public concern that the defeat of New Clause 30 may represent a threat to the legal protection of animals.
- Wishes to see this Government live up to its promise to 'make the United Kingdom a world leader in the care and protection of animals' by enacting the measures promised by the Environment Secretary as soon as possible."

Councillor Jabbar moved the MOTION to the VOTE.

Councillor Turner did not exercise her 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 Environment Secretary to express our concern at the defeat of New Clause 30 and to seek reassurance and clarification from the Minister as to when and how the Government intends to honour its promise to be a "world leader" in this field by enacting the alternative and enhancing animal welfare legislation outlined in his Ministerial Statement.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to our three Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Council's position.

Motion 3

The Mayor had been given notification that Councillor McCann had to leave the meeting and unable to second the motion and notice had been given that Councillor Sykes would second the motion in his absence which was AGREED.
Councillor Williamson MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following MOTION:

"This Council notes:

- There are an estimated 7.5 million street lights in the UK
- In 2014, the Green Investment Bank reported that only 10% of these are LED
- It is estimated that switching all street lights to LED would:
    - Save Councils over £200 million per year, paying for half a million children to have free school meals each year or for an extra 12 million hours of social care
    - Prevent over 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere every year, the equivalent of taking 400,000 cars off the road
    - Take 0.5 GW off peak electricity demand, the equivalent of a coal fired power station
    - Reduce light pollution as they are more directional and can employ sensors which determine when they are most needed and when they are not
- Further cost reductions can be provided through the use of LED lighting within Council buildings
- Affordable financing is available to Councils to make the change to LED street lights through the Public Works Loan Board, the Salix Energy Efficiency Loans Scheme and the Green Investment Group amongst others.
- That the change is possible even in a situation where the street lighting service is provided via a Private Finance Initiative model

- That the 10:10 climate change climate group is asking Council to sign up to the Lighten Up pledge and make a commitment to going fully LED within 5 years

As a local authority committed to reducing its carbon footprint and providing residents with value-for-money services, Council recognises that a change to LED has merit, is worth investigating, and that a proposal to so was approved by Performance and Value For Money sub-committee when it was presented as part of the alternate budget proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group in 2017."

Councillor Williamson did not exercise her right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Performance and Value For Money Sub-Committee examine:

- The practicality and affordability of replacing street lights and lighting in Council buildings with LEDs in whole or in part; and
- The possibility of the Council making a commitment to replace all street lights with LEDS within five years and to making the Pledge as a signatory to the Lighten Up campaign.

NOTE: Councillors McCann, Wrigglesworth, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Harkness, Hewitt and Ur-Rehman left the meeting during this item.

14a 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:

Transport for Greater Manchester	10th November 2017
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	27th October 2017
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)	27th October 2017
National Peak Park Authority	6th October 2017
Police and Crime Panel	31st October 2017
Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership Board	28th July 2017

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

14b 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:

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

15 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

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

RESOLVED that the Update on Actions from Council be noted.

16 **CIVIC APPRECIATION NOMINATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the nomination of Reverend Jean Hurlston to receive the Civic Appreciation Award.

The nomination was in recognition of Reverend Hurlston's significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the community and borough of Oldham.

RESOLVED that:

1. The nomination for Reverend Jean Hurlston to receive the Civic Appreciation Award 2018 be agreed.
2. The ceremony for the award would take place at the Council meeting to be held on 28th March 2018.

17 **CONSIDERATION OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL LEVY ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AND APPROVAL OF A REVISED LEVY ALLOCATION MODEL AGREEMENT**

Council gave consideration to the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Levy Allocation Methodology and approval of a revised Levy Allocation Model Agreement.

Following the decision to terminate the Recycling and Waste Management PFI Contract arrangements it was necessary for all constituent Districts to agree a new Levy which would replace the existing Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) with a revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) that reflected the revised financial arrangements to apply fully from the 2019/20 financial year onwards with a year of transitional arrangements for the financial year 2018/19.

The current arrangements for the disposal of household waste in Greater Manchester (save for Wigan) were established in 2009 with the signing of the Recycling and Waste Management (PFI) Contract (the PFI Contract) with Viridor Laing (Greater

Manchester) Limited (VLGM). The Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) acquired VLGM (for £1) in October 2017. This allowed existing arrangements to be formally terminated so as to address issues that had arisen with the operation of the Contract and to enable significant efficiency savings to be released. The current IAA, which was signed by all Districts in 2009, fell away with the termination of the PFI Contract and it was, therefore, necessary to reconsider the Levy apportionment within GM and for all Districts to approve and enter into a revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) which reflected the new arrangements. That Agreement was designed for an application of 10 years and would be applied in full for the 2019/20 financial year onwards, with transitional arrangements being proposed for the financial year 2018/19.

The issue had been presented to Cabinet on 11 December 2017 and commended to Council to approve the proposed Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement.

RESOLVED that:

1. Having considered the proposed revised methodology, the revised Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement be approved and be applied in full from 2019/20 with transitional arrangements in place during 2018/19.
2. Authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services or his nominee to approve and/or make any minor amendments to the final Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement, a current draft of which was appended to the report and to enter into and finalise the Agreement, the transitional arrangements and any associated documentation related thereto.

18 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY HALF YEAR REVIEW 2017/18**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2017/18 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2017/18 Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators.
The Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Revised Code of Practice.
The report set out key Treasury Management Issues and outlined:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2017/18;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2017/18;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2017/18;

- Why there had been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2017/18; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2017/18.

The Treasury Management Half-Year Review 2017/18 report had been presented to and approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 November 2017 and commended the report to Council.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2017/18 and the projected outturn position be approved.
2. Amendments to both Authorised and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
3. Amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out at Section 2.4.4 of the report and in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.

19 **2018/19 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018/19. There was a requirement to have a Council Tax Reduction Scheme to support residents who qualified for assistance in the payment of Council tax. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 placed a requirement that each year a Billing Authority must give consideration as to whether to revise its Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme or replace it with another scheme. Any changes to the 2018/19 scheme must be agreed by full Council no later than 31 January 2018.

The Council's CTR Scheme had been largely un-amended since April 2015 when the Council introduced the scheme that limited CTR to a maximum of 85% of a Band A Property and removed second adult rebate for those of working age.

The following options/alternatives were set out for consideration within the report:

Option 1: Maintain the present level of support i.e. limiting the level of support at 85% of a Band A Property as the maximum amount available.
Option 2: Limit the maximum level of support from 2018/19 to 82.5% of a Band A Property
Option 3: Align the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to reflect some or all of the changes made to Housing Benefit since April 2016
Option 4: Change the method of assessment for Universal Credit Council Tax Reduction cases
Option 5: Introduce a minimum income floor for self-employed Council Tax Reduction claimants.

After evaluation of the proposed options, it was recommended that no change be made to the current CTR scheme. This

recommendation had been presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 20th November 2017 where Cabinet commended approval of this recommendation to Council.

RESOLVED that the continuation of the current Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme for 2018/19 be approved and that the 2018/19 scheme was therefore the same as that operating in 2017/18.

20 **BREXIT UPDATE**

Council gave consideration to an update on the potential implications of the "leave" result for Oldham and Greater Manchester. The update set out a summary of implications of leaving the European Union (EU). Scenario planning and impact modelling had been undertaken by leading organisations which included the London School of Economics and Oxford Economics. The report looked at the anticipated impact of leaving the EU and what Greater Manchester and Oldham could do to mitigate against the likely economic shock of leaving.

RESOLVED that the update on the Impact on Oldham and Greater Manchester of the European Union Referendum be noted.

21 **AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES - WRITE OFF AUTHORISATION LIMITS**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to the authorisation limits for write-offs in the Financial Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED that the write-off approval limits be amended as follows for debts which included Council Tax, Business Rates, Sundry Deb and Housing Benefit Overpayments:

a)	Individual debts up to £60	Unity Partnership Ltd.
b)	Individual debts up to £2,500	Head of Service
c)	Individual debts up to £5,000	Director of Finance
d)	Individual debts over £5,000	Cabinet

22 **INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ON THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND INDEPENDENT PERSONS ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Legal Services regarding the appointment of independent members on the Independent Remuneration Panel and independent persons on the Standards Committee. The current independent persons had agreed to continue beyond their existing term and it was requested that appointments be reconfirmed to ensure consistency and continuity. There was a vacancy on both the Independent Remuneration Panel and the Standards Committee and it was proposed to advertise the posts.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Independent Members on the Independent Remuneration Panel and on the Standards Committee be reappointed for three years.
2. A recruitment process be commenced to fill the vacancies as detailed in the report with a report to Full Council to make the appointment.

23 **MUNICIPAL CALENDAR 2018/19**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

24 **POLITICAL BALANCE REVIEW**

Council gave consideration to an urgent report of the Director of Legal Services which detailed a Political Balance Review following the resignation of Rod Blyth as a Councillor. A review of the allocation of seats to political groups was required at, or as soon as practicable when notice was received of a change in the composition of a political group and changes to committee membership related to political groups.

RESOLVED that:

1. The review of political balance and committees as detailed within the report be agreed.
2. The composition of the political groups as outlined in the report and that Councillor Gloster filled the Liberal Democrat Group vacant position on the Planning Committee with Councillor Murphy as second substitute and that Councillor Harkness filled the Liberal Democrat Vacant position on the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee be agreed.
3. The appointment to the Labour Group Vacancy on the Audit Committee be delegated to the Chief Executive and three Group Leaders.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.11 pm