



Council

DECLARATION OF A HOUSING EMERGENCY

Meeting information

Date and time of meeting: Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Hollingworth (Room 108ABC), First Floor, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU

Agenda items

1. **Mayor's Communications**

2. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary, personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests relating to items on this agenda and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)**

To authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2023.

5. **Public Questions and Petitions**

To receive petitions and questions from members of the public, where these have been received in accordance with the Petitions Scheme and/or Council Procedure Rules.

6. **Notices of Motion**

To consider Motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

Motion 1 - Active Travel Support for Cyclists.

This motion will be moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Anstee.

This council recognises the benefits of active travel and acknowledges the Greater Manchester target of 50 percent of local journeys to be undertaken via active travel by 2040.

This council is also committed to road safety for all road users and will take reasonable steps to encourage active travel whilst supporting and protecting those who do so.

Cyclists are a particularly vulnerable group of road users and the risks they face are compounded for some by a lack of cycling proficiency, knowledge of the Highway Code and road craft skills in general. If Greater Manchester is to meet the active travel target a significant uptake in cycling will be required and that will increase the requirement for localised training to be delivered.

However, there is a lack of local training and that is much to the disadvantage of our residents and requires redress. Cycling courses for adults and residents are offered in Oldham, Bury and Manchester but not here in our own borough. It is important for our own residents to be catered for both on an individual level and for community well-being too.

Therefore, this council will take steps to ensure those who take up cycling will have the opportunity to improve their essential skills locally. This council will take a proactive approach to cyclist safety by reviewing localised training provision and ensuring sufficient is offered to meet local demand.

Motion 2 - Housing Emergency Motion

To be moved by Councillor Daniel Meredith and seconded by Councillor Dylan Williams.

This Council is declaring a Housing Emergency within Rochdale Borough. There are currently almost 10,000 rehousing applications which can result in a wait of up to 5 years. This is effecting our community from young families seeking homes to elderly residents waiting for bungalow. The supply of social housing has halved in the last 5 years.

The Council is considering a range of actions to address this issue:

1. Short Term – seek to eliminate the use of bed and breakfast accommodation through procuring additional family accommodation through a number of routes. To lobby DLUHC for additional national funding and through the devolution discussions with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority
2. Medium term – Over the next 3-5 years, through the Strategic Housing Partnership the Council will work with RP partners to speed-up the development of vacant land to provide accessible and affordable homes. We will work with the Planning service and private developers to ensure the maximum delivery of affordable homes within our Borough. Working with Homes England and GMCA, the Council will explore the possibility of building our own homes initially working with a social housing partner.
3. Longer Term – Rochdale Borough Council will explore the possibility of the council owning and managing its own portfolio of housing stock.

The Chief Executive will write to the Housing Minister to request that Housing is given far greater priority at all levels of government to tackle the Council's statutory responsibility.

Motion 3 – Fair Tax

To be moved by Councillor O' Rourke and seconded by Councillor Emsley

This Council notes that:

1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 18 October 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Mayor Holly (Chair); Councillors A. Ahmed, I. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Anstee, Arshad, Atewologun, Ayrton, Bamford, Beswick, J. Blundell, Brown, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, N. Emmott, S. Emmott, Emsley, Faisal, Gallagher, Gartside, Hodgkinson, Hussain, Jackson, Kelly, Malcolm, P. Massey, R. Massey, Meredith, Mir, Mohammed, Nisa, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Place, Aasim Rashid, Aiza Rashid, Rush, Sheerin, A. Smith, S. Smith, T. Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, D. Williams, P. Williams and Winkler

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Allonby, Councillor Besford, Councillor E. Blundell, Councillor Burke, Councillor Paolucci, Councillor Rana, Councillor Robinson, Councillor Rowbotham, Councillor West and Councillor Zaheer

20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

21 **MINUTES Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

22 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 1 - Active Travel Support for Cyclists

It was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Anstee that this council recognises the benefits of active travel and acknowledges the Greater Manchester target of 50 percent of local journeys to be undertaken via active travel by 2040.

This council is also committed to road safety for all road users and will take reasonable steps to encourage active travel whilst supporting and protecting those who do so.

Cyclists are a particularly vulnerable group of road users and the risks they face are compounded for some by a lack of cycling proficiency, knowledge of the Highway Code and road craft skills in general. If Greater Manchester is to meet the active travel target a significant uptake in cycling will be required and that will increase the requirement for localised training to be delivered.

However, there is a lack of local training and that is much to the disadvantage of our residents and requires redress. Cycling courses for adults and residents are offered in Oldham, Bury and Manchester but not here in our own borough. It is important for our own residents to be catered for both on an individual level and for community well-being too.

Therefore, this council will take steps to ensure those who take up cycling will have the opportunity to improve their essential skills locally. This council will take a proactive approach to cyclist safety by reviewing localised training provision and ensuring sufficient is offered to meet local demand.

On being put the vote, the motion as moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Anstee was carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

Motion 2 - Housing Emergency Motion

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Meredith and seconded by Councillor Dylan Williams that

This Council is declaring a Housing Emergency within Rochdale Borough. There are currently almost 10,000 rehousing applications which can result in a wait of up to 5 years.

This is effecting our community from young families seeking homes to elderly residents waiting for bungalow. The supply of social housing has halved in the last 5 years.

The Council is considering a range of actions to address this issue:

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2. Medium term – Over the next 3-5 years, through the Strategic Housing Partnership the Council will work with RP partners to speed-up the development of vacant land to provide accessible and affordable homes. We will work with the Planning service and private developers to ensure the maximum delivery of affordable homes within our Borough. Working with Homes England and GMCA, the Council will explore the possibility of building our own homes initially working with a social housing partner.
3. Longer Term – Rochdale Borough Council will explore the possibility of the council owning and managing its own portfolio of housing stock. The Chief Executive will write to the Housing Minister to request that Housing is given far greater priority at all levels of government to tackle the Council's statutory responsibility.

On being put the vote, the motion as moved by Councillor Meredith and seconded by Councillor Dylan Williams was carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

Motion 3 – Fair Tax

It was moved by Councillor O' Rourke and seconded by Councillor Emsley that

This Council notes that: