

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Iqbal (Chair)

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

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

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

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via Facebook:

“Please raise this question at the next full council meeting and ask the Mayor to read the questions. The Ritchie report into rioting in 2001 concluded that Oldham authority had done little to challenge racial segregation in education and housing. It claimed many of the town’s problems were not cause by race but as a result of poverty and social exclusion. The Ritchie report criticised Oldham council for failing to address segregation, education and housing etc. The report called for more investment, partnership working, capitalising on the mood of togetherness, and placing more focus on young people and education among the factors to help ensure the delivery of its vision. We the residents of Town Centre base especially from Primrose Bank and Coppice would like the local authorities and regional School commissioner to carry out independent investigation into if residents of Town Centre Case are being socially excluded from Good/Outstanding primary and secondary School due to each individual School admission criteria. Oldham Council are backing plans for a new school that discriminates against children who are not religious and children whose religion is not a member of the inter-faith forum. A proposed Church of England faith school in Oldham will select 50% of its pupils based on their parents’ religion. The Cranmer Education Trust – affiliated with the C of E – is

proposing a new Christian faith school in west Oldham. As yet unnamed will select 50% of its pupils based on their parents' religion. How is this School going to address the shortage of Secondary School places for residents of Town Centre Base especially from Coppice/Primrose Bank? What is the current position of Oldham council supporting / promoting faith School?"

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture, responded that it was now more than 17 years since the disturbances in 2001. Significant progress had been made since then in addressing the problems identified in the report. It was important to move on and focus on Oldham today. There was an ambitious Oldham Plan which set out proposals for:

- Creating an inclusive economy which offered opportunities for all;
- Working with residents to deliver co-operative services which met their needs; and
- Developing thriving communities in ways which built the capacity for people to support themselves and others.

A key part of the plan was to ensure there were enough good and outstanding schools for all of our children and young people. Support for the free school proposed by the Cranmer Trust was to help the objective be achieved. The existing Bluecoat School was high performing and respected across the Borough. The new school would be a separate entity but would benefit from the expertise of Bluecoat. The new school would have its own admission policy and certainly not exclude disadvantaged students. It would be fully accessible to parents in Coppice/Primrose Bank. The proposed admissions policy set out the admissions policy set out by the Cranmer Trust had been reviewed by Council officers and per pupil projection figures would ensure the local children to which the question referred would all receive a place whilst the school would also be able to ensure a multi-ethnic population with an ethos of togetherness – which tied in with the recommendations of the Ritchie Report.

2. Question received from Louie Hamblett via email:

"In July the Shaw and Crompton Events group agreed that as this year of 2018 is the centenary of the first world war they would like to show their respect and appreciation to those who sacrificed so much. So they set about to put poppies up on every lamppost within the town centre of Shaw and Crompton. In a very wet and windy weekend all lamppost in July were furnished with a Poppy. Coincidentally I now notice that something similar has been done in Parliament square by the Town Hall ahead of remembrance day. I'd like to ask and invite the leader of the administration to thank

the events group for their hard work and dedication to our forefathers.”



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that it was important to commemorate Remembrance Sunday especially in the centurial year. The Leader provided his thanks to the groups and the countless volunteers and to the Royal British Legion in the organisation of events over the coming weekend. The Leader encouraged a visit to “A Story of Sacrifice” Exhibition that was currently in Oldham Gallery until 1 December.

3. Question received from Chris Ackroyd via email:

“How can i trust this Labour administration to look after my Council and town following the recent blood bath that saw Cllr Jean Stretton ousted, for the record can I thank Cllr Stretton for all her hard work, she did not deserve what happened.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Labour Group meeting was a series of ballots and that group meetings were fairly pedestrian. With regard to trusting the current Leader, Councillor Fielding referred to his Annual Statement which would appear later on the agenda and what had been delivered.

4. Question received from Donna Gould via email:

“Parish Councils add real value to areas of Oldham providing an enhanced service to their residents when areas are often forgotten about or ignored by some at Oldham Council - for those wishing to form a Parish Council how would one go about setting a Parish Council up? Following the Leader’s comments, does the Council Leader support Parish Councils? and would he support the establishment of a Parish Council say in his own ward of Failsworth?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise challenged the assertion that parts of the borough were not cared about and it would be necessary to establish a parish council to fill in the gaps. The Leader had researched and found the powers available to a parish council were cleaning and drainage of ditches, toilets, consultation to provide a burial ground and rights of way. The process to establish a parish council was to collect signatures from 7.5% of the electorate of the area, a governance review conducted and reviewed by the Council. The Leader had no objection to getting together in Failsworth. The Leader stated that Oldham Council did a fantastic job of maintaining the ditches in Failsworth.

5. Mr. Brown asked the following question:

“Question to be asked in person to a Cabinet Member. Please acknowledge receipt. Can you answer how many of our 60 councillors replied to last year's consultation regarding strengthening standards for elected mayors and councillors in England? And how many knew of this consultation?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the consultation had been considered by Group Leaders at the time and a response had been submitted in December 2017. The Leader had not sent a response as an individual and was not able to respond as to whether other members had responded. Each individual member would need to be contacted to advise if they had personally responded.

6. Mr. Bates asked the following question:

“I would be grateful for a public explanation as to the reason why suddenly after only a short period. Cllr Cheryl Brock” verbally “on the 5th Oct gave her resignation to her party Leader. This Cllr was highly respected in Failsworth and had many friends and neighbours. Concerns have been raised because of lack of contact for months with the Cllr. The reason being because during her short career she was an excellent communicator and also a credit to her party. Furthermore she was credited for the tireless work she put in especially for the lonely, the elderly, and vulnerable.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that he did not have a conversation with former Councillor Brock on 5 October and was baffled by the premise of the question. It was not possible to resign verbally. Former Councillor Brock had resigned in writing on 25th October 2018 with immediate effect.

7. Question received from Mr. Kenyon via letter:

“I recently read an article in a local newspaper in which Cllr. Gloster misinterpreted the truth, this misinterpretation of actual facts meant that myself and my fellow constituent, Peter Brown, were portrayed in a negative way. Is Cllr. Gloster willing to give a written apology to Peter Brown and myself for misleading the General Public in this way?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that he was unable to ask the question as this was Leader and Cabinet Member question time and Councillor Gloster

was not a member of the Cabinet. The Leader of the Council advised Mr. Kenyon to write to Councillor Gloster.



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8. Question received from Melanie Platt via email:

“Members may or may not be aware of a Guardian news report that Labour councils in the North East of England are refusing to house failed asylum seekers who have a criminal background, on the grounds of preserving Community Cohesion. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/27/uk-asylum-seekers-refused-housing-over-social-cohesion-issues>. The government has agreed to their requests and no longer will house criminal failed asylum seekers in that region. This means that they have to be housed elsewhere and as the North West is the nearest region this means we are being expected to house these criminals with all the problems this brings. Given the former council leader Jim McMahan's comments this month that “It will harm communities and be of no benefit to those who are asked to live within them.” What steps are Oldham Council taking to make sure that the citizens of Oldham are kept safe from criminal elements being housed within the borough, and would the council consider following the example of other Labour councils in refusing to house these criminals in a town which has suffered more than it should in the past few years?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that the Council did not house failed asylum seekers as they had no recourse to public funds. In Oldham, the government commissioned SERCO to provide housing and support to asylum seekers. The Council had a legal duty to consider individuals and families who were identified as in priority need of housing on a case-by-case basis. Social housing in Oldham was managed by partner housing providers including First Choice Homes. The majority of these were signed up to the Allocations Framework which used the Council's allocation policy to decide to who let a home to. Oldham Council's Housing Allocations Policy stated that a person would not meet the qualifying criteria (and therefore not eligible for social housing) if s/he or a member of the household was considered to be guilty of serious unacceptable behaviour.

Unacceptable behaviour included (but not limited to):

- Conviction of illegal or immoral purposes
- Committing certain criminal offences in or near the home and still posed a threat to neighbours or the community
- Being violent towards a partner or member of the family

- Misusing prescribed or illegal substances unless there was evidence to show that an applicant was adhering to a drug reduction programme
- Behaving in a threatening manner.

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:

“The public counter at the Chadderton Police Station, on Broadgate closed in 2016, and now the building appears to be standing empty? Could the Cabinet Member responsible for policing, please tell us:

1. What if any services are being delivered from Chadderton Police Station?
2. What are the future plans for the building?
3. What is the annual cost of the PFI contract.”

Councillor Williams, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded that no services were currently running and the building was currently empty. The Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) were going to move in and operate from the building, however, this would require the building to be refurbished and modified for this purpose. It was anticipated that the work would take place in 2019/20. Costings were not able to be provided. The property was owned by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester, GMP Headquarters, Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester M40 5Bp and of GMP Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Manchester M11 2NS.

2. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

“I am pleased that since the last Council meeting Bright Tribe has announced it is withdrawing as the sponsor for Werneth primary School. Local Councillors and parents had raised their concerns about the way the school was being run for many years. Could the Cabinet member for Education update us in regards to identifying a new academy sponsor for Werneth School and assure me and local parents that the Council will do all it can to ensure the new sponsor will raise standards at the school?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture, responded that the Council was content that the local Pinnacle Trust, led by the Principal of the successful 6th Form College, had been approved by the Regional

Schools Commissioner to take over Werneth School in Oldham. The local authority had an excellent relationship with this Trust, and indeed with all the trusts working in the borough, and the Council was confident the school would flourish under Pinnacle, working closely with the local authority. The headteachers from all schools, irrespective of which Trust they came from, regularly met with the Director of Education and his team and shared data and performance targets. There was no doubt that all headteachers and local authority officers in Oldham were driven by the moral purpose of securing the very best for the borough's children and young people and worked together for this purpose. The Cabinet Member was confident in reassuring residents of the positive role of the MATs in the borough.

3. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“The Crossley playing fields in Chadderton Central Ward are an asset used and enjoyed by football teams from across Oldham. Car parking facilities for those using the pitches are provided on Petworth Road and adjacent to the Ancora restaurant off Broadway. Both these car parks are subject to serious anti social behaviour, involving cars spinning their tyres, drug use and sexual activity which are obviously a major concern for residents in neighbouring properties. Ward Councillors have worked with Local residents, OMBC Officers and GMP to try and resolve the issues, a scheme has been put in place to fence off the a section of the Ancora car park and this section of the car park will only be available when matches are being played. The Car park on Petworth Road lies within the Crossley estate and a number of the adjacent properties are adapted for use by people with disabilities and the antisocial behaviour is having a particularly adverse impact on them. It would be of great benefit to the residents of Petworth Road and the adjoining tower blocks If the use was of this Car park was also restricted to match days. Could the relevant cabinet member please consider what steps can be taken to deter those people wishing to use the Petworth Road car park for antisocial behaviour?”

Councillor Williams, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded that the Community Safety Officer for the area had recently been made aware of the issues on the Petworth Road car park and had arranged a site visit for this week with colleagues from the Council's Regeneration Department. Due to the location of the car park, work was ongoing to confirm who owned and/or was responsible for the maintenance of the land. The impact the behaviour would be having on some of the most vulnerable community members was recognised and as soon as the land status was confirmed Community Safety Services would work with partnership colleagues to develop a response which would seek to resolve the

problems currently being faced by the residents who lived adjacent to the car park.



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4. Councillor Heffernan asked the following question:

“Last winter, especially when we were battered by ‘The Beast from the East’ we all praised our hard-working gritting teams which got our network back up and running and demonstrated that they are ahead of our neighbours at this. The bad weather did appear to highlight a few issues. The M62 was closed due to snow, however, it did appear that traffic and lots of lorries had been told to go up the A672 which led to highways officers turning around several vehicles. Later in the evening, there were a considerable number of vehicles stranded around Delph with vehicles trying to pass when it was not safe to do so. There appears to be some issues with the flashing warning signs when some signs indicate a road closed and then others do not do so. More than once I noticed that the snow sign by Tesco on Huddersfield Road was indicating that the A62 was blocked after the road had re-opened. With this in mind, can I ask the Cabinet Member if she will please ensure that a system is put in place so that warning signs reflect the actual status? And can she also look at what communication we have the Highways Agency with regards to the use of diversion routes in the event of a motorway closure? Do we need to look to reduce the risk of people being stranded? Also we had the situation where Lower Turf Lane, Scouthead was seemingly removed from the list of highways to be gritted. It had only recently been reinstated. The gritters come down Huddersfield Road spreading and turn on to Lower Turf Lane. They travel about 300 metres not spreading and then continue onto Cooper Street again spreading grit. That short, steep downhill stretch gets very icy and dangerous. Children going to two schools, Springhead Infants and Knowsley Junior, aged from risings fives to eleven plus, and elderly people use it. For a short distance there is no pavement. Pedestrians are at the mercy of vehicles. Can this short stretch be included again on the gritting runs?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the M62 was controlled by Highways England and where a decision was taken to close a motorway there would inevitably be disruption. However, officers had been working closely with colleagues from Highways England and the police which result in an agreement that an alternative diversion route would be introduced should a similar set of circumstances be repeated. This involved closing the motorway at an earlier junction to allow more favourable diversion routes and reduce the impact on the rural Saddleworth community. Every effort was made to ensure signs reflected the current status, any delays in updating the signs were kept to a minimum even during times when the service was at full stretch. Lower Turf

Lane was not a main gritting route having been removed as part of an overall review of the gritting network many years ago, the road being unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles as was clearly signposted. It was confirmed that the primary gritting route for this area did not involve turning down Lower Turf Lane from Huddersfield Road.

5. Councillor Taylor asked the following question:

“The Ward Councillors and many residents in Chadderton Central ward, were dismayed to learn that First Bus were making changes to the 415 bus service that would mean that the half hourly service would be reduced to an hourly service. Many of our residents depend on the 415 bus route to provide them transport to Oldham College, Oldham Town Centre and recreational facilities such as Foxdenton Park and Oldham Leisure Centre. These changes will have a detrimental impact on many of our residents, including young and older people, wishing to access education, training, leisure and retail facilities. Elected Members were also disappointed at the total lack of consultation with them or the service users prior to this decision being taken. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please raise this issue with TfGM and First Bus and do all in their power to have the half-hourly service reinstated.

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that this issue has already been raised with TfGM and First Manchester, who operated the service. Unfortunately the nature of the bus service industry is such that neither the Council nor TfGM has any control over the route or frequency of services. Due to their budget position, TfGM were unable to intervene to maintain the frequency of the 415 service. Furthermore, there was no duty on the operator to consult service users, their only legal duty was to notify the local transport authority (TfGM) if they wished to make any changes. Recently, the statutory notice period was increased from 56 to 70 days prior to service revision. TfGM had now also contacted First and invited them to comment in response to this question but this had not yet been received. Engagement would continue with TfGM to try and address bus service issues and for the offer for our residents to be improved.

6. Councillor Phythian asked the following question:

“Andy Burnham’s visit to Royton last month to launch Royton’s inclusion in the Mayor’s Town Centre challenge scheme is welcome. Could the relevant cabinet member provide an update on the progress of Town Centre regeneration in Royton and how the Town Centre Challenge will help us to achieve this?”

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

the GM Mayor's visit in September, the Council had submitted the planning application for the works to the Town Hall and Library buildings. Demolition had commenced at Highbarn House which would release a brownfield site for residential development and ease pressures on the green belt. A meeting had taken place with Chris Boardman, GM Cycling and Walking Commissioner who gave an overview of the Beelines Project that planned to create a city-region-wide cycling and walking network, which reflected some of the objectives of the Royton Masterplan. The Town Centre Challenge status would help future-proof Royton to become a multi-functional destination well linked to GM's transport infrastructure by bringing together all the key stakeholders and partners in a concerted effort and represented the Council's commitment to regeneration beyond Oldham Town Centre and develop and stimulate the local economy. The Town Centre Challenge Status represented the commitment of the GM Mayor's Office supported the work of the Council, it also enabled the use of the Mayor's 'soft' powers and branding to bring forward potential investment and delivery partners.

7. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

"We should all be aware, the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo massacre will take place on the 16 August 2019. Given the significant contribution of many Oldhamers to the events of that fateful day, could I ask what plans, if any, the Council has to commemorate this important local event?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise agreed that the Peterloo Massacre marked a turning point in Britain's democracy. It was the fight of ordinary people for civil rights and liberties which were still important issues today. Peterloo was one of the most important political events ever to take place in Manchester. There was a significant contingent of men and women who brought their children into Manchester to peacefully call for political reform and expected speeches, not the bloodiest political clash in British history. There were casualties from Oldham. It was therefore important that the fateful day was commemorated. Gallery Oldham will have a main gallery exhibition devoted to Peterloo from 27th May to 23rd September 2019 and there would be associated talks to accompany the exhibition. Oldham was working closely with Manchester Histories who had been awarded a heritage lottery fund grants and there were proposals to join up with larger initiatives across the region. The Council was working with the People's History Museum who were leading on an education / schools pack which ensured that local information related to Oldhamers was included. Events were in the early stage of planning and Council members would be kept informed as further plans emerged.



8. Councillor H. Gloster asked the following question:

“In Shaw and Crompton there are social housing estates where the responsibility for the maintenance of pathways, roadways and weeds falls between the Council, First Choice Homes Oldham and Housing 21. Unfortunately at times, the service provided to residents falls way short of expected standards, as one or more parties tries to pass the buck for carrying out the work and things are left in a mess. In Shaw, the areas where these issues have arisen are the Britannia Avenue-Oak Street estate, the Smallbrook estate, the Cunliffe Drive-Pemberton Way estate and the Cedar Grove-Hawthorn Crescent estate and, in Crompton, the Assheton Road estate. For example, from time to time Britannia Avenue can be a disgrace. The verges become in dire need of cutting, the kerb edgings are weed strewn and litter is prevalent across the estate. Britannia Avenue is very close to the Shaw and Crompton Metrolink stop and does not present a positive visual image to residents and visitors alike. Residents complaint to elected members, elected members complain to officers and ultimately things happen, but this is not a satisfactory situation and it should not be happening in the first place. Can the Cabinet Member responsible please outline what can, and will, be done to bring the parties together to convince them to adopt a joined-up approach and carry out the maintenance work that is necessary, both now and in the future, so the lives of residents do not continue to be blighted?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that Environmental Services and FCHO worked together to ensure that the maintenance of the estates mentioned follow the same maintenance regime as other parts of the Borough. The clearly defined ownership plans that were available ensured the responsibility for any works to be undertaken could be directed to the right area. A walkabout would be arranged between officers of the Council, FCHO and Members to ensure that there was a clear understanding of the work undertaken by the respective organisations.

9. Councillor Hewitt asked the following question:

“My question is about the proposed link road by Russell Homes in their planning application for housing at Knowls Lane. The Council’s Local Development Framework Policy 17 of the Council’s DPD (Gateways and Corridors) states that the Council will continue to safeguard, or identify land for a number of future transport infrastructure proposals, including the extension of Lees New Road. Paragraph 6.90 goes on to recognise that the extension is necessary to unlock the housing allocation at Knowls Lane and that the provision of the highway link would be part of the

development costs and not at a cost to the public purse. But this link is for the designated housing H2.1.10 to which there is no objection, there is no mention of the OPOL land which is on a par to Daisy Nook in its beauty. Can the Cabinet member for Housing and Planning tell us the weight given to this paragraph and policy 17 in relation to other policies (Policies 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 25) which this development as a whole does not adhere to and which would stop this development.”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that the Knowls Lane planning application was likely to be heard by the Planning Committee on 14th November 2018. If the Cabinet Member were to comment about the weight that should be given to any particular planning policy, that could possibly be seen as pre-determining the application or trying to influence a member of the Planning Committee. This would be left to be determined by the Planning Committee in the normal way. However, the reason the Knowls Lane applicant was seeking to build housing in addition to the allocated site was simply because the cost of building the link road was such that additional house numbers were required to afford its construction. Unfortunately, the original housing allocation nowadays did not have a sufficient density of proposed housing to support the construction of a link road without it resulting in unacceptably high density levels that would conflict with adjacent areas housing density, its character and appearance.

10. Councillor A. Alexander asked the following question:

“Old maps show that this area of OPOL land is covered in streams, springs and pools of water underground, hence we have local names like Springhead and Waterhead. Houses that have been built on Knowls Lane are already prone to flooding, in their basements and it cannot be got rid of. This is a big environmental question and part of many questions as to why this land is required for development, Could the cabinet member for Housing and Planning please tell me who is responsible for the conclusion that houses can be built on a Flood Plain by Knowls Lane, in Lees? How did they reach the conclusion that it is only surface water running into the area?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that the proposed Knowls Lane development was not located on the flood plain as illustrated in the applications flood risk assessment, a document that had been reviewed by the relevant statutory and Council consultees and found to be sound. Whilst the development has yet to be determined by the Planning Committee, it was to be noted that part of the site was already a phase 2 housing allocation. This meant that part of the site had been accepted as a housing allocation for many years

following the local plan public inquiry and the testing such a process involved.



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

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Alexander, Hudson, A. Hussain, Larkin, Moores, Toor, Turner and Ur-Rehman

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 TH SEPTEMBER 2018 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th September 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

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

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

Councillor M. Bashforth declared a personal interest at Item 15b, by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

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

Councillor F. Hussain declared a personal interest at Item 15b, by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Heffernan declared a personal interest at Item 15b, by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest at Item 15a, by virtue of her husband's employment by Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor C. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 15a, by virtue of his employment by Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor H. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 15a, by virtue of her husband's employment by Greater Manchester Police.

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

There were no items of Urgent Business.

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

The Mayor made reference to the resignation of former Councillor Cheryl Brock and to the recent death of former Councillor and Executive Member Eleanor Ritchie.

Councillors Fielding, C. Gloster and Sheldon paid tribute to the work of former Councillor Cheryl Brock.

Councillor Sykes paid tribute to the work of former Councillor Eleanor Ritchie.

Council held a minute's silence.



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

There were no petitions to be noted.

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS
MEETING**

Creating a Healthy and Thriving Oldham

Councillor Chauhan MOVED and Councillor M. Bashforth
SECONDED the following MOTION:

“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 23% 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 has 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.

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Judd spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor S. Bashforth spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Chauhan exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) process as a means of evidence-based policy in order to make improvements in health and wellbeing be created. Any policy, project or programme that did not necessarily have health as its primary objective would be subject to a robust Health Impact Assessment.
2. This process to be used to develop Health Improvement Zones in areas where environmental factors had 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.

9

LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Fielding, delivered his First Annual Statement. The Leader reflected on being out in the communities and visiting staff in the last six months from across the organisation hearing and seeing what they did and listened to their challenges. The Leader highlighted the outstanding Lifelong Learning Service and meeting service users who were learning to speak English which opened up opportunities such as seeking work and assisting their children with schoolwork which underpinned the objective of school readiness and for Oldham to be a prosperous place. The Leader also highlighted the Holts Estate Hub where staff from a number of organisations including the Council worked together to deliver a better service for residents, created community groups where there had been none before, helped residents into

work and supported people in the community rather than when a crisis point was reached.



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The Leader reflected on making the Borough a place it could be, there was a lot to be proud of and a lot to do. The Leader reflected on the Administration's priorities. Colleagues had had conversations on doorsteps on what was important which were basic services which included better and safer roads. There was an investment programme in primary and secondary routes. If a road was in need of investment, the Leader asked that residents report it to their local councillors. The Leader highlighted cleaner streets and the investment in extra staff and changed rotas. The Leader also reflected on communities loving where they lived and keeping communities tidy and the launch of the Big Clean Up.

The Leader reflected on community safety, the appointment of a dedicated Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety, the success of Operation Infinity. Violent behaviour would not be tolerated.

The Leader highlighted regeneration including the review of the Town Centre Master plan which included being sympathetic to heritage and aspiration of people, not exclusively shopping as town centres evolved. Regeneration was not just about Oldham Town Centre and the Leader reflected progress in other areas which included Hollinwood Junction, Broadway Green and an application had been submitted for the demolition of Hartford Mill to complete development in the Freehold area.

The Leader also reflected that regeneration was not just about physical but also social regeneration for healthy and happy communities which included Get Oldham Working and the success of getting residents into work. The Leader highlighted education and the challenge to support schools and academies. Eighty percent of schools were rated good or outstanding. The Leader highlighted the shortage of places, working with providers to build new schools and the investments being made across the borough. The Leader highlighted that the Environment Agency had withdrawn their objections to the new Saddleworth School and hoped to soon provide facilities to those students which they deserved.

The Leader reflected on making devolution work which include the delivery of health and social care integration and highlighted the variations in life expectancy. The Leader also highlighted the Town Centre Challenge and the nomination of Royton Town Centre and the offer to make other nominations for the regeneration of this corner of Greater Manchester.

The Leader made reference to austerity and the declaration that it was coming to an end. The authority would have to be make further cuts to the budget which had already taken out £208m. The Leader highlighted the continued rollout of Universal Credit. The Administration continued to be active, demand better for Oldham, challenged detractors and continued to invest despite

the financial challenges. The Leader announced the authority would apply for accreditation as a Living Wage Employer. The authority already paid the living wage to those directly employed but this would be rolled out to wholly owned companies and further work with suppliers. The authority would set an example as one the largest employers in the borough.

Aspirations were only meaningful if everyone shared in it. Oldham needed to demand better and aim higher. Together with the right aspirations Oldham would be the place it could be.

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

10

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

“This Council notes that from the 1st April 2018 the law changed and Local Authority Children's Services must provide care leavers with support up to the age of 25 (even if they are not in education as used to be the case). This is in recognition that young people still need help and support in these early adulthood years. For most young adults that support comes from their own parents or family members, for many care leavers this support simply isn't there.

Council recognises that over the past few years the Children in Care Council have made health a priority issues and have undertaken work in this area to improve the health experiences of looked after children and care leavers. This includes:

- Creating the passport to independence that provides a comprehensive guide and information resource for care leavers including information and advice around health
- Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and GP practices to raise awareness of the issues facing children and young people accessing primary care.
- Addressing the CCG AGM and the Devolution Difference Conference sharing the perspective of care leavers and their health experiences.

Council notes:

- The health inequality that is facing some of the Borough's care leavers.
- Currently the cost of an NHS prescription £8.80 per item.
- For care leavers aged 19 – 25 who are in receipt of DWP benefits they are able to have free prescriptions as a national exemption criteria.
- Care leavers who are in work or in higher education are not entitled to free prescriptions.
- The Borough has 86 care leavers currently that are having to pay for prescriptions.
- Many of these young people are on low income employment via apprenticeships, or are in higher education. They do not earn a lot of money.

- With the money from their employment they are having to sustain a totally independent way of living, paying the rent, bills, transport cost and food for example.
- Many are managing on a very tight budget, where having to make a decision about paying for the medication needed or paying for food or fuel is a real choice.

Council recognises:

The Government's corporate parenting principles, Principle 1 is 'To act in the best interest and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.'

- Oldham Council takes its role as a corporate parent seriously and that health and improving the health and wellbeing of Oldham citizens is a high priority for Oldham.
- Being ill isn't something that anyone can plan for and the unforeseen cost of prescriptions is a concern and financial worry the Children in Care Council would like to see eradicated for care leavers now and in the future.
- The cost of prescriptions is nothing compared to the health risks faced when the appropriate medication isn't obtainable at the right time.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health asking the care leavers until the age of 25 becomes a national exemption criteria on prescription charges."

Councillor Chadderton spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Williamson spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Byrne spoke in support of the motion.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Health to ask that care leavers until the age of 25 become a national exemption criteria on prescription charges.

NOTE: Councillor Salamat left the meeting during this item.

11

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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

1. Question 1: Giving Certainty to Tommyfield Traders

"My first question tonight concerns people living with great uncertainty; they are nervous about their future; or indeed if they have a future; and a Leader who is promising a plan that will deliver a 'New Jerusalem'... But in this case I am not talking about the people of the United Kingdom, Theresa May and Brexit, but rather the traders of Tommyfield Market, our new Council Leader, and the revised (yet again) Oldham Town Centre

Masterplan. We all know that the Leader tore up the old £350 million masterplan – not good enough said he; it ‘falls short of what is required to give a compelling vision for Oldham’. I am sure the traders at Tommyfield were at that time grateful that he described the market as ‘much loved’ and ‘a significant feature of Oldham town centre... in need of investment’. It must have filled them with hope for the future. But since that time the same traders have been living with more uncertainty, made worse by the fact that the new revised, better-than-the-old-one masterplan is now not scheduled to be unveiled until at least March 2020. Yes not March 2019, but March 2020 – in at least 18 months-time. Most citizens of this Borough will wonder why it will take so long and why urgency is not put into the process. With our recent experience of town centre regeneration projects falling behind schedule or just failing to happen; think Hotel Futures and Princes Gate. Traders are right to ask questions and they deserve some answers. At present traders report that when their leases are up for renewal they are being offered new agreements in which they could be given as little as three months’ notice to quit. Many of these traders have been in the market for decades, with a loyal customer base to match, and one – Levers – has its own blue plaque celebrating Oldham as being the historic home of fish and chips. So how can it be right that they can be out on their ear in only 12 weeks? I ask you is this any way to treat traders who were recently described as ‘much loved’. Giving them so little notice means they have no incentive to invest in their business or premises. Some say that in any case a three month notice period makes their business now practically worthless. It causes difficulties with recruiting and keeping staff and impacts on the wellbeing of the owners and their families let alone their pockets. So I would ask the Leader tonight if he will rethink the Council’s offer to traders. Will he do the right thing and agree to requests that they be at least granted five-year automatically renewable leases as a way to guarantee them some future for their businesses and staff? Will he promise traders that they will be consulted regularly as stakeholders as plans for the new market hall (or not) develop and be offered spaces in or around the new market hall which meet their needs and on terms that are affordable to them?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded that he was unsure as to where the March 2020 date had come from. Tommyfield was a loved and significant feature in Oldham. Any plans required key engagement with stakeholders and the Leader had met with market traders not long ago and discussed the ambitions. It was the best meeting attended for some time and the items discussed had been well received. Traders would be consulted as they had a key stake in the future of Tommyfield Market. With regard to the 12 week notice period, whatever happened would result in traders having

to move out on a temporary basis. The market hall needed work. It had been built in 1993 as a temporary structure. Whatever happened may result in traders moving out on a temporary basis so action had been put into place which enabled that move, if required to take place. A 12 week notice period was sensible. As plans were developed the market traders would have advance notice in excess of 12 weeks of what the future would be.

2. Question 2: Can We Build It? Yes we can.

“For my second question to the Leader tonight I would like to look at another important issue – the shortage of social and rented housing in our Borough. In Oldham, we have a huge housing waiting list. We have a particular shortage of larger houses, as these are the homes most frequently lost to sales under the misguided policy of Right to Buy. We are also desperately short of homes that are built to meet the needs of disabled people or future proofed for an aging population. I know that the Leader will join me in welcoming the announcement by the Prime Minister that, for once, represents good news for this Borough – the lifting of the borrowing cap which has prevented Councils from investing in much needed social and affordable housing. Following pressure from many voices speaking common sense, including those of myself and my fellow group leaders in the cross-party Local Government Association, the cap on the Housing Revenue Account is finally being abolished. In their hey-day, councils were building four in every 10 of the nation’s homes – we will now need to see a Council house building revival to build affordable and social housing if we are to meet the shortfall in new homes that we need in the future. Decent homes improve health and well-being, educational performance and many, many other factors other than just a decent roof over people’s head. We need to get on with it now – with more haste than it took this Administration to recently adopt the idea of establishing an arms-length housing development company that the Liberal Democrat Group first suggested three years ago. The children’s TV character, Bob the Builder, famously said ‘Can we build it? Yes we can!’ I would like to ask the Leader tonight if he is going to adopt Bob’s mantra by ensuring the Council works with our social housing partners and supportive housing developers to quickly rise to this challenge and build the affordable homes that we so desperately need as soon as possible. In short, have we got a plan in place, have we got sites ready to build on and will we see diggers on the ground very soon?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, joined the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming the announcement of the lifting of the borrowing cap in investing in social and affordable housing. The Leader responded that no detailed information had yet been received. The Council

was planning to build homes for social rent as per the motion at a previous meeting. Proposals were progressing at pace. The Leader was in favour of the Council being able to build and provide housing which catered for the needs of the most vulnerable and poorest residents of the borough. The Leader raised issues around substandard housing and the only way to address this was to build homes to realise the ambitions of Oldham being a more prosperous borough.

Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to gully and street cleaning. Over the past few weeks members had received calls regarding unclean streets and leaves so deep which were a hazard. If streets were not cleaned on a regular basis grids and gullies became blocked. Councillor Sheldon asked if all members could share the schedule of street clearing activities so as not to delay highways teams.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded about the investment in street cleaning across the borough and the change of rotas. As a ward councillor there should be the ability to seek the information available and did not have an objection with the information being shared. The Leader encouraged elected members to visit Moorhey Street to view how gully and street cleaning was mapped.

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 Shuttleworth asked the following question:
“At PMQ's on 17 October, Labour MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, Steve McCabe asked the prime minister, who is a diabetic and wears the Free Style Libre Flash Glucose monitoring system on her arm, about its availability on the NHS. The PM replied: 'It is now available on the National Health Service.' For the benefit of those in our Borough who live with diabetes, and who may well benefit greatly from this form of device, would the relevant Cabinet Member confirm just how 'available' this is on the NHS in Oldham.”

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that a national newspaper had completed a survey and noted the device was not available in 50% of the country. An explanation of how the sensor worked was provided. Oldham CCG had followed clinical guidance on the use of the Free Style Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System which was agreed in November 2017. The guidance contained criteria which was published. Some patients in Oldham already used the device on the NHS. Oldham CCG and the Royal Oldham Hospital were currently developing an Oldham-specific patient pathway which would cover the

use of the device for people in Oldham. The pathway was expected to be finalised later in November 2018.



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2. Councillor Leach asked the following question:

“The Leader of the Council has highlighted the increasing evidence of the damage to health caused by air pollution. It particularly affects young children, whose physical and mental development are jeopardised. What will the council do to minimise the number of car trips, to encourage parents not to drive their children to school, but rather to walk with them to school? What implications are there for the council in planning for clean-air zones? In considering new developments which lead to increasing numbers of cars on the road?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that this was a topic the Council was taking very seriously. The Council was currently committed to working on a GM response as a combined response to tackle air pollution from traffic which was essential. The work was being coordinated by TfGM who were currently working with each of the local authorities to develop proposals which offered the best approach to controlling air pollution which included the potential for an effective clean air zone and other measures which supported a reduction in emissions from vehicles. The work should be concluded by the end of the year in accordance with the Government Directive when the outcomes of the work would be shared.

3. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

“I welcome the Council’s support for the Cranmer Trust application for a new school but however I have some concerns about the admissions policy that Cranmer Trust is proposing for the new school. The application for the new school is based on the extra school places pressure from the wards surrounding the town centre. However, I feel the admission policy of Cranmer Trust is trying to accommodate pupils from across the Borough resulting in unfairness to pupils who actually require the extra places. Could the cabinet member please assure the Council that pupils who require the extra places will not be treated unfairly by Cranmer Trust.”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture, responded that the proposed policy put forward by the Cranmer Trust would provide 240 places for year 7 pupils on opening. There would be 60 places reserved for Christian children of any denomination, 60 places for children of other faiths. These places would be available to children from central, east and west Oldham and beyond. 120 additional places would be available for those children who lived within a 1 mile radius (40 places), 2 miles (40 places) and 3 miles (40 places).

There would be six secondary schools operating in east and west Oldham by 2022. For context, Blue Coat and the new school would provide over 25% of places in this area by 2022. This represented a very fair offer to parents of children who lived in central, east and west Oldham, as well as guaranteeing a multi-ethnic mix in the school community.

4. Councillor C. Gloster asked the following question:

“Can I ask the relevant Cabinet Member to update the Council as to the current position regarding the development of a new health centre for Shaw and Crompton? It is now ten years since the development was first proposed, and despite the land and a brand new electricity sub-station being in place for several years, we have yet to see any plans for this much needed and desired development, and patients in Shaw and Crompton continue to be ill-served by the current building which frankly is far from fit for purpose.”

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that the original scheme had been put on hold with the demise of the Local Investment Finance Trust (LIFT) as a development option in 2011. With the introduction of the NHS England Estates & Technology Transformation Fund in 2015, the opportunity to reconsider a scheme in Shaw and Crompton had been made possible and a successful bid for funding to progress the Outline Business Case (OBC) was made in the financial year 2016-17. Since then, work to create an affordable GM Health and Social Care OBC project management brief had been undertaken and was close to completion. It had been agreed at the Oldham Strategic Estates Group that the OBC for both the Shaw and Crompton and Chadderton Hubs would benefit by being completed upon the results of the Local Asset Review, the premises Utilisation Studies and the updated Strategic Estates Plan in response to new models of care and ways of working. Each of these projects would be completed or underway by the end of February 2019 and it was agreed at the Strategic Estates Group meeting last week that the results of the above works could be reflected in the OBC related to both schemes. It was expected that the OBC would be completed by May 2019.

5. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“Winter is coming and the weather is changing. Could the Cabinet Member for Housing update us on the action being taken by the Council to support the Mayor’s pledge that every rough sleeper who needs a bed this winter will have one?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that the Council was supporting the GM

Mayor's Pledge with regard to assisting rough sleepers by taking part in the 'a bed for every night (ABEN) project'. The ABEN project went live on 1st November and would continue through to 31st March 2019 in line with the Mayor's guidance. Oldham Council was setting up a night shelter at Oldham Fire Station which offered rough sleepers a bed for the evening during the timeframe identified above. Service users would also have access to shower facilities and access to hot food and drinks. (The shelter was due to open on 16th November). In the interim, bed and breakfast accommodation was being used. The night shelter would be run by the DePaul Trust Organisation and the provision was for male rough sleepers only. The shelter could accommodate up to 10 people. Females would be accommodated at an alternative provision (Porter Street). Referrals to the night shelter would be coordinated through the existing housing advice / homelessness contract with FCHO and the service could also be accessed out of hours using the Freephone out of hours telephone number (0800 988 7061). Referrals were coordinated this way to ensure service users received the correct advice and/or support and were assisted with sourcing longer term, more sustainable accommodation. If the shelter reached capacity, alternative provision would be sought via bed and breakfast accommodation.

6. Councillor Haque asked the following question:

"The new administration have reaffirmed their ambition to see regeneration of Oldham Town Centre. Could the relevant Cabinet Member describe the vision that underpins the new administration's ambition for Oldham Town Centre?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise emphasised the ambitions for the Town Centre as raised earlier in the Leader's Annual Statement. A town centre which was sustainable and future proof in the long term was sought. A town centre which was not exclusive as a shopping destination but also a leisure and living offer to be sustainable and not just from within Oldham but outside.

7. Councillor Ball asked the following question:

"Could the Cabinet member for Education and Culture inform residents if the much publicised difficulties in funding Children's social services have had a negative impact on the level of support given to young people with Special Educational Needs?"

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the administration had fully supported the revenue costs required to ensure the Council achieved all of the recommendations in the

Ofsted written statement of action which followed the SEND inspection in October 2017. Cabinet had approved a revenue allocation of £500,000 for SEND in December 2017 which resulted in the creation of a strengthened SEND team and created resources to be allocated to key areas requiring support. Recent monitoring from the DfE and NHS England agreed that four of the five areas identified in the written statement were now “RAG” rated green and the fifth was in amber/green with an expectation that from January 2019 this would also revert to green. There had only been a positive impact on children and young people with SEND.

8. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

“A good education is essential and it is also the foundation of a fair society. We should not be satisfied with anything less but, sadly, far too many children are still not reaching their full potential. Unfulfilled talent is criminal.’ These are not my words but the words of the former Council Leader in the Oldham Education and Skills Commission report entitled A Self-Improving Education System in 2016. It also stated by 2020, all performance indicators would be at the national average or above and all education providers would be judged ‘good’ or better by Ofsted. We are now in 2018 and the GCSE results across the borough have declined despite significant investment. Does the Cabinet Member agree that the GCSE results are still not good enough overall in the borough and with a 1 per cent drop in results the direction of travel needs to be a cause for concern?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the hard work and dedication of staff, students and parents should be acknowledged whilst recognising that the changes to the GCSEs were more fundamental than changing the grades from letters to numbers. Coursework and controlled assignments were not allowed this year which placed more pressure on students than ever before to do well in an increasing number of examinations that had to be sat in an intensive period of time. Subject curricula were changed to be more demanding than ever before to allow a smoother transition to follow ‘A’ level courses. In addition, the English education system was designed to fail students no matter how good their performance. The government used a comparability of outcomes measures to ensure standards were maintained, whilst previous administrations used a criterion referenced system that guaranteed a pass if the student did well in the test that was passed. The current system was akin to having a driving test system that once the allocated number of drivers had passed their test, no more drivers were allowed to pass, no matter how good their test results were. The Cabinet Member was proud of the outcomes that the young people of the borough had obtained,

recognised the huge pressure that any change brought but was still aware of the need to support schools and academies on their journey of self-improvement.



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

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

12

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

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 20th August 2018, 17th September 2018 and the urgent key decisions taken between 28th October 2017 and 26th October 2018.

There were no questions or observations raised.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 20th August 2018, 17th September 2018 and the urgent key decisions taken between 28th October 2017 and 26th October 2018 be noted.

13

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Tackling Child Hunger

Councillor Jacques MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This 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 7th 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 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 done 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."

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor H. Gloster 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 Jacques exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that efforts to provide free lunches for those who need them during school holidays be supported which included:

1. Additional sources of funding be investigated and applied for, including using District budgets, where possible and appropriate
2. Different models of tackling holiday hunger including 'Feed and Read' and 'Feeding Britain' be researched and put together in a strategy that best meets Oldham's needs using Council and community resources such as libraries, community and leisure centres and faith buildings.
3. An Oldham Programme to alleviate child holiday hunger be introduced as soon as practically possible.

Motion 2 – Oldham Crown Post Office Closure

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor McLaren SECONDED the following MOTION:

"This Council is extremely concerned by Post Office Ltd plans to close 74 Crown Post Offices across the UK, including Oldham's Crown post office, which will be replaced by a franchised service in WH Smiths.

The Council recognises the essential nature of the services provided by this busy branch, including specialist facilities offered, such as, Home Office Biometric Enrolment and Care Quality Commission ID Checks, and the inconvenience its closure will cause for many residents and businesses; especially older and disabled residents due to its current close proximity to

vital bus services and disabled parking bays. Reports by Consumer Focus (2012) and Citizens Advice (2016) have identified a number of problems with franchising of post office to WH Smiths, including poor accessibility for people with mobility impairments, longer queuing times, and inferior service and advice on products.

Franchising also means the loss of secure, quality jobs, and good terms and conditions in favour of replacing experienced post office staff with new employees in typically minimum wage part-time roles. This is clearly bad for jobs in the local area and the post office workers.

This privatisation will be financed using millions of pounds of public money that could be put to better use by investing in the post office network. The CWU trade union estimates that staff compensation costs of the latest round of closures will cost at least £30 million and affect 800 staff.

No explanation has been given as to why the profit making Crown post offices are being handed to a failing retailer, with an uncertain future, or what will happen to these services if WH Smiths folds.

This Council believes that:

- Oldham's Crown post office is a key asset for the community and the expertise and experience of staff there is invaluable.
- This closure will downgrade vital services and result in the loss of a prime high street facility, which is detrimental to our town centre.
- The relentless franchising and closure programme of the profit making Crown post offices points to a lack of vision rather than a plan for growth and innovation that is needed.
- The Government should halt these closures and bring together stakeholders, including the staff trade union, the CWU, and industry experts to develop a new strategy that safeguards the future of the post office network.

This Council resolves:

1. To ask the Leader of the Council to meet, as a matter of urgency, with the Post Office and WH Smiths to urge a stop to the planned franchise in Oldham.
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to raise the apparent managed decline of the post office network, the adverse impact on the high street, the reduction in service in the franchised premises, and the poor quality jobs that result.
3. To raise awareness of the values of our Crown Post Office and the need for it to remain an asset of and for the people."

Councillor Fielding **MOVED** and Councillor Jabbar **SECONDED** that the **MOTION** be put to a **RECORDED VOTE**. The **MOVE** to a **RECORDED VOTE** was **AGREED**.

Councillor		Councillor	
Ahmad	FOR	Hussain, F.	FOR

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

Councillor Taylor did not exercise her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 47 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 2 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Leader of the Council be asked to meet, as a matter of urgency, with the Post Office and WH Smiths to urge a stop to the planned franchise in Oldham.
2. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to raise the apparent managed decline of the post office network, the adverse impact on the high street, the reduction in service in the franchised premises, and the poor quality jobs that result.
3. Awareness be raised of the values of our Crown Post Office and the need for it to remain an asset of and for the people.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Shah a Mover of the Motion and Councillor Jabbar as Seconder of the Motion requested the

following motion be rolled over for discussion at the Council meeting.



Motion 3 – Air Quality

Councillor Shah **MOVED** and Councillor Jabbar **SECONDED** the following **MOTION**:

“This council notes that air quality remains a significant issue affecting the life quality of the residents of Oldham, with levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) driven up primarily by road transport. Local modelling has identified a number of stretches of road in the borough where NO₂ levels are expected to exceed legal limits beyond 2020, mainly on major roads near our town centres.

Air pollution recognises no boundaries, so a response is needed from individuals, from local governments and from national government. This council notes the important work ongoing across Greater Manchester to campaign for clean air, and welcomes the commitment of the Combined Authority to hit World Health Organisation targets for air quality by 2030 as part of being a WHO BreatheLife City. Greater Manchester councils have also pledged to be 100% fossil fuel free by 2050.

Given the scale of the challenge, this council notes with concern that national government has recently removed grants to encourage the take up of electric vehicles, and acknowledges the criticism of this decision by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee.

This council resolves:

- 1) To work closely with the GMCA to deliver the Clean Air Plan, and to continue to promote the GM Clean Air campaign to encourage residents to think about how they can do their bit to reduce air pollution.
- 2) To ask the Chief Executive to seek immediate clarification from the Secretary of State on how national government will support Oldham’s ambitions to improve air quality, particularly given recent decisions to cut grants for electric vehicles.
- 3) To seek new opportunities to further establish Oldham as the region’s greenest borough and improve the life chances of residents and particularly young people beyond the Clean Air Plan, including:
 - a) Reducing air pollution caused by vehicle use around schools at the start and end of each school day.
 - b) Incentivising the use of electric vehicles through improved access to charging points and other preferential schemes, preparing the borough for a future where 3 million charging points will be needed nationally by 2040.
 - c) Growing trees in key sites in the borough to dampen pollution effects and make more liveable places.”

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over the next Council meeting to be held on 12th December 2018.

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESSMotion 1 – Conductors on Trams

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

“This Council notes that the Rochdale – Oldham Metrolink tram line has the highest number of acts of crime and anti-social behaviour and the highest level of fare evasion across the network. Most worryingly, several of these criminal acts have in recent months been of an extremely violent nature. As a result, passengers have become fearful of travelling on the line and resentful of fare evaders.

Council welcomes the recent crackdown on such activities during Operation Infinity when Metrolink staff, Police officers and the Council’s Youth Engagement Team worked together to apprehend offenders and deter undesirable behaviour. However, the resources devoted to this operation were finite and the operation was time-limited and there is public and elected member concern that, without ongoing enforcement, the progress made on making tram travel safer will be reversed. Council recognises that other tram networks in the UK, such as those in Nottingham and in Wolverhampton – Birmingham, operate with on-board conductors, and that the merits of having these staff include:

- Increased Revenue Collection as conductors are able to check tickets and passes, and collect outstanding fares from passengers on-board the tram
- Improved Passenger Safety as the conductor represents a visible on-board presence to deter criminal and anti-social behaviour and can ensure that passengers are able to board or alight safely
- Better Customer Service as the conductor can respond in person to passenger queries and to requests for assistance, such as aiding passengers with disabilities or push-chairs.

Council notes that these are the same reasons that the RMT trade union cites in seeking the retention of guards on trains in its ongoing dispute with Northern Rail. Given the reasons outlined above, and in light of the estimate that £9 million in revenue is lost across the Metrolink network in fare evasion, Council believes that there is merit in introducing conductors on the Rochdale – Oldham Metrolink tram line as a pilot project, and for an evaluation to be conducted after a trial period of 12 months of its impact, with a view to making conductors permanent should the results prove favourable.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executives of Transport for Greater Manchester and Metrolink outlining its position and requesting the introduction of conductors on the Rochdale – Oldham line as a pilot.”

Councillor Murphy spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Fielding spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Williamson spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the motion be put to the VOTE. The MOVE to the VOTE was AGREED.



Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Chief Executives of Transport for Greater Manchester and Metrolink outlining the Council's position and request the introduction of conductors on the Rochdale – Oldham line as a pilot.

Motion 2 – Tackling Dangerous Potholes

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

“This Council notes that:

- Residents are greatly concerned by the unsatisfactory state of highways and the prevalence of dangerous potholes in our Borough
- Elected members are aware of these are high-level public concerns because of the many complaints they receive from their constituents on these matters.
- Poor road surfaces and footpaths also harm the reputation of Oldham Council and the Borough, and can lessen the appeal of coming into the borough by these routes.
- The guidance issued to all local authorities by the Department of Transport in October 2016 required Councils to ‘investigate’ any potholes or instances of at least 40mm depth, but did not necessarily require them to repair it.
- The thresholds fails to take account of circumstances in which the top surface of a road is less than 40mm in the first instance, which can lead to this surface becoming completely eroded and dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, yet ineligible for repair by a local authority under the Department of Transport guidance.
- The threshold for the repair of public footpaths is much lower at 25mm.
- The Local Government Association has estimated that there is a £9billion national backlog of repairs to potholes and damaged road surfaces.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to:

- Ensure that any pothole or eroded surface, whatever the level of damage, which poses a danger to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists is repaired as quickly as possible.
- Fight for greater resources from Government to tackle the road repair backlog.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Repair any pothole or eroded road surface within the Borough that represents a danger to members of the public, regardless of whether the arbitrary threshold of 40mm is met
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport:
 - Supporting the call of the Local Government Association that a significant portion of the Road Fuel Duty raised by the UK Government be allocated to local authorities to enable them to tackle the estimated £9 billion backlog
 - Requesting the guidance issued to local authorities be revised to place an emphasis upon the prompt repair of any pothole or road surface representing a danger to the public.”

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor A. Alexander SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“Delete first 3 points under ‘this Council notes that’ beginning ‘the threshold fails’.

Extend final bullet point under ‘this Council notes’, after ‘damaged road surfaces’ add ‘however in the recent budget the Conservative Chancellor allocated just £420m of additional money for Councils to tackle this problem.’

Insert additional bullet point under ‘this Council notes’ to read:

- The Oldham Council administration is aware that highway conditions are a concern of our residents and have taken the following action ourselves to address this:
 - A 24 hour repair promise on priority routes.
 - A 3 year, £12 million capital investment programme in secondary routes to improve the quality of our highways which includes, at its’ core, the opportunity for meaningful engagement with elected members which will allow them to influence the programme.

Under ‘Council resolves to’ delete 1st and 4th bullet points.”

Amended motion to read:

“This Council notes that:

- The 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.
- The threshold for the repair of public footpaths is much lower at 25mm.
- The Local Government Association has estimated that there is a £9 billion national backlog of repairs to potholes and damaged road surfaces however in the recent budget the Conservative Chancellor allocated just £420m of additional money for Councils to tackle this problem.

- The Oldham Council administration is aware that highway conditions are a concern of our residents and have taken the following action ourselves to address this:
 - A 24 hour repair promise on priority routes.
 - A 3 year, £12 million capital investment programme in secondary routes to improve the quality of our highways which includes, at its' core, the opportunity for meaningful engagement with elected members which will allow them to influence the programme.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to:

- Ensure that any pothole or eroded surface, whatever the level of damage, which poses a danger to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists is repaired as quickly as possible.
- Fight for greater resources from Government to tackle the road repair backlog.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport supporting the call of the Local Government Association that a significant portion of the Road Fuel Duty raised by the UK Government be allocated to local authorities to enable them to tackle the estimated £9 billion backlog.”

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

Councillor C. Gloster exercised his right of reply.
Councillor Shah did not exercise her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, 44 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 7 votes were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore CARRIED.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Transport supporting the call of the Local Government Association that a significant portion of the Road Fuel Duty raised by the UK Government be allocated to local authorities to enable them to tackle the estimated £9 billion backlog.

Motion 3 – Creating Council Bus Services

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Heffernan SECONDED the following MOTION be withdrawn.

“Council notes that:

- Until the 1968 Road Transport Act created the South East Lancashire and North East Cheshire (SELNEC) Passenger Transport Executive, the Oldham Corporation ran bus services across the municipality.
- Despite hopes that promised legislation would permit local authorities to reform municipal bus companies, the Bus Services Bill before Parliament includes Clause 21 effectively 'prohibit(ing) a local authority from forming a company for the purpose of providing a local bus service.'
- The Bill also guarantees the power to introduce 'franchising' of bus services for areas with Mayoral Combined Authorities (such as Greater Manchester).
- Amendments to the Bill agreed by the House of Lords would extend franchising powers to all Local Transport Authorities.

This Council believes that:

- In denying local authorities the right to decide whether they wish to provide their own bus services, Clause 21 contradicts the general powers of competence granted to Councils under the Localism Act 2011.
- Franchising powers will lead to better, more reliable and more customer responsive bus services, and that this power should be open to all Local Transport Authorities to adopt to ensure that these positive effects can be achieved as widely as possible.

The Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport calling for franchising powers to be extended to all Local Transport Authorities by accepting the House of Lords amendments and excluding Clause 21 from the final legislation.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the three local MPs asking them for their support for this position."

RESOLVED that the Motion be withdrawn.

- 15a To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

Greater Manchester Health and Care Board	13 th July 2018
Police and Crime Panel	2 nd July 2018
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	27 th July 2018
National Park Authority	28 th September 2018
Transport for Greater Manchester	6 th July 2018
	13 th July 2018

There were no questions raised on the Joint Authorities minutes.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Sykes: Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 27th July 2018, GMCA 170/18: Introduction of a Zonal Fares Structure on the Metrolink Network. Councillor Sykes raised the short consultation undertaken on the boundary of Shaw and Crompton under the fare structure and the poor deal from Metrolink. As a result it was cheaper for Shaw and Crompton residents to go to Rochdale than to Oldham. The boundary should have been moved.



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded that he did not disagree with Councillor Sykes. It would have been ideal for every tram stop in Oldham to be in the same zone. Despite lobbying from members, they were not able to get the result wanted.

RESOLVED that:

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

- 15b 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:

Health and Wellbeing Board	26 th June 2018
Oldham Leadership Board	13 th September 2018
MioCare Board	9 th July 2018

There were no questions or observations raised.

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

16 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

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

RESOLVED that the update on Actions from Council be noted.

17 **BREXIT UPDATE**

Council gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the European Referendum following the publication of the latest GMCA Brexit Monitor report.

The report referenced the latest analysis from the GMCA Brexit Monitor and reviewing the timeline as the Brexit negotiations

moved in to the final six months. It was reported that the Gross Domestic Product had grown 0.7% (although this was below the pre-Brexit predicted 2.1%). It was noted that the Prime Minister continued to iterate that trade models such as the European Economic Area or the Canadian Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement were not an option for any deal and called instead for a creative solution that was unique to the UK. However, the issue of the Irish border had become a key focal point, which if not resolved, was likely to lead to a 'no-deal' exit.

The EU accounted for 58 percent of goods exported from Greater Manchester firms in 2015, which represented a greater reliance on the EU as an export market than the average for England as a whole (42 percent). Analysis cross-referencing national data with local intelligence suggested that in general, low-skilled jobs were likely to be most vulnerable to potential changes in migration as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

The GM Industrial Strategy and devolution would be key to unlocking the lack of productivity and increasing wages benefits. The Council would need to ensure that businesses were able to continue to access the workforce needed and residents able to find jobs which were well paid and secure. In Greater Manchester this meant better integration of post-16 skills through approaches to planning, accountability and delivery which were jointly developed between Greater Manchester and the Government.

Councillor Fielding spoke on the report.
Councillor Sykes spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the update on the European Union Referendum be noted.

18

DISTRICT PLANS

Consideration was given to a report which set out the District Plans for the Municipal Year 2018/19. The actions plans were based on thorough consultation, analysis of data and deliberation by elected members in each district. The intention was for priorities to be set on a rolling two year basis, but for action plans to provide detail as to how the priorities would be delivered for one year.

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

19

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - PROCEDURAL AND LAND AND PROPERTY PROTOCOLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval to Constitutional Amendments.

Public question time for Committees and District Executives was not consistent. It was proposed to have standard timings for public questions time and deadline for submission of questions

(amendments to Part 3, p. 32, Public Question Time to read 'Public questions can be submitted to Constitutional Services by noon up to two working days before the day of the meeting' and to Part 8, Appendix 1 – Public Access to Information).

It was also proposed that as motions were now delivered by email, that a physical signature was no longer required and the sending of the email by the relevant mover and seconder was proof of intention (Amendment to Part 4 – Council Procedure Rules, 8 Notice of Motion remove '... signed by at least one Member.').

An amendment was proposed to the Land and Property Protocol. There had been a number of legal challenges related to the sale of land by public authorities which had resulted in seminal case law. The amendment proposed sought to clarify the position for officers so that the sales of Council property, which were exempt from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, remained disposal of land and did not stray into the field of procurement law.

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 – Approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Option 2 – Do not approve the proposed amendments. This would not provide consistency in the procedural rules and the Land and Property Protocols would not be in line with seminal case law.

RESOLVED that:

1. The time limit of public question time for all Committees and District Executives be 30 minutes be approved.
2. Each public question asked be no longer than 2 minutes be approved.
3. Submission of motions without a signature be approved.
4. Submission of public questions by noon two working days before the day of the meeting be approved.
5. The proposed amendments to the Land and Property Protocol in Part of the Council's Constitution (Codes and Protocols) be approved.

20

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR 2019/20

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2019/2020 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.32 pm

