

Oldham at a Glance

Location:

With its close proximity to the M60 and M62 motorways, Oldham provides easy and efficient access to national markets.

Trains from Oldham connect to Manchester Victoria and onwards to the national networks.

The recent opening of the Metrolink at Oldham Mumps creates great connectivity. By 2014, the Metrolink tram network will be extended to Oldham town centre, incorporating the town into the UK's largest tram network.

Manchester Airport which has direct flights to over 200 destinations is only a 20 minute drive from Oldham.

Population:

The borough of Oldham has a population of 224,900. The total population within a 30 minute drive time from Oldham town centre is 2.7 million.

The age profile population within this 30 minute catchment area is younger than the UK average, providing a long-term sustainable pool of labour.

Over a third (37.7%) of the borough's population sits within the top three Acorn classifications. Of Oldham's working population 47.9% are AB or C1 classifications.

Education and skills

Oldham has an improving pattern of educational attainment. Over 43% of the population have a degree, diploma, A/AS level or apprenticeship.

The Oldham catchment area has a student population of 106,995, of which 9,000 live in the borough.



Oldham's Regional Context

University Campus Oldham is at the heart of the town centre, providing a locally based student population. Part of the University of Huddersfield, it offers a range of degrees and an MBA.

Developments in educational facilities include the investment of £137 million in three new build academies and existing school buildings through the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF).

The Regional Science Centre Oldham - the first facility of its type in the country - provides state of the art scientific education responding to business' demand for a highly skilled workforce.

The Green Technology Centre at Oldham College, developed in conjunction with leading green technology companies, offers students the latest skills needed in this growing area of the UK economy.

Business and employment

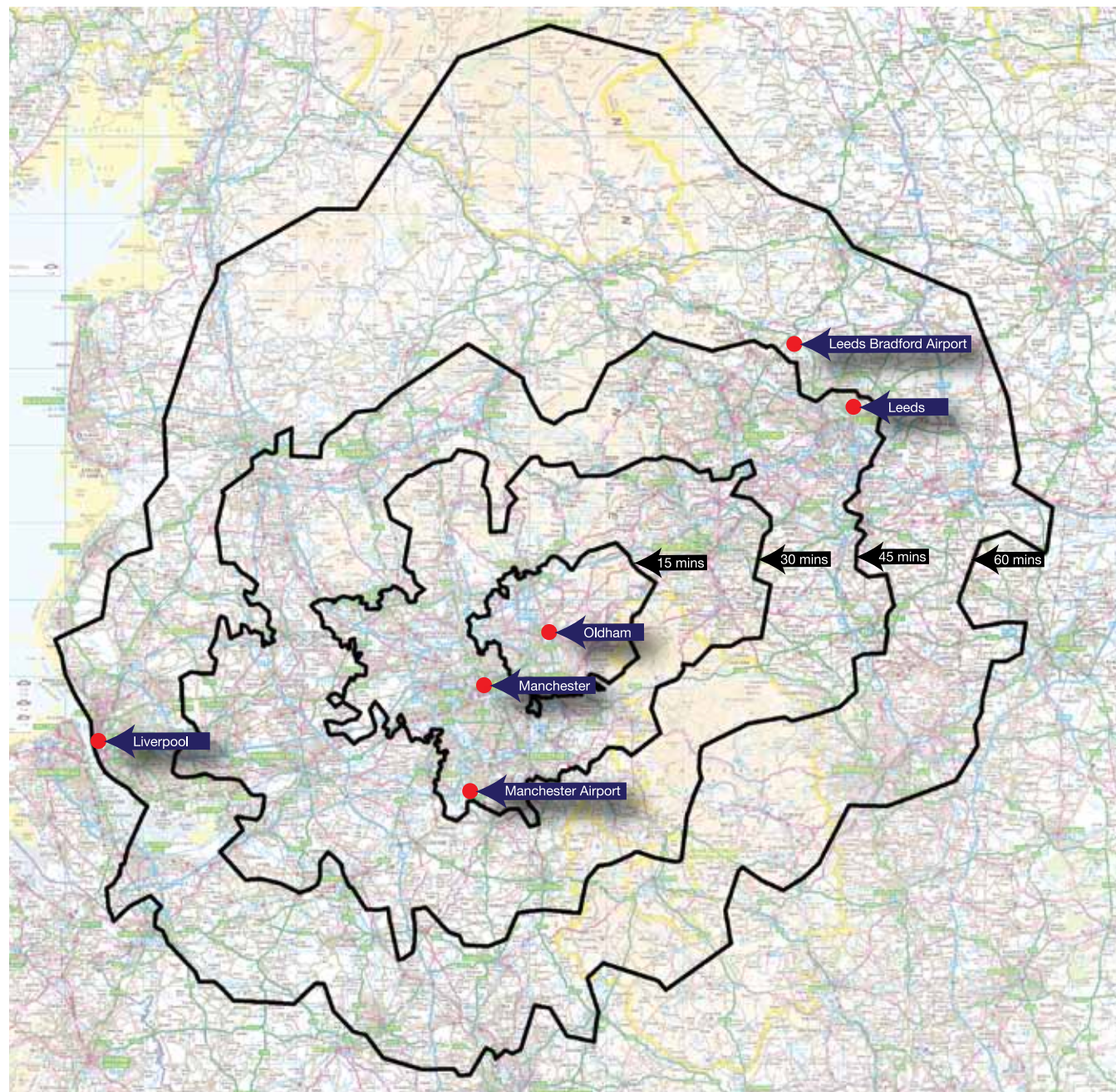
There are over 6,000 businesses in the borough of Oldham and 101,555 registered businesses in the Oldham 30 minute drive time catchment.

Oldham has a strong business base which spans a range of key sectors including health, advanced manufacturing, construction, retail, and financial and professional services. This includes a number of national and international brands: The Mirror Group, Diodes Incorporated, Ferranti Technologies, DCT Civil Engineering and Innovative Technologies.

The annual household income for the borough is £32,185. The available spend within the principal retail catchment area for Oldham town centre is estimated at £2.36 billion.

The average wage rate in Oldham is 16% lower than the UK average, representing a significant cost saving for businesses considering locating in the borough.

Catchment area showing travel times



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Investment Activity: Housing

Oldham has enjoyed an investment in housing of over £430 million in recent years. Working with a range of private sector partners to make quality housing provision a reality, Oldham Council is helping deliver plans for 5,500 new homes across the borough.

New quality housing

We are facilitating new, high quality private housing across the borough alongside the delivery of our affordable housing commitments. Over the next five years, we will use our considerable land assets and planning policies to stimulate significant growth in residential completions.

We are seeking a range of private house builders, developers and housing associations to help us deliver our vision of a vibrant and diverse housing market that meets the aspirations of current and future residents. Our focus is very much on private housing as existing initiatives are ensuring adequate provision for affordable housing for the foreseeable future.

Current Schemes

A number of house builders are working with the council to develop a range of quality private sector homes, including the following:

- Keepmoat Homes are developing over 200 new homes on two sites in Derker and Werneth. Good sales rates underpinning their expanding activity in the borough.
- Countryside Properties are delivering over 200 new homes in Hathershaw and Werneth where the development is within walking distance of a new Metrolink Stop.
- Local developer Wiggett Homes are very active in Oldham and are currently on site in Grasscroft and Lees.



Keepmoat Homes are developing over 200 new homes

- Taylor Woodrow Developments completed a development of 61 homes at Hunt Lane, Chadderton early in 2012
- Three60 Property have started on site in Delph; the development comprises 46 mews houses, semi detached and detached houses for sale in this popular Pennine village.
- Redrow Homes have recently completed 124 new homes at Spinners Mews, Chadderton.

Gateways to Oldham

This £113 million Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project is providing over 700 new and refurbished homes on five sites. New homes are being developed by Wates Living Space, Regenter and Great Places. Over 80 of the new homes are for sale.

Market Support

Oldham Council works proactively with house builders to understand the market and to assist with Government initiatives such as “Get Britain Building” and “FirstBuy”. We also work positively with smaller, local house builders, who may not be able to access Government initiatives, to develop viable schemes.

Through our work with private sector partners, we have a good view of the housing market across the borough and an understanding of key drivers in particular locations.

Oldham is a diverse area; nearly a quarter of the borough is in the Peak National Park whilst other neighbourhoods were subject to successful Housing Market Renewal intervention.

We are able to offer advice and assistance in understanding these market nuances and demographic and economic drivers.



New housing on St Mary's

Land Disposal Programme

The council has significant land assets which will be disposed of to deliver our ambitious housing aspirations. Large former school sites in established residential neighbourhoods with high quality connections to the transport network form the core of this disposal programme. More modest sites are available for smaller developers and builders and also for self build/ community build.

We are producing clear and concise development and planning briefs for all of the sites to underpin the disposal programme.

Articulating the expected quality of future developments, the briefs will also set out how we will ensure that this quality is delivered whilst optimising the commercial viability of schemes and delivering a commercial return for the Authority.

Investment Activity: Education

The Academies and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme will deliver a £126m Capital investment plus £11m ICT investment in school buildings and facilities. Oldham Council, strongly supported by stakeholders, has developed an ambitious vision for the transformation of learning through this programme. Each of the schools will also become drivers for community integration and regeneration.

Specific project objectives include:

- Delivering educational transformation
- Enhancing integration of students from different ethnic and social backgrounds
- Schools becoming drivers for social inclusion and regeneration
- Providing state-of-the-art community and sports facilities

The Blessed John Henry Newman RC College – Broadway, Chadderton

Opening in September 2012, this new BSF secondary school represents an investment in the borough of £34m capital and further £2.6m investment in ICT. This state-of-the-art building will have fantastic facilities that include a climbing wall, ecology zone, outdoor amphitheatre alongside bespoke learning zones, terraces and break-out spaces.

North Chadderton School – Chadderton Hall Road, Chadderton

This BSF development is a mix of refurbishment and new build with a total capital outlay of £24m plus an additional £2.3m ICT investment. The construction programme consists of six phases with the final phase completing in April 2013. The completed project will enable all the pupils to be based on one site.



The Blessed John Henry Newman RC College



North Chadderton School

The Oasis Academy Oldham – Hollins Road, Hollinwood

This Academy sponsored by Oasis Community Learning, was completed in June 2012 and will open to pupils in September 2012. The £27.7m total investment will deliver outstanding new facilities for the Hollinwood area. Including a 3G All Weather Pitch, grass football pitch, cricket practice wickets, a six lane running track and the retention of the popular skatepark.

Waterhead Academy – Huddersfield Road, Waterhead

Oldham College sponsor this Academy on Huddersfield Road which will open to pupils in November 2012. There is a total investment of £28.5m that will deliver an innovative design over five floors. Two large courtyards situated on the first floor will provide light and an external environment at that level. Outside there will be a 3G All Weather Pitch, a BMX pump track and a traversing wall.

The Oldham Academy North – Broadway, Royton

Sponsored by E-ACT this Academy sees a £16.8m capital investment along with an additional £1.7m ICT outlay. Opening to pupils in April 2013, the Academy is being constructed through a mix of new build and refurbishment. The new building containing a large central space with seating for 350 where assemblies, drama productions, presentations and interactive teaching sessions can take place.

The Council has made a substantial commitment to the programme, reflecting its view that it is central to Oldham's regeneration, with particular emphasis on:

- Education and the Knowledge Economy – building links and pathways into local and sub-regional initiatives around economic restructuring, enterprise and employment training, such as The Regional Science Centre Oldham, The Green Technology Centre, University Technical College.
- Sustainable Communities – extending and transforming the role of schools within local communities, providing local access to leisure, sport development, learning and health facilities, making schools community hubs of learning.



The Oasis Academy Oldham



Waterhead Academy



The Oldham Academy North

Investment Activity: Science & Innovation

The Regional Science Centre Oldham (RSCO)

Working in Partnership with schools,

further education providers and universities, RSCO is working to develop science skills by creating and maintaining interest in science education from an early age.

As the new location for Oldham Sixth Form College's Science facilities, RSCO features laboratories with cutting edge equipment to inspire a new generation of scientists who previously may have not had the option to continue into post-16 education.

The centre comprises of:

- 21 high specification laboratories
- An experiment and exhibition space
- All areas of the Centre are WiFi enabled to allow flexible use of ILT to support the Science teaching and learning activities and events.

The majority of the teaching and learning space is used by students attending Oldham Sixth Form College, but the project builds on the College's successful implementation of the 'Junior University' project, supporting pupils in schools across the Borough and enabling better achievement at 16 and hence better progression to post-16 study.

The centre also creates links with higher education providers, such as the University of Huddersfield.

Similarly, there are exciting opportunities available to high tech and innovative businesses to either use the facilities to host events themselves or develop training and sponsorship packages for students or their own trainees. The centre allows the college and schools to work collaboratively to promote closer links between education and industry. The Regional Science Centre promotes the development of a future workforce with scientific knowledge and technological skills.



Regional Science Centre Oldham

The Plugged in Places Programme

Oldham has become the driving force behind a £3.6 million Plugged in Places (PIP) Project granted by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Greater Manchester.

The Plugged in Places Programme is a nationally funded government initiative led by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles.

The PIP programme seeks to implement the UK's first electric vehicle charging infrastructure with a view to:

- Supporting the early market for electric vehicles (EV's)
- Contributing to carbon reduction targets
- Creating a connected network or infrastructure enabling everyday use of EVs
- Testing different approaches and models for charging EVs.

Broadband

To ensure the Oldham Town Centre is networked the borough will be part of a next generation, ultrafast, open access dark fibre network which will support virtually any form of digital connection.

This cyber infrastructure is currently available in very few locations in the UK and will make Oldham a perfect location for new digital-minded businesses creating and trading digital services both locally and globally.



Proposed electric car showroom at Hollinwood



Dark fibre broadband is being installed

Investment Activity: Health

NHS Oldham and the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have provided significant investment in healthcare across the borough. Bringing new services, doctors and dentists; moving service delivery closer to people's homes; and leading real innovation, such as the local dental nurse cadet scheme which has created employment opportunities, developed skills and improved access to dental care.

Working with Community 1st Oldham, the Local Improvement Finance Trust company (LIFT Co), NHS Oldham has delivered several new health developments through the £80m LIFT project. Giving the people of Oldham truly modern services, fit for the 21st century, and where possible, working with partners to offer complementary services from the sites.

Recent LIFT projects include:

Oldham Integrated Care Centre - The £28m Oldham Integrated Care Centre opened in November 2009 bringing a wide range of health and wellbeing services together in the heart of Oldham town centre.

These include traditional hospital services such as a digital breast screening service and Pennine musculoskeletal service offering care for people with muscle and bone conditions. It is home to six GP practices, community services such as dental and emergency dental services. The facility gives people access to healthy living services, some diagnostic tests, a walk-in service and out-of-hours medical advice.

Royton Health and Wellbeing Centre - The £11m centre opened its doors in October 2010. The three-storey centre, which is behind the town hall and library, alongside Royton pool, replaced the cramped and poorly laid out Royton Health Centre building. It is home to two GP practices.

There is also a pharmacy, a dental practice and services to help people stay healthy, community services and clinics.

Werneth Primary Care Centre - The £11m Werneth Primary Care Centre opened its doors in December 2011, providing services to around 20,000 patients. It houses GP practices from the Werneth area as well as a range of community services and a pharmacy on the same site.



Oldham Integrated Care Centre

Fitton Hill and Hollinwood developments - Hathershaw and Fitton Hill Health and Wellbeing Centre opened in July 2009 and Hollinwood Medical Centre opened in February 2010. These were both temporary developments. Work is due to start on phase two of the Fitton Hill Neighbourhood Centre. The centre, which will be known as a 'Health and Wellbeing Centre', is being developed by Community 1st Oldham on behalf of Hope Citadel, the GP practice who will provide the service on behalf of the NHS.

The new building will fully integrate with the existing Fitton Hill Neighbourhood Centre, which opened at the end of February, and will provide GP services in a brand new, purpose-built facility. It is planned to be open in early 2013. Work is ongoing to find a permanent location for Hollinwood Medical Centre.

Saddleworth and Delph – redevelopment of health facilities Work took place in 2011 to create three extra clinical rooms at Uppermill Health Centre, which has meant more people can be seen in extra clinics in the local area.

There are plans to demolish the old three-room Delph Clinic and provide better, modern, five-room facilities on the same site. It is hoped that a new facility for Delph could be open during 2013.

Investment at the Royal Oldham Hospital - The Royal Oldham Hospital has benefitted from investment of over £62 million since 2009. The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust improving a range of services as part of two major regional NHS improvement programmes ('Making It Better' and 'Healthy Futures'):

- New specialist services for trauma and orthopaedic patients in 2009
- A £9m state-of-the-art vascular and surgical ward, opened in 2010.
- A £6m purpose-built Clinical Haematology Unit (one of the largest in the region) to treat patients with leukemia, lymphomas and other blood disorders, opened in 2010.
- A £3.75m expansion of the existing A&E department to provide a new service especially for children.
- A £44m women's and children's supercentre housing maternity, neonatal and children's services (completion in 2012). Due to become one of the three regional neonatal intensive care units in Greater Manchester, treating around 8,000 patients a year, and bringing 150 new jobs to the borough.



Glodwick Primary Care Centre

Working in partnership with The Christie cancer centre, the Royal Oldham Hospital is also home to a state of the art £17 million radiotherapy centre. Opened in 2010, it is the first radiotherapy facility of its kind in the UK, and an important joint venture shows what can be achieved by the NHS in focusing on putting patient's needs first.

Investment Activity: Leisure

Oldham has a great leisure offer with seven Green Flag parks, historic canal corridors, an extensive rights of way network with two national trails, an award winning theatre company, art galleries and more. Recent investment in new youth and sporting facilities is set to be followed by further improvement in sporting and cultural provision, with plans for two new sports facilities, a new cinema, theatre and heritage centre.

Great Green Spaces

From parks to play spaces, canals to country parks Oldham's green spaces have seen a steady flow of investment.

Our two canal corridors have benefited from over £50 million to re-open them to navigation, preserve their heritage and encourage use.

New and improved play spaces have been created across the borough, and historic parks such as Alexandra Park and Dunwood Park returned to their former glory through a combined investment of over £5 million.

Madhlo – A World Class Youth Zone

A £5 million youth zone in Oldham town centre, Madhlo is one of just four world class places for young people established in the North West by the charity OnSide.

Madhlo provides a custom built environment in which local youngsters enjoy high quality sports, arts and general recreational facilities, including a four court indoor sports hall, a climbing wall, dance and arts studios, a cinema space, and external five a side football pitch.

Oldham Coliseum – Sustaining success

Home to the award winning Oldham Coliseum Theatre, the council is supporting the company's ongoing success with a £1.4 million refurbishment of the current theatre building (completion in autumn 2012), alongside the development of plans for a new theatre and heritage centre in the historic Old Library and adjoining car park site.



Alexandra Park promenade



Madhlo Youth Zone

Old Town Hall Cinema – a new Leisure Destination

A significant landmark in Oldham town centre, the council is aiming to restore the Old Town Hall as a civic 'jewel' through its redevelopment as a new multiplex cinema incorporating cafés/restaurants and retail outlets.

Proposals include the use of a light box extension to create a new entrance and foyers to the listed building overlooking a new pedestrian square.

New and improved sports facilities

Working in partnership with Community 1st Oldham (the Oldham LIFT company) Oldham Council has created a state of the art Wellbeing Centre in Chadderton. Housing a range of local organisations under one roof, facilities at the centre include a 25 metre swimming pool, library, gym and aerobics studio and café.

In the East of the borough Saddleworth Pool and Sports Centre has benefitted from a £1.5 million makeover. The centre now boasts a new fitness gym and dance studio, plus revamped pool and changing rooms.

The Council is procuring a new contract to operate the Borough's public leisure facilities from 2013. Our plans are to deliver modern, high-quality and efficient leisure facilities, including the creation of two new leisure centres in Oldham and Royton Town Centres.

Once the operating partner has been selected, the Council will undertake a separate procurement for the design and build of the planned two new leisure facilities.



Huddersfield Narrow Canal



Chadderton Wellbeing Centre