

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

Councillors Ahmad, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, M Bashforth, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Fielding, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hewitt, Hudson, A Hussain, F Hussain, Jabbar, Jacques, Judd, J Larkin, Leach, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson and Williams

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 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 Gareth Evans via email:

“Are the council any clearer on who was the successful bidder to take over the running of Chapel Road Synthetic Pitch. The bids were submitted nearly a month ago and the new season is imminent and both existing tenants are getting nervous about the future.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that letters had been sent out to named tenders on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. It was noted that Mr. Evans was not named as the main contact on this tender and, therefore, was advised to liaise with the party it was proposed to work with. After looking at the 2018/19 football requirements officers had discussed this and arranged access to the facility on a temporary basis until the tender process had been concluded. This would be facilitated using OCL as a key holding party.

2.            Question received from James Allen via letter:

“After attending Oldham West District Executive on the 25/7/18 in the Crompton Suite as an observer, I listened to a presentation by the appropriate officers on Item 6 (discussion on high school provisions). This was a good item but 1 item was not taken into account, this is disabled students of all criteria in all disability. I raised

this after the meeting had finished with the Councillors present who advised me to put this to full Council. I would like to ask:

1)a) How many high schools or academies to date have adequate facilities to take on disabled people in whatever forum it is.

b) How is the Council going to address this if found that the schools no matter if it's under (Council remit, Free school or academies) who are not achieving this.

2) Any new high school that is to be built within Oldham have to comply in access to all normal and disabled students in getting to their classes, also disabled toilets, etc are in place.

3) Will there be adequate classes for disabled people to take up physical exercise and games infrastructure adapted to their needs

I ask after this is taken up at full Council and then put forward onto the Health and Wellbeing Board to fully look at the findings also to Health Scrutiny."

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture, responded that all high schools and academies that admitted disabled pupils must have adequate facilities in place for those students including provision for physical education. Should the Council become aware of any schools which did not have such facilities in place, swift action would be taken to rectify the matter as adequate provision was required under the Equalities Act. Should the Council be made aware of any Free Schools or Academies who did not provide adequate provision for disabled students the matter would be taken up with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

3. Question received from Tony Martin via email:

"In 1996 Barratt the developers paid to Oldham Council £30,000 as part of a section 106 planning agreement, there is no termination date on this agreement and the leases on the development properties were for 999 years. The land is at Hodge Clough and has been Amenity open space for over 20 years, this has now be approved for disposal by Cllr Brownridge. Is this permissible and what happened to the £30,000?"

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that the S106 agreement required Barratt's to pay the Council £30,000 towards the cost of providing an area of public open space, the agreement did not specify where the money should be spent. The Council did regard this land as Public Open Space and the statutory procedures and processes for any such potential disposal were being followed. A village green application had been received and no decision would be made until the outcome of the application had been decided.

4. Question received from Ian Bond via email:

“Can the appropriate Council Member confirm the final costs incurred by Oldham Live to the Oldham Council? Can they also confirm if the event turned a total profit or loss to Oldham Council and what those final figures are in pounds and pence. Costs should be itemised to include: Policing; Event Management; Advertising and Promotions; Council Officer time; Utilities costs; Artists costs; Equipment costs; Licensing costs; Etc.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council did not put on events like this to make a profit but were done for a different reason. Oldham’s residents should benefit from the kind of entertainment or cultural offer that other authorities provided, whether it was to mark an important event or entertainment purposes. Events like these were an investment in Oldham Town Centre, for which the Council was striving hard to attract new visitors and uses, especially given the struggles of so many High Street brands. The purpose of events like Oldham LIVE was to promote Oldham as a visitor destination, get new people to come in and see the place, often for the first time in many years, and in this case enjoy Parliament Square and the Old Town Hall. The costs incurred by Oldham Council totalled £37,502. The largest part of that, £19,240, was paid to Oldham based Revolution 96.2 for managing and providing the event, plus all the children’s artists, hosts, DJ, musicians and station publicity. All the necessary equipment for the event, including the stage, sound, lights, screen, fencing, power generator and toilets, cost £10,602. A total of £4,115 was spent on promotion across on-line, social media and print channels with local businesses. By law, the Council was also legally bound to provide security officers at £1,675 and medical assistance at £970 and must also pay PRS and PPL licensing which totalled £900. All Oldham Council staff who worked at that event volunteered their time for free for which the Leader thanked them. The Council incurred no policing costs and GMP, as ever, did a great job. The Council spoke with some local businesses who reported excellent trade during the daytime and evening – much higher than normal – and said they also hoped to get repeat visits. Hundreds of families enjoyed the children’s activities during the day and security ‘clicked’ more than a further 1,500 visitors from around 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm with many others already on-site and not counted as those already in Molino’s and Nandos. Events like Oldham LIVE brought communities together, boosted the local economy and supported businesses by delivering wider benefits. The town centre, businesses and families all benefitted in ways that can’t be counted on a spreadsheet. The purpose was to put on a great event for the public to enjoy for free. The Council would, as

normal, review Oldham LIVE as the events schedule for 2019/2020 was developed.



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5. Question received from Stephen Kenyon via letter:

“If transparency and openness is the fundamental principle of Oldham Council, why does a member of the public have to submit a subject access request in order to find information regarding themselves discussed and Standard Sub-Committee meetings?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council operated its Standards Sub-Committee meetings in accordance with its agreed procedures as set out in the Constitution, which was in line with legislation including data protection. These procedures determined what information was made available in the public domain. As part of the co-operative agenda, the Council regularly reviewed procedures to ensure it operated efficiently which included the transparency and openness agenda. Any individual, not happy with information that could routinely be accessed in the public domain had the right to make a subject access request. The request enabled the Council to balance the rights of the individual making the request against the rights to confidentiality and data protection rights of other interested parties or individuals.

6. Question received from Warren Bates via email:

“LATE BIN COLLECTION FAILSWORTH ASSIST LIST. The above is happening very often, even last week for instance a collection normally Thursday was continued the next day. Sometimes it is the following week? Because of continued complaints from residents whilst I was carrying out my duties as a elected Cllr. I consulted members of the front line staff, as to the reason why they were sometimes days late. They gave me a list of reasons. ONE of many was, they now have to go “further to tip “more time consuming. The “ASSIST LIST”. They say it is getting longer. On the information I have. In order for “residents and officers” who live in Our borough to qualify for this assist list some of them are as follows.  
(1) ILLNESS, DISABILITY, PREGNANCY.  
(2) Some Of The “CRITERIA “Is.  
(3) You must be physically unable to put your bins out.  
(4) Nobody over 18 living with you that could put your bins out.

Also in order to assist your application you may be asked for supporting documents. Attendance allowance. Disability allowance. Mobility allowance. Sickness benefits. Doctors note, Hospital note. etc. If you do not meet any of the requirements you could be refused. I think it is important also to draw your attention further to time consuming elements. Such as. Many of the driveways in our borough are very long and the

occupants are on the assist list more time collecting and returning their bins. Are Councillors aware of the Assist List and the fact it is getting longer?”



Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that whilst the assisted collections lists did fluctuate, there had been no significant increase in numbers in the past few years. There had been no changes to tipping sites used by Oldham Council for domestic collections in the past decade, therefore distance to tips remained the same. On occasions refuse or recycling collections did not get completed on the scheduled day of collection, the majority of the time, this was due to a vehicle breakdown or a spike in recycling participation / tonnages on a particular week. These collections were prioritised by the services and collected the following day.

7. Question received from Peter Brown via email:

“Can a Cabinet member please tell me why and on what grounds is information deemed not to be in the public domain when requested by the electorate? And why are the cameras switched off at times during full open Council meetings?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that information related to Council decisions was usually public. The circumstances when decisions could be made in private was set out in detail in the Local Government Act 1972 and in the Council’s Constitution which was available on the Council’s website. The Council broadcasted Full Council meetings online during formal proceedings. The only time that the picture and sound feed would not be live was because the meeting had been temporarily adjourned by the Mayor. This happened in July when the questioner himself intervened during proceedings and, despite the Mayor’s best efforts and the offer of a discussion after the meeting, persisted with disruptive behaviour. The Mayor adjourned the meeting temporarily. If that happened, a graphic was shown which explained to the public what the delay was in proceedings and advised that the live feed would return as soon as the session began again.

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 Shuttleworth asked the following question:

“Sale of Fireworks. I have recently received complaints in relation to fireworks disturbing residents, primarily elderly residents, in Chadderton South, and also noted on social media that this may not be restricted to this area alone. Would the cabinet member responsible for neighbourhoods confirm if there is any legislation that can prevent either the legal sale of fireworks leading up to the traditional bonfire period, or to mark the beginning of the new year, and what can be done to prevent the illegal sale of such fireworks.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, responded that she was sorry that residents had been disturbed by fireworks within their community. Fireworks (including sparklers) could only be bought from registered sellers for private use on specified dates around Halloween, Christmas, Diwali and Chinese New Year. At other times fireworks could only be bought from licensed shops. Such licences were issued by the Fire Service, not the Council, and were subject to age restrictions. According to the law, fireworks (including sparklers) must not be set off or thrown in the street or other public spaces. Fireworks must not be set off between 11 pm and 7 am, except for Bonfire Night when the cut off was midnight, New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year when the cut off was 1 am. If members of the public had information as to addresses where fireworks were being set off or where fireworks were being purchased illegally, they could contact the Council's Trading Standards Department via the Citizen's Advice Service who would liaise with law enforcement partners to investigate.

2. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“Foxdenton Park Pond. A number of residents have raised concerns with the Ward Councillors regarding the pond in Foxdenton Park. The low water levels in the main pond is of major concern. The matter has been raised with officers on a number of occasions over the past 18 months, but remains unresolved. Residents are concerned that work on adjacent land may have interfered with the water supply to the pond. Would the relevant Cabinet Member please advise what steps are being taken to investigate the cause and to ensure that a long term solution is found?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, responded that officers had been equally concerned with the water problem and had had several meetings with Redrow builders to determine if the changes that had occurred on the development site across the road had in any way affected the water that was channelled into the pond. At this stage there was no evidence forthcoming which

confirmed this. This would be pursued in order to achieve a long term sustainable solution. In the meantime, steps had been taken to engage with the water company to put 90000 litres of water into the pond. Officers were confident that this would be undertaken within the next two weeks as the Council had been refused by United Utilities from drawing water from standpipes to undertake the task. Officers were optimistic that now the weather had changed and returned to a more seasonal level of rainfall, that the pond would once again fill up naturally.

3. Councillor Moores asked the following question:

“Access to Rochdale Canal. The section of the Rochdale Canal that runs between Grimshaw Lane and Broadway, in Chadderton Central Ward is used by many residents including families and those with disabilities. It was brought to the attention of the Ward Councillors that the access point to for push chairs, prams and wheelchairs at Gateway Crescent is in very poor condition, with large areas of paving completely missing. Could the relevant Cabinet member advise which organization is responsible for maintaining the access points to the canal, and what can be done to ensure that access to the canal is available to all our residents?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, responded that the path and steps which led from The Causeway down to the canal at Broadway Business Park were owned by Oldham Council. The paths and steps did not form part of the adopted highway and were therefore maintained by the Council as an operational asset. It was inspected by officers periodically and any remedial and repair work was carried out following such inspections. The isolated nature of the area meant that, especially outside of working hours, the path, the stairs and the wooden jetty appeared attractive to vandals, arsonists and graffiti artists who regularly targeted the area. The items of repair noted on an inspection carried out earlier in the week had been ordered and it was expected that the work would be carried out over the forthcoming weeks. Should users or ward councillors experience any issues with the condition of the path moving forward, they were urged to contact officers in the Regeneration team who managed the Council’s interest in the area.

4. Question received from Councillor C. Gloster:

“Trixi Mirrors. Trixi mirrors are an invaluable safety feature, particularly at traffic light junctions; examples can be seen throughout the Borough. I have noticed however that at Shaw’s busiest junction for HGVs, Crompton Way and Rochdale Road, no mirrors are fitted. Having previously dealt with an elderly lady who

had her leg taken off by an articulated wagon at this junction, I am acutely aware that these mirrors are invaluable and would like the Cabinet Member to tell me if there are any plans to fit mirrors at this junction?



Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, responded that Highway officers welcomed the support received from elected members regarding Trixi mirrors. The current deployment of these Road Safety Devices in Oldham was as a result of a successful bid to the DfT by TfGM in 2012. The locations chosen were prioritised as a result of accident statistics. Based on the success of the mirrors, additional installations were proposed for the coming months by Oldham's Highways Safety Engineers to ensure a proactive / preventative approach. The additional sites would be funded from Section 106 monies held by the Council, specifically reserved for improvements to the cycle structure. It was anticipated that the traffic signals at the Crompton Way / Rochdale Road junction would be one of the first locations to benefit from Trixi mirrors in the coming months.

5. Question received from Councillor Garry:

"Resurfacing in Failsworth. Ollerton Drive and Oak Road Failsworth are both in need of resurfacing. Is it possible for them to be included in the Highways Improvement Programme?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, responded that all funding associated with the Highway Investment Programme was approved and allocated prior to the programme works commencing, and as such, there was not current funding available within this financial year for additional schemes. The Council was currently undertaking a survey of the entire network to gain an up-to-date condition of the highway network. This survey, and the outcome from it, would then inform all future programmes based on condition. Both Ollerton Drive and Oak Road were included in the above survey and would be included in the assessment of future programmes.

6. Question received from Councillor Phythian:

"Rochdale Road Speed Reduction Measures. I continue to receive complaints about speeding on Rochdale Road in Royton, including reports of cars racing each other down the hill. A new Facebook Group 'Rochdale Road Royton Slow Down Campaign' has been set up to campaign for measures to reduce speeds. Suggestions include speed cameras, road humps and other traffic management schemes. Royton North Councillors can fund a speed survey but can the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods outline the criteria for further speed



reduction measures on Rochdale Road and whether there are any plans to take action?"



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Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the Highway Safety Officers were aware of the Facebook Group and its desired outcomes but in the first instance, the issue of speeding remained a Police matter. Further space surveys to add to those recently done could be carried out in if it would help the Police in their investigation. Owing to the nature and function of Rochdale Road as a classified road (A671) on the Key Route Network, traffic calming in the form of speed humps or cushions could not be considered as they would not meet the DfT's Road Humps Regulations and would unlikely gain the support of the Emergency Services and major stakeholders. There had been a number of Road Safety Intervention initiatives carried out along this section of the A671 in recent years that had resulted in the injury collision record being reduced significantly; consequently there were no plans in the current Highways programme to carry out further work at this time. The route would not qualify for a speed camera as it would not meet the Transport for Greater Manchester criteria. Please be assured the injury collision record was regularly monitored and, if the situation changed, a suitable scheme would be drawn up for consideration in a future year's budget. Further information on the injury collision records, vehicle speeds and intervention strategy could be provided on request from the Highways Team.

7. Question received from Councillor Judd:

"Emission Reduction Outside Schools. Many of us in this room and the wider public will be aware that air pollution is a major risk to our health, more so to children, people over 65, or those with respiratory conditions. Given this, residents outside schools in Hollinwood have reported cars been left idling for up to 30 minutes at school pick-up times. Can the relevant cabinet member outline what practical steps have been taken to reduce emissions outside schools in Oldham and investigate any further steps we could take such as the introduction of non-idling zones, to protect the health of our most vulnerable?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services confirmed that Oldham Council was actively working with other GM Local Authorities on a Clean Air Plan for Greater Manchester. Initiatives such as 'non-idling zones' especially around school sites were being considered as part of this work, the results of which would be consulted on across the whole of Greater Manchester in the next few months. Schools could also run their own campaign and the Council would look to support wherever it could.



8. Question received from Councillor Heffernan:

“Network Rail Damage to Conservation Area. Will the Cabinet Member responsible bring pressure to bear on Network Rail to honour the commitments that they made to the Friends of Saddleworth to ameliorate the damage done to the Conservation Area and site of Special Scientific Interest near the Victorian viaduct in Uppermill? The ugly steel fence they have erected has not made the site safe. Young people simply walk or wheel their bikes around it, and there are now racing tracks. We all appreciate that unauthorised access to the railway must be stopped, but this should have been with a subtle fence beside the track not something so stark and ugly. Network Rail now needs to honour their commitments to paint the fence to blend in more with the natural surroundings and to plant some species to hide the fence. This needs to be done urgently so we can see some results by Spring 2019. They should also replace the trees they have felled to restore Den Lane more to its original appearance and to help attract and sustain more wildlife. Can I please ask the relevant Cabinet Member to write to the Chief Executive Officer of Network Rail urging them to carry out this remediation work urgently?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that she was aware of the situation caused by Network Rail’s actions and was also aware that the District Executive had already written to the Government and Network Rail expressing their disappointment. Councillor Shah agreed to write to Network Rail in an attempt to get them to honour their commitments made to the group.

9. Question received from Councillor Chadderton:

“Speeding on Turf Lane, Royton. I note that as with many other parts of the Borough and indeed the country, speeding on our minor and residential roads seems to be on the increase. My current concern is with speeding on Turf Lane Royton particularly on the section between Dr Kershaws and Junction with Heyside/Higginshaw Lane. The ward members have some ideas which we believe will significantly reduce the opportunity to speed and would ask the Cabinet Member responsible appoint an Highways engineer to go us develop a scheme?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that Highways Engineers were currently in place who regularly monitored the road traffic injury collisions record on Oldham’s Road Network. Road safety intervention schemes were prepared by highways engineers for consideration in future years budgets at locations where the injury collision rates significantly exceeded local

control data and/or accepted norms. With only one injury collision recorded in the last 5 years along the length in question, the introduction of Traffic Calming measures along the route would be given a low priority at this time. Speeding along, particularly in the absence of a significant Road Traffic Injury Collision issue, remained a Police matter. Speed surveys were carried out in the vicinity of Dr. Kershaw's during 2013 at which the *Mean* and *85<sup>th</sup> Percentile* speeds were measured at 29 mph and 34 mph respectively. As there had not been a change to the highway in the intervening years, the survey results along with the Road Safety Record suggest that the speed limit was appropriate. The current Speed and Road Safety relationship suggested that Police intervention was unlikely at this time.

10. Question received from Councillor A. Alexander:

"Crossing on Oldham Road, Springhead. We have been patiently waiting for news on a crossing on Oldham Road Springhead opposite the care home Springlees Court, could the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood update us.? At the same time we have scrambler bikes racing up the Oldham road between Lees and Grotton at all hours which is dangerous for all pedestrians trying to cross the road."

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that Highway Engineers had been working on a scheme to provide improved pedestrian crossing facilities along Lees Road in the vicinity of Springlees Court to the east of Lees Centre. Up to now suitable options in the immediate vicinity had been found to be non-viable owing to a number of constraints which included narrow road widths; the location of the existing bus layby, the presence of underground utility apparatus and the servicing requirements of the Front House pub. An alternative location for a pedestrian facility had been identified as close as practicably possible to Springlees Court. The location of the facility was adjacent to Chapel Street. Whilst it was recognised that the proposed pedestrian refuge island was not on the ideal desire line for residents of Springlees Court, the facility would still act as a valuable crossing facility to the east of Lees Centre where there was currently limited provision. The pedestrian refuge would be installed later this financial year. If there was any unsociable driving on the highway in the meantime, or indeed in the future, that was a police matter and should be reported to them for their appropriate action.

11. Question received from Councillor G. Alexander:

"Vacant Plots in Derker. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing, look into what can be done with regards to the

vacant plots in Derker. It has come to our attention that these plots are looking unkempt and used for flytipping much to the detriment of the area. Our residents are getting restless and are starting to complain. Is there a possibility of allowing smaller local building companies and giving them an incentive to build on these vacant plots, rather than leaving them empty?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that First Choice Homes Oldham had started the construction of 41 new homes on vacant plots of Council owned land on Acre Lane in March 2018 and the first homes would be ready for occupation in Spring 2019. Officers had been asked to look at a range of delivery options for completion of the remaining plots in Derker and this included the possibility of using small local companies. The Council needed to ensure that the right type of properties were built and that there was certainty on any developer's ability to deliver new homes. Officers had been asked to arrange for the remaining vacant plots to be tidied up urgently and should be completed over the next few weeks.

12. Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to Highways in Greenfield and other parts of Saddleworth where a number of stonewalls were in need of repair. Walls were broken down and allowed access for people to dump waste and allowed animals to escape in the lanes. Was there any budget available to get the walls repaired?

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded that she was happy to meet with Councillor Sheldon to resolve the situation.

13. Question received from Councillor Dean:

“Greenacres Cemetery Entrance. Greenacres Cemetery as a very attractive arched entrance, which over the last year as been surrounded by scaffolding. This looks unattractive and restricts the entrance to the cemetery, which is well used by funeral and visitors paying their respects by visiting graves of their loved ones. Could the appropriate Cabinet member tell me when work will be completed to renovate the entrance to the cemetery? “

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the scaffold at the entrance at Greenacres Cemetery was put in-situ to address a number of structural issues that were found to the stone arches and chimneys to the premises. It was acknowledged that the scaffold was unsightly, but it was required for health and safety reasons whilst the Council tried to identify where the significant funding, which was approximately £500K could be found to implement the necessary repairs.



14. Question received from Councillor Harrison:

“Alexandra Park Public Toilets. This question is about the public toilets attached to the Boathouse Cafe in Alexandra Park. Currently the block has external entrances and has been a centre of ASB. It's also very difficult to maintain good standards of hygiene in the block. Pure Innovations, the company that supports people with disability into employment and runs the cafe, have asked for the external doors to the toilets to be blocked off with access to them created from inside their premises. In return, they are happy to monitor behaviour in the toilets and maintain their cleanliness. This request has been refused and I would ask the cabinet member if the decision can be reviewed because it appears to be a good solution to several problems.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that in response to the recent spates of vandalism that had occurred to the Boathouse toilet facilities, the Estates Team within Unity Partnership were now reviewing this proposal and would shortly make contact with Pure Innovations (the Café tenant) to discuss the option further and see if a joint funding solution could be found. This could be seen as being of long term benefit to park users, the Café and the Council.

15. Question received from Councillor Malik:

“Rota for Additional Street Cleaning Staff. We welcome the investment of the equivalent of 24 additional staff onto Street cleaning team announced by the Council Leader. Will the relevant Cabinet member share the cleaning rota with the ward members so we are able to share the information with Coldhurst community groups and the Mosques to engage wider participation.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that a paper was being tabled on 13 September 2018 at the portfolio briefing where the recruitment and makeup of the additional staff would be discussed. There would be 21 new staff allocated to street cleansing and 3 staff allocated to the Enforcement Team within Environmental Health. A recruitment drive would be made at the Jobs Fair to be held at the Jobs Fair to be held in the QE Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and asked that all members promote this opportunity to their constituents. Following that meeting the Cabinet Member would be able to share the impact that this extremely welcome funding would have to the street cleansing service in Oldham.

16. Question received from Councillor Williamson:

“Fraser Street Children's Home. I read with concern that the Fraser Street Children's Home was closed down after Ofsted inspected the home in July. This is not the first time that there have been failures in the management of this local facility. It seems that time and time again the management of this Children's Home have been unable to manage the young people that are placed there. These failures have meant that some of our Borough's most vulnerable young people have been let down by the supposed professionals who care for them, but also that the host community has suffered from this ineffectual management. My biggest concern is that there appears to be a whole series of events where there has been a serious lack of safeguarding. What assurances can the Cabinet Member offer Ward Members and our constituents that the Council will provide proper oversight to any company which takes on the management of this children's home to ensure that we will finally deliver the best service for our vulnerable young people, whilst safeguarding the interests of local residents in that area?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Children's Services responded that the Fraser Street Children's Home was owned by the Cambian Group. Councillor Chadderton shared the concerns that children's home found to be inadequate twice was not acceptable for the children sent there and the impact on local residents. This had been reinforced to Cambian. Cambian had taken a decision to shut down the site and to carry out an internal review. The outcome was due at the end of September. A meeting would be held before the end of September to discuss the review of the situation and discuss a way forward. The Cabinet Member was mindful of the fact that all children's homes in Oldham, whether used by the Council or not, needed to have due regard to the local residents and exercise their responsibility to be 'good neighbours'. Monitoring arrangements would be reviewed to ensure the highest level of scrutiny in respect of all residential provision was exercised. Councillor Chadderton agreed to meet with Shaw and Crompton members to discuss a way forward.

17. Question received from Councillor Mushtaq:

“Resurfacing – Alexandra Ward. A number of residents have raised the state of Queens Rd and Alexandra St with Alexandra Ward councillors. Arguing, correctly in my opinion, that the state of these two roads has a detrimental impact not only for the residents of the ward but in a wider context. There are a number of care homes on this road which affects access for ambulance and other vehicles during adverse weather conditions but is also disproportionately over-utilised given the usage of Alexandra Park. Can I humbly request from the cabinet member that both these roads are fully resurfaced not only for the residents of Queens Road and the residents

of the care homes but for the wider public who utilise the fantastic Alexandra Park.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services confirmed that annual safety inspections for both streets had been carried out at the end of August and number of defects were identified on Queens Road and one on Alexandra Street. Work orders had been raised with the Operations Team and were scheduled for revenue maintenance repair before the end of September. In terms of possible overall capital funded resurfacing, all funding associated with the Highway Investment Programme had been approved and allocated, and as such, there was no current funding available within this financial year for additional schemes. The Council was currently undertaking a survey of the entire network to gain an up-to-date condition of the highway network. The survey, and the outcome from it would then inform all future programmes based on condition. Both Queens Road and Alexandra Street were included in the above survey and would be included in the assessment of future programmes.



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 Akhtar, Ball, S. Bashforth and Brock.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH JULY 2018 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 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 M. Bashforth declared a personal interest at Item 14a, MioCare Board, by virtue of her appointment to the Miocare Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 14a, MioCare Board, by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor F. Hussain declared a personal interest at Item 14a, MioCare Board, by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Murphy declared a personal interest at Item 8, “Tyred” Campaign Motion, by virtue of being a nominated MOT tester.

Councillor Heffernan declared a personal interest Item 6, Cabinet Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Fees for Adult Social Care Services for 2018/19 by virtue of being a client and at Item 41A, MioCare Board, by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.



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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

There were no communications.

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

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

Objections to Car Boot Sale at Oldham Athletic Football Ground (Royton South Ward) received on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with 91 signatures (Ref: 2018-10)

Objections to Greengate Street Masjid Becoming a Full Time School or College (St. Mary’s Ward) received on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with 77 signatures (Ref: 2018-11)

Lifting of Tree and Preservation Order on Cemetery Road (Royton North Ward) received on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with 67 signatures (Ref: 2018-14)

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

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

“Tyred” Campaign

Councillor Stretton **MOVED** and Councillor Haque **SECONDED** the following motion:

“On Monday 10 September 2012 a coach bound for Liverpool carrying 53 people from the Bestival music festival on the Isle of Wight, left the road and crashed into a tree instantly killing Michael Molloy (18), Kerry Ogden (23) and the coach driver, Colin Daulby (63), and left others with life-changing injuries. The



inquest into the crash found that the front nearside tyre which was actually older than the coach itself, at 19 years, was responsible for the crash. In 2014, Liverpool City Council unanimously agreed on a motion in support of Michael's mother Frances calling for a change in the law requiring a ban on tyres older than six years on commercial vehicles. Despite the widespread public and political support for this campaign, no change in the law has been made, shamefully leaving others at risk from faulty and dangerous tyres.

Council notes that Frances Molloy has launched "Tyred" – the official campaign to pressure Government – to change the law to ban the use of tyres older than ten years on commercial vehicles.

Council wholeheartedly supports "Tyred" and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition asking them to commit to cross-party support for a change in the law.

Council further resolves to support the "Tyred" campaign until such a change in the law is achieved and to draw the attention of the Local Government Association, especially its Environment and Transport Board, to this Council's view that the concerns should be fully addressed. Council requests that the Leader copies the Chair of the LGA's Environment and Transport Board into the letter to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Finally, Council asks the Chief Executive to write to all schools in the Borough asking them to require coach and bus operators that they use for school trips etc to adhere to the provisions set out in the Tyred campaign. Council should also ask officers to look at our own procurement procedures with a view to inserting an appropriate clause in any contracts with commercial operators and to also ensure that this standard applies to our own vehicle fleet."

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

"Insert new paragraph 3 to read as follows:

'Council also notes that at this time there is no tyre age criteria which allows nominated MoT testers to issue a failure notice to the presenter of a vehicle for test, and no guidance notes are included in the inspection manual issued to MoT testers which could give relevant tyre age testing information.'

In the final paragraph in the original motion remove the word 'Finally' at the start of that paragraph.

Insert a new final paragraph to read as follows:

'Finally Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of The Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) requesting that the DVSA:

- Investigate tyre age on vehicles and
- Following that investigation introduce a mandatory test of the age of all vehicle tyres as part of the compulsory

annual Ministry for Transport test (MOT test) on all classes of vehicle

- Empower nominated MOT testers to be able to issue failure notices to presenters of vehicles failing this test.”

The amended motion would then read:

“On Monday 10 September 2012 a coach bound for Liverpool carrying 53 people from the Bestival music festival on the Isle of Wight, left the road and crashed into a tree instantly killing Michael Molloy (18), Kerry Ogden (23) and the coach driver, Colin Daulby (63), and left others with life-changing injuries. The inquest into the crash found that the front nearside tyre which was actually older than the coach itself, at 19 years, was responsible for the crash. In 2014, Liverpool City Council unanimously agreed on a motion in support of Michael’s mother Frances calling for a change in the law requiring a ban on tyres older than six years on commercial vehicles. Despite the widespread public and political support for this campaign, no change in the law has been made, shamefully leaving others at risk from faulty and dangerous tyres.

Council notes that Frances Molloy has launched “Tyred” – the official campaign to pressure Government – to change the law to ban the use of tyres older than ten years on commercial vehicles.

‘Council also notes that at this time there is no tyre age criteria which allows nominated MoT testers to issue a failure notice to the presenter of a vehicle for test, and no guidance notes are included in the inspection manual issued to MoT testers which could give relevant tyre age testing information.

Council wholeheartedly supports “Tyred” and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition asking them to commit to cross-party support for a change in the law.

Council further resolves to support the “Tyred” campaign until such a change in the law is achieved and to draw the attention of the Local Government Association, especially its Environment and Transport Board, to this Council’s view that the concerns should be fully addressed. Council requests that the Leader copies the Chair of the LGA’s Environment and Transport Board into the letter to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Council asks the Chief Executive to write to all schools in the Borough asking them to require coach and bus operators that they use for school trips etc to adhere to the provisions set out in the Tyred campaign. Council should also ask officers to look at our own procurement procedures with a view to inserting an appropriate clause in any contracts with commercial operators and to also ensure that this standard applies to our own vehicle fleet.

Finally Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of The Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) requesting that the DVSA:

- Investigate tyre age on vehicles and

- Following that investigation introduce a mandatory test of the age of all vehicle tyres as part of the compulsory annual Ministry for Transport test (MOT test) on all classes of vehicle

Empower nominated MOT testers to be able to issue failure notices to presenters of vehicles failing this test.”

Councillor Stretton ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Stretton exercised her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

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

Councillor Murphy spoke in support of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

Councillor Stretton did not exercise her right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to ask them to commit to cross party support for a change in the law.
2. The Leader of the Council copies the letters to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to the Chair of the LGA's Environment and Transport Board to draw to the attention of the Local Government Association to this Council's view that the concerns should be fully addressed.
3. The Chief Executive be asked to write to all schools in the Borough to ask them required bus and coach operators that they use for school trips, etc., to adhere to the provisions set out in the Tyred Campaign.
4. Officers be asked to look at the Council's own procurement procedures with a view to inserting an appropriate clause in any contracts with commercial operators and also ensure that this standard applied to the Council's own fleet.
5. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Chief Executive of the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) requesting the DVSA:
  - Investigate tyre age on vehicles and
  - Following that investigation, introduce a mandatory test of the age of all vehicle tyres as part of the compulsory annual vehicle Ministry of Transport (MOT test) on all classes of vehicle.
  - Empower nominated MOT testers to be able to issue failure notices to presenters of vehicles failing this test.

9

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There was no business from the Youth Council to consider.

10

## **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

### 1. Question 1: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

“My first question tonight relates to a future decision which will be one of the most momentous in its impact on many of our Borough’s residents over the next two plus decades. Namely the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) – the adoption of a 20-year housing and industrial land use development plan for Greater Manchester. The revised proposals have been some time coming, but I understand that they will now be available for so called public consultation in October. I also understand that a decision has recently been made by the ten Labour Council leaders and the Mayor of Greater Manchester who have decided that the ultimate decision to adopt, or not to adopt the final plans, will rest solely with them. There will be no requirement to bring the plan to a full meeting of each of the ten Councils for debate and a full vote on formal adoption by all councillors. This is a complete reversal of democracy. Members will recall that many of our residents were outraged when the initial plans to build thousands of new homes on Green Belt land in Shaw, Crompton, Saddleworth, Royton and Chadderton were first unveiled. Liberal Democrat colleagues, I and members from the seats opposite, joined them in opposing the proposals when responding to the consultation or attending demonstrations in Tandle Hill Country Park and in Albert Square. Public sentiment is still the same across Greater Manchester – no to building new houses on our Green Belt and yes to local councillors as the people’s representatives ultimately making the decision where new homes are built. Ward members are elected to lead, but also to represent the constituents and the communities we serve. How can we do this if we are denied the final vote on the plan? If we get this wrong, it will represent a disaster for our communities and for our Green Belt. Yet the ten Labour Council Leaders and GM Mayor are saying ‘leave it to us, we know what is best for you’. It is simply not right that such an important decision can be taken by so few people. It is certainly not what I and many others envisaged but perhaps it is a sign of things to come with so called devolution to Greater Manchester. I would like to ask the Leader tonight, whether despite this backroom deal, he will still be doing the honourable thing by bringing the final plan back to a meeting of the full Council for debate and adoption.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, refuted the suggestion of a back room deal. A previous motion had been raised whether to withdraw from GMSF in its entirety and this motion was lost. GMSF was a strategic plan for the allocation of land for homes and employment uses for the whole of Greater Manchester and it was appropriate for the decision to be made at the right level of governance and argued that that level would be Greater Manchester. There would be a meaningful consultation when the revised plans were published in October when members and residents would have the opportunity to respond.

2. Question 2: Call for Conductors on Metrolink Trams

“My second question raises another issue that concerns a great many residents in our Borough, their safety when they use Metrolink. Regrettably, we have seen many disturbing instances of crime and anti-social behaviour on the Rochdale – Oldham line, several very violent over recent months and unfortunately the line has the highest number of incidents across the Network. I welcome the recent actions of Metrolink staff, Police, and our Council’s Youth Engagement Officers in tackling this blight, and the news that thirteen offenders have been arrested during the first two weeks of this operation is good news. The operation may be called Infinity, but the resources are not and it will at some point come to an end. Some time ago Oldham Liberal Democrats revealed shocking figures that one in eight Metrolink passengers are fare-dodgers, or to put it another way, 12% of all journeys are not paid for. There are 40 million tram journeys a year so fare-dodging is estimated to cost Metrolink about £9 million in lost revenue. Oldham Liberal Democrats have also flatly refused Labour plans (supported by the Conservatives) to put up fares for honest Metrolink passengers by an inflation busting 19% by 2020 when one in eight passengers travel free. Rather than hammering the honest passenger, transport bosses need to focus on tackling fare evasion. 12% non-payment is a disgrace. Conductors on trams would help tackle this issue and should pay for its self, whilst making the honest travelling public feel safe. It would also drive the fair dodgers and those causing anti-social behaviour off the trams. Other tram services in the UK have on-board staff on every service, such as the Sheffield Super Tram and on the Wolverhampton – Birmingham line. Not only does a conductor provide passengers with reassurance that there is always someone at hand should they need assistance in an emergency, but that person can also give passengers advice about services, stops and fares and help them to board and alight. For my second question tonight I would like to ask the Leader if he would be willing to join me in calling upon Metrolink operators to introduce conductors on a trial basis on the Rochdale –

Oldham line? We can improve safety, tackle fare evasion and increase revenue for Metrolink – a triple win – and I do not know why we are not doing it already.”



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, shared the concerns about safety and the number of incidents at stations and on board the trams. If the suggestion of conductors had been easy they would have been introduced. The Leader and a Member of Parliament had met with the Mayor and representatives of Greater Manchester Police and lobbied for the operation of travel safe officers, PCSOs and ticket inspectors which had been successful. The Leader was a regular user of the Metrolink and on every journey when he had used the tram, there had been some sort of enforcement officers on either the outbound or return leg. The inspection regime was yielding dividends and had improved safety on the trams with action being taken on those who behaved anti-socially.

Councillor Hudson, Leader of the Conservative Group referred to the extremely challenging weather conditions last winter which had caused damage across the roads and this winter could be the same and could outstrip the work done on the roads this summer. Would the Leader consider a new funding stream for road improvement, i.e. a pothole fund with contributions from developers to maintain the road network?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that one of the Administration's pledges did make reference to the investment of additional money into highways capital programme and give people a greater say. This was already in progress and there would be an announcement at a future Cabinet meeting.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that the 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 Davis asked the following question:

“GCSE Results. Could the relevant Cabinet member tell me if the well publicised changes to the GCSES have had any impact on School performance across the borough?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the publicised changes had resulted in a small reduction in the percentage of English and Maths 4+ passes from 59.2% to 57.2% and 5+ passes from 37% to 36.6%. This was the first year of the new examinations at GCSE and it was reported that headteachers were already carefully reviewing the data with their staff to better understand the challenges of the new examination system and identify improvements for the new session.



2. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“ASB on trams. I welcome the recent crackdown on ASB on the trams – what are the ongoing plans to make sure that the situation is kept under control for the future?”

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded that TfGM had developed a 3-year plan to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour on the Metrolink Network in partnership with the Metrolink operator KAM. TfGM’s TravelSafe Unit was leading on a range of initiatives aimed at tackling ASB both on trams and at tram stops. The problem was being tackled through a partnership approach with KAM, Oldham Council, TfGM and Greater Manchester Police. The partnership was aiming to resolve issues and improve safety and security in the long term. Incidents and activity were being closely monitored and appropriate action being taken. The TravelSafe Unit continued to work closely with neighbourhood police teams and local authority community safety leads to understand the issues, agree joint outcomes and tap into the tools and powers available to them and also sought to tackle the underlying causes e.g. vulnerability and youth engagement as part of the ongoing management strategy. The partnership was actively increasing the amount of preventative community engagement undertaken through the development of a community and schools engagement programme, e.g. Crucial Crew, School and College visits and youth council visits. KAM is working towards the Safer Tram stop accreditation on Metrolink which aimed to reduce the opportunities for criminal and anti-social behaviour from taking place. The award was administered by Secured by Design and overseen by the Association of Chief Police Officers. In addition the Department for Transport (DfT) was currently reviewing the national security regulation of all light rail operators and KAM and TfGM working closely to ensure all regulatory requirements for safety and security were met.

3. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

“Bright Tribe Academy Trust – Werneth Primary School. Anyone who may have watched the Panorama programme in relation to the Bright Tribe Academy Trust, no stranger of course to Oldham via the now closed UTC, could not be other than alarmed at the allegations of what can best be described as mismanagement of how government funding was spent, or allegedly not, at a number of schools. Bright Tribe Academy Trust have withdrawn from all schools in the north of England with the exception of Werneth Primary School. Since it became an academy in February 2014 Werneth Primary School has gone through three permanent principals and

three interim principals and in July of this year, two members were appointed to the Board of Trustees: Angela Barry and Nikki King, who have both previously been parachuted into trusts which subsequently closed. Taking into consideration the problems that we have encountered with the closure of the Tory flagship policy of free schools in the borough, would the Cabinet Member for education state if there has been any contact from concerned parents or former Trusts members at the school.”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that no contact had been received from the trustees or parents so far. The Council was aware of Bright Tribe relinquishing their involvement with a number of their academies. The Council had approached Werneth Primary School before the summer breaker were told that Mike Dwan was no longer involved with the Trust; the DfE had replaced the previous board with new members; no public announcements were made; and Trustees would meet in due course to determine a way forward. The situation would be monitored and concerns would be raised at the next meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

4. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“Repairing Dangerous Roads and Potholes. Guidance issued to all local authorities by the Department of Transport in October 2016 required Councils to ‘investigate’ any potholes or instances of road surface erosion of at least 40mm depth, but did not necessarily require them to repair it. Oldham Council follows this guidance. This creates a problem where the top surface of a road is less than 40mm in the first instance. This often leads to the road surface becoming worn down to the cobbles and dangerous to road users, but it will never become eligible for repair under our current procedures. Would the Cabinet Member responsible agree to take a fresh look at the threshold at which we repair roads and give a commitment that this Council will undertake to repair any pothole or road surface, whatever the level of damage, which poses a danger to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists as quickly as possible?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded that the thresholds for highway safety repairs had recently been reviewed at a Greater Manchester level. 40mm was considered across the ten authorities to be an appropriate measurement for road surface deterioration, when taking into account the safety of highway users and had been adopted as the GM threshold. Road surface deterioration that did not meet the minimum criteria was not considered to represent a safety hazard. By working to an agreed repair criteria, highway users could expect a



consistent highway service across the borough boundaries and each authority could ensure that resources were targeted where they were needed most to ensure safety. The Council / Unity Highways was in the process of commencing a new more detailed Annual Engineering Inspection (AEI)/complete network condition survey. This would be used to inform future priority lists and provide the Council with a 3 to 5 year programme for capital investment. The findings would be evaluated and a report prepared for presentation to the CIPB before the end of the year with suggestions for the utilisation of any underspend across the first £6m Highways Investment Programme and also proposals for how capital highways budgets / investment could be spent in future years. Areas of defective carriageway surfacing that did not meet the threshold for safety repairs would get identified on the AEI and would be considered for inclusion on a future programme based on condition, value for money and available budgets.

5. Councillor M. Bashforth asked the following question:

“Memo of Understanding with Police. At the last council meeting Councillor Steve Bashforth and I brought a motion to council asking (amongst other things) that a Memorandum of Understanding between the council and police be negotiated to help elected have confidence their enquiries on behalf of residents will be dealt with and responded to in a timely manner. Can the cabinet member responsible update us on progress?”

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded it had been requested that a memorandum of understanding be agreed with the police in order to ensure that elected members could be confident that their enquiries on behalf of residents were being dealt with and responded to in a timely manner. Councillor Ur-Rehman had met with senior officers from the Oldham Division of Greater Manchester Police to discuss this. It was important to recognise the wider context that, as a result of reductions in central government funding, Greater Manchester Police had lost more than 2000 police officers. This was also at a time when there were a growing range of issues for the police to address. These included both emerging threats and issues which were previously hidden from view, such as child sexual abuse, online grooming, internet-based fraud and modern-day slavery. The police were committed to being a strong partner in working with the Council to tackle and prevent crime and keep citizens safe. This fitted within the target operating model of Greater Manchester Police, which had five priorities. Two which were of particular relevance were place based working, with the police working closely alongside other agencies including councillors and council officers and prioritising and providing support to those most at risk of harm in

order to ensure the best use of resources. The key local resource in working with councillors was the neighbourhood policing teams. They were the first point of contact for councillors in raising concerns and in working together address local issues. Senior officers in the division would provide support where there were more complex issues that needed to be unblocked. A short guide was being prepared to assist councillors in addressing the concerns of residents in their wards and would be available shortly. This included guidance on where different types of concerns should be taken. This also included contact details for the members of the neighbourhood policing teams in each district, as well as key contacts within the council related to issues such as safeguarding and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Difficulties faced by the 101 service in provide an acceptable standard of service to the public had been highlighted. This was a priority within the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan and the Cabinet Member continued to push for progress on this through the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Steering Group on which he represented Oldham. The Cabinet Member also thanked the police for the contribution to highlighting tram issues and to the operation which had been successful.

6. Councillor Leach asked the following question:

“Rail Review. Could the cabinet member responsible for transport please let the Council know if there might be any positive developments for rail users in Oldham from the government's forthcoming rail review?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the Government had not issued any further details about a potential review of rail services and was not in a position to comment on what this meant for Oldham until details were announced. However, the Council worked closely with rail colleagues at TfGM who took a proactive approach and would use their influence to get the best outcome for rail in Greater Manchester, including for Oldham, when responding to any rail industry consultations or reviews.

7. Councillor Haque asked the following question:

“Funding of “no deal” Brexit. Could the Leader tell us what guidance has the Council received from the Government about contingency planning for a ‘no deal’ Brexit and what funding is being made available to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of EU funding from the North West?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that

there had been no advice received on what to do in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit which was concerning. The Leader made reference to the lack of confidence on a deal being agreed by the end of March; the stockpiling of ingredients and emergency preparations. Brexit was already harming local government. The Leader referred to the crisis in social care funding for adults and children and no financial settlement after 2020. The Leader also remarked how the areas in England and Wales, including the North West had benefited from EU funding.

8. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

“Getting Oldham’s Share of Airport Jobs. Earlier this year, plans were announced to ambitiously expand the employment and entrepreneurial opportunities provided by the newly designated Airport City Manchester. However there appears to be an assumption that these will be automatically targeted at residents in the immediate locality, rather than offered by applicants from all ten of the Greater Manchester local authorities. Surely this is wrong? Oldham Council as one of the local authority shareholder of the Manchester International Airport receives a dividend proportionate to its shareholding and so in turn it is only right that Oldham residents should be able to access a fair proportion of these jobs. Can the Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills therefore please tell Council how this Administration intends to ensure that Oldham people will be able to access their fair share of the jobs and business opportunities resulting from these plans?”

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills responded that the airport was a key transport infrastructure hub which supported the city region and was a major employer with approximately 19 – 24,000 jobs. The jobs were not just within the immediate vicinity but also through third party suppliers from across the city region and beyond. The Council had developed a good working relationship with Manchester Airport Group. The Airport Group attend the annual jobs fair with travel champions from TfGM. GMCA had committed to promoting jobs and enterprise opportunities to all citizens in Greater Manchester not just those in the locality. The Amazon Fulfilment Centre roles had been advertised through Get Oldham Working and the Skills for Employment programme. An investment in the tram network has reduced travel times. The Airport provided a dividend for its shareholders which included Oldham Council which supported improvements in the road networks and the Get Oldham Working traineeship programme. Employment sites presented in the Local Plan would be a key part of Oldham’s economic future. It should be argued that the next big proposal should be in the Northeast sector.

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



**Oldham**  
Council

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

11

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

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor H. Gloster, Cabinet Minutes 23 July 2018, Item 6, Clarksfield Primary School 1FE Expansion and Academy Conversion. Councillor H. Gloster highlighted that Clarksfield was not a good school and required improvement and was rated inadequate according to inspectors of March of this year including leadership and management. Why did this Administration choose the lowest quote and hope to improve the achievements of children by expanding inadequate provision?

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded the school had undertaken a whole new leadership role. The Regional Schools Commissioner was involved in determining the leadership. It was felt the school would bring about the required improvements.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Harkness, Cabinet Minutes, 23 July 2018, Item 8, Ackers Farm Retaining Wall Reconstruction – Tender Acceptance Report. Councillor Harkness expressed his thanks for the work on the retaining wall and hoped to see more.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 be noted.
2. The question and response provided be noted.
3. The observation be noted.

12

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1 – Action on Social Housing

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Leach SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes the delayed publication of the Government’s Green Paper ‘New deal for social housing’ which finally appeared in August 2018 and the promise that this would be ‘the most substantial report of its kind for a generation’ by the then-housing secretary Sajid Javid.

While this Council welcomes the stated commitment to improve access to social housing and some of the individual proposals in the Green Paper e.g. dropping the forced sale of high-value homes and the limitation of the introduction of Right to Buy for Housing Association tenants to a trial in the Midlands, we also believe that this is a missed opportunity falling far short of the action needed to address the housing crisis in Oldham and across the country. One significant contribution would be to suspend the ‘Right to buy’ legislation. Nor does the Green Paper offer any proposals to mitigate the adverse impact of Universal Credit on landlords and tenants.

Oldham Council remains committed to working in partnership with housing providers and using all the resources available to meet the urgent and increasing housing need in the borough. Work is underway to produce a revised and updated Housing Strategy for Oldham to be completed by March 2019.

Council resolves to:

1. Continue to press the Government to provide additional resources to both replace the homes lost to social rent by ‘Right to buy’ and to provide badly needed new homes at a social rent both in our response to the Green Paper and through working with the GMCA and the LGA to bring forward proposals that meet local needs
2. develop Oldham’s Housing Strategy to provide a comprehensive housing offer for local people with an emphasis on increasing the numbers of homes available for social rent
3. explore new ways of providing homes in partnership with local providers and including by investigating the option of setting up a Housing Development Company”

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“In paragraph three, add two new sentences at the end after March 2019 to read as follows:

‘Council will look to consult widely with partner agencies, elected members and with groups which are disadvantaged within the housing market (for example, people with disabilities of working age wishing to live independently) to ensure that their views inform this policy. However, Council also notes that the Head of Planning recently described the borough’s Affordable Housing Strategy as ‘not fit for purpose’, and recognises that this strategy needs urgent review to ensure that it contributes effectively to the borough’s affordable housing needs.’

In bullet point one of the resolution insert after ‘press’ in line 1 ‘this and future’ and change Government to Governments.

Insert a new bullet point two to read

‘Seek the support of the GMCA and the LGA in lobbying this and future Governments to grant local authorities the power to suspend the ‘Right to buy’ in their areas’.

Renumber original bullet point two to bullet point three. At the end of the renumbered bullet point three insert the words ‘and for groups who are disadvantaged within the housing market (for example, people with disabilities of working age wishing to live independently).’

Insert a new bullet point four to read: ‘Seek an urgent review of the borough’s Affordable Housing Strategy to ensure it contributes effectively to the borough’s affordable housing needs.’

Reformat original bullet point three to bullet point five, and insert additional words so it reads as follows:’

5. explore new ways of providing homes in partnership with local providers and including by investigating:

- The option of setting up a Housing Development Company
- Making use of reforms in the use of the Housing Revenue Account and prudential borrowing powers to finance house building by the new company
- Accessing finance via the LG Develop scheme recently established by the Local Government Association
- Identifying with partners (such as housing associations, the NHS, local developers and landowners), local land sites that have potential for housing development through the new company”

The amended motion would read as follows:

“This Council notes the delayed publication of the Government’s Green Paper ‘New deal for social housing’ which finally appeared in August 2018 and the promise that this would be the ‘most substantial report of its kind for a generation’ by the then - housing secretary Sajid Javid.

While this Council welcomes the stated commitment to improve access to social housing and some of the individual proposals in the Green Paper e.g. dropping the forced sale of high-value homes and the limitation of the introduction of the Right To Buy for Housing Association tenants to a trial in the Midlands, we also believe that this is a missed opportunity falling far short of the action needed to address the housing crisis in Oldham and across the country. One significant contribution would be to suspend the ‘Right to buy’ legislation. Nor does the Green Paper offer any proposals to mitigate the adverse impact of Universal Credit on landlords and tenants.

Oldham Council remains committed to working in partnership with housing providers and using all the resources available to meet the urgent and increasing housing need in the borough. Work is underway to produce a revised and updated Housing Strategy for Oldham to be completed by March 2019. Council will look to consult widely with partner agencies, elected members and with groups who are disadvantaged within the

housing market (for example, people with disabilities of working age working wishing to live independently) to ensure that their views inform this policy. However, Council also notes that the Head of Planning recently described the borough's Affordable Housing Strategy as 'not fit for purpose', and recognises that this strategy needs urgent review to ensure that it contributes effectively to the borough's affordable housing needs.

Council resolves to:

1. Continue to press this and future Governments to provide additional resources to both replace the homes lost to social rent by 'Right to buy' and to provide badly needed new homes at a social rent both in our response to the Green Paper and through working with the GMCA and LGA to bring forward proposals that meet local needs
2. Seek the support of the GMCA and the LGA in lobbying this and future Governments to grant local authorities the power to suspend the 'Right to buy' in their areas
3. develop Oldham's Housing Strategy to provide a comprehensive housing offer for local people with an emphasis on increasing the numbers of homes available for social rent and for groups who are disadvantaged within the housing market (for example, people with disabilities of working age wishing to live independently)
4. Seek an urgent review of the borough's Affordable Housing Strategy to ensure that it contributes effectively to the borough's affordable housing needs
5. explore new ways of providing homes in partnership with local providers and including by investigating:
  - The option of setting up a Housing Development Company
  - Making use of reforms in the use of the Housing Revenue Account and prudential borrowing powers to finance house building by the new company
  - Accessing finance via the LG Develop scheme recently established by the Local Government Association
  - Identifying with partners (such as housing associations, the NHS, local developers and landowners), local land sites that have potential for housing development through the new company"

Councillor Roberts exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, 7 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 46 votes were cast AGAINST with 2 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the original motion.

Councillor C. Gloster spoke in support of the original motion.

Councillor Dean spoke in support of the original motion.

Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the original motion.

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the original motion.

Councillor Roberts did not exercise her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 52 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the ORIGINAL MOTION and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 4 ABSTENTIONS. The ORIGINAL MOTION was therefore CARRIED.



**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Government continued to be pressed to provide additional resources to both replace the homes lost to social rent by 'Right to Buy' and to provide badly needed new homes at a social rent both in the Council's response to the Green Paper and through working with the GMCA and the LGA to bring forward proposals that meet local needs.
2. Oldham's Housing Strategy be developed to provide a comprehensive offer for local people with an emphasis on increasing the number of homes available for social rent.
3. New ways of providing homes in partnership with local providers and including the investigating the option of setting up a Housing Development Company be explored.

NOTE: Councillor H. Gloster was not in the Chamber during the vote on the AMENDMENT.

Motion 2 – Creating an healthy and thriving Oldham

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Chauhan as the Mover of the Motion and Councillor M. Bashforth as Seconder of the Motion requested the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

“Oldham Council notes:

- That good health is more than the lack of disease or illness.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that 13 million deaths annually are attributable to preventable environmental causes. WHO estimates that 24% of the global disease burden (healthy life years lost) and we% of all deaths (premature mortality) are attributable to environmental quality.
- For Oldham residents to thrive, good mental, physical and social wellbeing is essential.
- Health and wellbeing has an important relationship to income, quality employment, decent housing, access to basic services, including education, physical activity, a good quality built environment, the natural environment and cultural and social fulfilment.
- That access to affordable, quality healthy food is essential to good health.



- The number of environmental factors locally, such as the sale of harmful products and unhealthy food, impacts directly on health in our communities.
- Environmental factors within Oldham have resulted in a higher than the national average number of deaths from heart disease and smoking related illness, and vast health inequalities and gaps in life expectancy between different parts of our borough
- Of particular concern is the health of young people and Oldham had unacceptably high levels of childhood obesity, young people smoking and children with poor dental hygiene. Furthermore, low quality environments impact upon the quality of mental health

This Council believes:

1. That immediate action is required to eradicate environmental factors contributing to poor health and wellbeing of residents
2. The council and its partners has an important role to play to protect health and wellbeing of residents.

This Council resolves:

1. To create a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) process as a means of evidence-based policy in order to make improvements in health and wellbeing. Any policy, project or programme that does not necessarily have health as its primary objective will be subject to a robust Health Impact Assessment
2. To use this process to develop Health Improvement Zones in areas where environmental factors have a significant detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities, developing additional policies where needed e.g. Supplementary Planning Documents aimed at managing the availability of unhealthy take away food.”

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### Motion 3 – Tackling child hunger

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. It was Moved and Seconded that the following motion be withdrawn.

“The Council notes:

1. That the numbers of children living in poverty continues to rise. In Oldham in 2017, 40.66% of our children lived in poverty (the 7<sup>th</sup> highest across the UK) including 62.11% of Coldhurst Ward’s children, the highest rate in the UK. Government policy, including welfare reform and the impact of the full service Universal Credit, underpins this increase.
2. That Oldham Council, working with many local partners, has taken steps to tackle food poverty and to ensure that children receive award winning nutritious school meals. However, during school holidays many children,

especially those entitled to Free School Meals, go hungry.

3. The pilot work down by Oldham Council, If Oldham, the Food Bank and local community and church groups this summer to provide free lunches for children.

This Council believes that every child has the right to a balanced and adequate diet and resolves to support efforts to provide free lunches for those who need them during school holidays including

1. To investigate and apply for additional sources of funding, including using District budgets where possible and appropriate
2. To research different models of tackling holiday hunger including 'Feed and Read' and 'Feeding Britain' and to put together a strategy that best meets Oldham's needs using Council and community resources such as libraries, community and leisure centres and faith buildings.
3. To introduce an Oldham programme to alleviate child holiday hunger as soon as practically possible

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be withdrawn.

13

## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1 – Keeping Our Villages and Rural Areas HGV Free

Councillor Heffernan MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following MOTION:

“Council notes that:

- HGVs and large vehicles can bring small villages and rural areas to a standstill when these vehicles are too large to navigate smaller roads.
- This has happened most recently on April 26 in Delph when a large articulated lorry blocked the junction of Grains Road and King Street bringing chaos to the village for four hours.
- These situations often occur because drivers of these vehicles chose to ignore displayed weight or width restrictions or fail to use a satnav system specifically designed for lorries.
- The Police do not always have the resources to enforce these restrictions, yet Councils outside London and Wales are currently prevented from doing so because the Government has failed to bring Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 into force for Councils in the rest of England.
- Lorry satnavs are like normal car satnavs, but they include bridge heights, narrow roads, and roads unsuitable for trucks. In addition, they allow the driver to enter the lorry's dimensions – height, width, weight and load – so they are only guided along suitable roads. Their cost is slightly more than that of a standard car satnav.

Council further notes that, in several parts of England, Lorry Watch schemes have been established. These are run by local residents who record instances of vehicles flouting weight and width restrictions, and report them to a Parish Council Coordinator, the Police or their Council Trading Standards Department.

This Council:

- Supports the position of the cross-party Local Government Association that the Government bring Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 into force for all relevant English councils with immediate effect and legislate so all HGVs and large vehicles are required to install suitable satnavs designed for lorries and large vehicles.
- Believes that establishing Lorry Watch Schemes in various parts of the Borough is worthy of consideration.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting the Government bring Part 6 of the 2004 Traffic Management Act into force and legislate to make the use of suitable satnavs for HGVs and other large vehicles mandatory.
- Ask the Chief Executive to seek the support of our three local MPs and the Mayor of Greater Manchester for this position.
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny board to examine the merits and practicalities of establishing a Lorry Watch scheme in various parts of the Borough, in conjunction with the District Executives, the Parish Councils, residents' associations, and the Police."

Councillor A. Alexander spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Hudson spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED that the motion be put to the VOTE. The MOVE to the VOTE was AGREED.

Councillor Heffernan 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 Secretary of Transport requesting the Government bring Part 6 of the 2004 Traffic Management Act into force and legislate to make the use of suitable satnavs for HGVs and other large vehicles mandatory.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to seek the support of the three local MPs and the Mayor of Greater Manchester for this position.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny Board be asked to examine the merits and practicalities of establishing a Lorry Watch

Scheme in various parts of the Borough, in conjunction with the District Executives, the Parish Councils, residents' associations and the Police.



## Motion 2 – Period Poverty

Councillor Williamson MOVED and Councillor H. Gloster SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes that:

- A survey by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 teenage girls had been unable to afford sanitary products;
- 56% of teenage girls and they would rather be bullied at school than talk to their parents about periods;
- This is particularly problematic for girls from low-income families who see their parents struggling to make ends meet and feel reluctant to ask them to add sanitary products to the weekly shop;
- In many cases, as a result, they may lose a significant number of days of schooling;
- Regrettably, even women in low-income employment are sometimes unable to afford such products when struggling to meet household bills and feed their families;
- Ironically only female prisoners have a statutory right to access free sanitary products.

Council believes in a country as well-off as Britain ‘Period Poverty’ is a scandal that should be ended.

Council commends:

- The Scottish Government for its commitment to tackle ‘Period Poverty’ by introducing free sanitary products in all educational establishments, and notes that Scotland was one of the first countries to pilot a scheme to young women and girls in need in Aberdeen.
- The project recently established by the 21<sup>st</sup> Oldham Friezland Rangers and the charity Red Box whereby members of the public can donate sanitary products in branded boxes located in prominent places for re-distribution to students in need attending our local schools and colleges.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Health and Well-being Board, working with relevant Cabinet Members, officers and partners, to explore with local secondary schools and colleges how sanitary products can be made available free to students in their establishments.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education and Chancellor asking the Government to scrap the VAT levied on female hygiene products as soon as is practicable and in the meantime to use the VAT collected on these products to fund the provision of free sanitary products for girls and women in need.”

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:



After Council commends: delete bullet point 1.

After Council resolves: delete bullet point 1.

Insert new bullet point 1:

“Ask the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to write to District Co-ordinators instructing them to investigate ways of expanding the Red Box scheme across Oldham.”

The amended motion would read as follows:

“This Council notes that:

- A survey by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 teenage girls had been unable to afford sanitary products;
- 56% of teenage girls and they would rather be bullied at school than talk to their parents about periods;
- This is particularly problematic for girls from low-income families who see their parents struggling to make ends meet and feel reluctant to ask them to add sanitary products to the weekly shop;
- In many cases, as a result, they may lose a significant number of days of schooling;
- Regrettably, even women in low-income employment are sometimes unable to afford such products when struggling to meet household bills and feed their families;
- Ironically only female prisoners have a statutory right to access free sanitary products.

Council believes in a country as well-off as Britain ‘Period Poverty’ is a scandal that should be ended.

Council commends:

- The project recently established by the 21<sup>st</sup> Oldham Friezland Rangers and the charity Red Box whereby members of the public can donate sanitary products in branded boxes located in prominent places for re-distribution to students in need attending our local schools and colleges.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to write to District Co-ordinators instructing them to investigate ways of expanding the Red Box scheme across Oldham.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education and Chancellor asking the Government to scrap the VAT levied on female hygiene products as soon as is practicable and in the meantime to use the VAT collected on these products to fund the provision of free sanitary products for girls and women in need.”

Councillor Williamson ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Williamson exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

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:**

1. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods be asked to write to the District Co-ordinators instructing them to investigate ways of expanding the Red Box scheme across Oldham.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Education and Chancellor asking the Government to scrap the VAT levied on female hygiene products as soon as is practicable and in the meantime to use the VAT collected on these products to fund the provision of free sanitary products for girls and women in need.

Motion 3 - Fur Free Markets

Councillor Turner MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED the following MOTION:

“The Council notes that:

- The United Kingdom has outlawed the farming of animals for their fur on ethical grounds since 2000 and that the use of one of the most common traps used to catch animals for their fur has been illegal for many years.
- Nonetheless fur products are imported from overseas nations, particularly China, where such bans do not operate and where there is virtually no animal welfare legislation in force.
- Real fur comes from animals raised in deplorable conditions or trapped in the wild and killed inhumanely.
- Regrettably these products are found for sale on public markets in the UK and customers can inadvertently buy them thinking them to be made of imitation fur.

Accordingly Council resolves to:

- Prohibit the sale of any product wholly or partially made with real animal fur on Council owned land and at Council run or Council leased markets. This ban to cover such items as fur coats, vintage fur, fur shawls, garments with fur trim, fur pompom hats, and fur accessories and trinkets.
- Support the Fur Free Markets campaign of the animal welfare charity, Respect for Animals, the UK’s leading anti-fur organisation, by:
  - Becoming a signatory to the initiative.
  - Seeking the advice and assistance of the charity in the enforcement of this ban.”

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED the MOTION be put to a RECORDED VOTE.

<b>Councillor</b>		<b>Councillor</b>	
Ahmad	FOR	Hussain, A.	ABSENT
Akhtar	ABSENT	Hussain, F.	FOR
Alexander, A.	FOR	Jabbar	FOR
Alexander, G.	FOR	Jacques	FOR
Ali	FOR	Judd	FOR
Azad	FOR	Larkin	ABSENT
Ball	ABSENT	Leach	FOR
Bashforth, M.	FOR	Malik	FOR
Bashforth, S.	ABSENT	McLaren	FOR
Briggs	FOR	Moores	FOR
Brock	ABSENT	Murphy	FOR
Brownridge	FOR	Mushtaq	FOR
Byrne	AGAINST	Phythian	FOR
Chadderton	FOR	Price	FOR
Chauhan	FOR	Qumer	FOR
Cosgrove	FOR	Rehman	FOR
Curley	FOR	Roberts	FOR
Davis	FOR	Salamat	FOR
Dean	FOR	Shah	FOR
Fielding	FOR	Sheldon	FOR
Garry	FOR	Shuttleworth	FOR
Gloster, C.	FOR	Stretton	FOR
Gloster, H.	FOR	Sykes	FOR
Goodwin	FOR	Taylor	FOR
Haque	FOR	Toor	FOR
Harkness	FOR	Turner	FOR
Harrison	FOR	Ur-Rehman	FOR
Heffernan	FOR	Williams	FOR
Hewitt	FOR	Williamson	FOR
Hudson	FOR	Iqbal	FOR

Councillor Turner did not exercise her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 53 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 1 vote was cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The sale of any product wholly or partially made with real animal fur be prohibited on Council owned land and at Council run or Council leased markets. This ban to covers such items as fur coats, vintage fur, fur shawls, garments with fur trim, fur pompom hats and fur accessories and trinkets.
2. The Fur Free Markets campaign of the animal welfare charity, Respect for Animals, the UK's leading anti-fur organisation, be supported by:
  - Becoming a signatory to the initiative.
  - Seeking the advice and assistance of the charity in the enforcement of this ban.



14a To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the Partnership meetings were submitted as follows:

MioCare Board	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Oldham Leadership Board	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

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

14b To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings were submitted as follows:

Transport for Greater Manchester (AGM)	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (AGM)	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
National Park Authority	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Greater Manchester Health and Care Board	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2018

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor C. Gloster: GM Health and Care Board, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Minutes 15/18 Diabetes Clinical Best Practice Strategy. It was reported during Ramadan there was an increased risk of hypoglycaemia due to fasting. Does Oldham advise more than family members about reducing the risk?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, responded that a number of GPs held advice sessions, groups also ran sessions in mosques and this would be built upon. It was difficult to tell people not to fast, Islam did make allowances for people not to fast. People made the choices after receiving advice from practitioners.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Joint Authority meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The question and response provided be noted.



Council gave consideration to a 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** the update on Actions from Council be noted.

16

## **2017/18 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance which presented the Council's recently approved audited Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 2017/18 and the External Auditor (Grant Thornton UK LLP) Audit Findings Report. The audited Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and considered at the Cabinet meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018, whereby the accounts were noted and commended to Full Council.

The report highlighted:

- The unqualified opinion in the External Auditors Findings Report on the Statement of Accounts and the positive value for money opinion.
- The overall revenue outturn position for 2017/18 with a surplus of £0.150m before the final transfer to earmarked reserves to support the 2018/19 budget. This was a marginal increase on the forecast outturn position of a £0.146m favourable variance reported on the Month 9 position. Following the transfer to earmarked reserves to support the 2018/19 budget, the net General Fund movement was a decrease of £0.753m.
- The Council spent £25.803m on its Capital Programme in 2017/18 compared to the forecast spending of £27.145m which resulted in a variance of £1.342m between the forecast and actual position.
- Capital receipts in year totalled £11.363m against a financing requirement of £6.780m.
- Schools balances at the year-end totalled £5.545m but were offset by the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £3.031m leaving a net reserve of £2.514m.
- The final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balance was £20.162m.
- The speed of the preparation of the accounts.
- The performance of the Finance Team in closing the Council's accounts and its focus on continuous improvement of its processes.

The Council had received an objection to the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts which had not yet been resolved. Therefore, although the External Auditor had given an opinion on the accounts from both financial years, the formal review the objection must conclude before the audit can be formally closed.

In moving the report, Councillor Jabbar commented on the excellent report from the external auditors on how the accounts

were managed and all green indicators. Councillor Jabbar expressed his thanks to the Director of Finance and the Finance team and also expressed his appreciation to the Audit Committee on their scrutiny of the accounts.

**RESOLVED** that the 2017/18 Council's Final Accounts, the Auditor's report and the comments provided be noted.

17

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2017/18**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the Treasury Management Review for 2017/18. The Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2017/18. The report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2017/18 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year which was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017;
- A mid-year (minimum) treasury update report approved on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017; and
- An annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy which was this report.

The presentation of the report demonstrated full compliance with the requirements as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

The regulatory environment placed responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. The Audit Committee has this responsibility and it had already scrutinised the Treasury Management Review report at its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018. In addition, the report was also presented to and approved by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and commended the report to Council.

The report summarised:

- The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing During 2017/18
- The Council's Overall Borrowing Need
- The Council's Debt and Investment Position
- The Strategy for 2017/18
- The Economy and Business Rates
- Borrowing Rates in 2017/18
- Borrowing Outturn for 2017/18
- Compliance with Treasury Limits

- Investment Rates and Outturn.



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### Options/Alternatives

In order that the Council complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council had no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report.

### **RESOLVED that:**

1. The actual 2017/18 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the report be approved.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2017/18 be approved.

18

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE AND UPDATED OUTSIDE BODIES GRIDS**

Consideration was given to a report on proposed changes to the Transport for Greater Manchester and updated Outside Bodies Grids.

Following a governance review of Greater Manchester bodies, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (GM Constitutional Review report is attached at appendix 1) agreed to propose changes to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee to reflect the changes to the responsibilities of the Mayor and GMCA following devolution.

### Proposal for the 10 Constituent Council to consider:

#### Transport

1. That each GM Local Authority be requested to:
  - Agree the size of TfGMC as 23 members
  - Appoint 1 member to TfGMC, save for Manchester City Council to appoint 2 members, and nominate 1 member to be appointed by GMCA to ensure political balance
  - Note that the remaining 2 appointments are 1 member appointed by GMCA and 1 member appointed by the Mayor
  - Agree to amend the Operating Agreement to reflect these changes
  - Note that the Terms of Reference will be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the Mayor's current transport powers with a further review in 2019/20 to reflect proposed powers.

Council was asked to make one appointment to the Committee, one Labour Member and one nomination to the Committee, one Liberal Democrat Member.

Further nominations to other outside bodies were outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The changes to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee be agreed.
2. Councillor A. Alexander be appointed and Councillor Sykes be nominated to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee.
3. Councillors Harrison, Stretton and Sykes be appointed to the Oldham Distress Fund.
4. Councillor Briggs be nominated to the FCHO Main Board.
5. Councillor S. Bashforth replace Councillor Larkin on the GM Housing, Planning and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Davis replace Councillor Phythian on the GM Scrutiny Substitutes pool.
6. The updated Outside Bodies tables be noted.

19

**POLITICAL BALANCE REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services. Notification has been received that two Borough Councillors were no longer members of the Labour Group. A review of the allocation of seats had been undertaken and changes made to committee membership related to political groups. Other committee changes required Council approval following the resignation of members from Committees.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The review of the political balance and committees as detailed within the report be noted.
2. The composition of the political groups as outlined in the report be agreed; and
  - Councillor Azad be allocated a place on the Audit Committee as an Independent Councillor.
  - Councillor Larkin be allocated a place on Overview and Scrutiny as an Independent Councillor.
  - Councillor Phythian be appointed to the vacant position of Royton District Executive Chair.
  - Councillor Byrne replace Councillor Hudson on the Standards Committee and Councillor Leach replace Councillor Garry on the Standards Committee.
  - Councillor Dean replace Councillor Harrison on the Audit Committee.
  - Councillor Curley replace Councillor Sheldon on the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
  - The updated Committee Grids as detailed at Appendix 1 be agreed.

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**CHARITABLE TRUST COMMITTEE - AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services to amend the Terms of Reference to the Charitable Trust Sub-Committee to include additional Charitable Trusts in order to keep the list up-to-date. The Charitable Trust Committee had been established in July 2017 to discharge the Council's common law/statutory duty to act as the charitable

trustee. A list of Trusts had been identified in the original report, however, over the past year further properties had been identified.

**RESOLVED** that the amended Charitable Trust Committee's Terms of Reference be approved as outlined in the report.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.58 pm

