Oldham a Co-operative council

Co-operative Annual Report 2013
From co-operative intent to co-operative delivery
A message from
Councillor Jim McMahon, Leader of Oldham Council

Since launching our Co-operative Oldham ambition in May 2011, we’ve become the leading pioneer of delivering change ‘co-operative style’ locally, regionally and nationally. Oldham has become a by-word for innovation and that is something of which I could not be more proud. But the most important difference is the one being made right here in Oldham, through people taking on the challenge of ‘everybody does their bit and everybody benefits’ – as individuals, communities and service providers right across the Borough.

As the Chair of the national Co-operative Councils’ Network, which we currently host, Oldham is playing the lead role in developing this thriving movement, which already has membership from Edinburgh to Plymouth – and the numbers are growing. The Network brings together like-minded local authorities who believe that the co-operative principles of empowerment, equal partnership, and collective action offer a positive route, not simply to survive through tough times, but to enable local communities to thrive, supported by relevant, meaningful, and empowering local public services.

Regionally, our co-operative campaigns have been replicated across Greater Manchester and the UK. The Greater Manchester energy switching campaign saw over 40,000 households sign-up, saving residents an average of £125 on their energy bills. The Fair Fares campaign, which initially secured a reduction of nearly a third on the cost of daily and weekly bus tickets in Oldham, has ultimately seen First Bus reduce their fares across Greater Manchester.

Locally, we continue to work with our residents and communities to tackle the challenges we face and to find co-operative solutions together. Local Councillors are key to unlocking the power and potential of communities, representing them and working jointly to address the issues they face. We are serious about giving residents the chance to shape local decisions, evidenced through our ambitious programme of devolution to districts, our community call-in pilot, and the work we have done to open-up democracy in Oldham.

What is clear is that Oldham has made the journey from co-operative intent to co-operative delivery – the change is tangible. But we’re not done yet. We will continue to develop and implement our co-operative approach, ensuring it guides us in everything that we do.

Jim McMahon
In May 2011, Oldham Council started its journey to become a co-operative council. The Co-operative Commission was established to oversee and help shape this transformation. With representatives from across all sectors: voluntary, public and private; the Commission brings partners together to focus on issues and projects that make a real and tangible difference. The Commission also has an important part to play in holding the Council to account for the decisions and actions we take to ensure that we are doing our bit for Oldham.

For Oldham, being co-operative is about much more than simply delivering services as mutuals or co-operatives. It is about working in line with co-operative values and principles, and putting residents at the heart of decision-making and the design and delivery of the services they and their communities need. Now, two years on, our approach is making a real difference to people in the borough. The Commission is looking at the real issues that affect residents and how, working together, we can make a positive difference. Some examples of action on the ground are our Youth Council training up young people to help develop financial savvy working together to see how we can support our Armed Forces; and starting work on community growing schemes.

This year the Commission has a clear focus on projects such as the Armed Forces Community Covenant and is also involved in establishing the Co-operative Oldham Fund: a sustainable pot which helps communities help themselves. Some projects already supported by the Fund are work clubs for local job seekers; armchair exercises for elderly residents; and providing an internet hub in a community cabin.

And there is still lots to do. Over the coming months we will work tirelessly to further embed our co-operative ambition including: looking at how members of the Commission can help make the biggest co-operative difference and planning the next Love Where you Live campaign.

Through working together we will embed the co-operative ethos into all we do with partners, as partners, and most importantly with our communities – our most valuable asset.
The Co-operative Annual Report

The Co-operative Annual Report charts our progress to date, from articulating our intention to become a co-operative council and borough in 2011, to co-operative delivery in 2012 and 2013.

The challenge now is to continue to embed and lead the co-operative agenda, whilst evidencing the difference that our approach is making.

The report is set out in three sections:

• What we are doing differently as a business
• What we are doing differently with partners
• What we are doing differently with communities

Each section also includes a selection of case studies and outlines what we are aiming to deliver over the coming months.
Co-operative Innovation – The Oldham Model

Oldham is committed to developing a co-operative future: one where citizens, partners, councillors and staff work together to improve the borough and create a confident and ambitious place. We want all members of the community to be able to play an active part in building our co-operative borough. Put simply, this is about everybody doing their bit and everybody benefitting.

The public sector faces unprecedented financial challenges with budgets being reduced at an alarming rate. In Oldham, this means that we will see the council’s net budget reduced by 50% over a period of just five years.

As we face a perfect storm of shrinking budgets and increasing demand for services, there is a risk that a gap will be created between the services that residents expect to receive, and the services that we are able to deliver. This means that both public services and residents will have to change the way they operate.

In Oldham, working co-operatively can mean many different things. It’s not just about delivering services through co-operatives or mutuals. A co-operative approach is about working in a way which helps to empower residents to take greater control of their own lives and which gets the maximum benefit from the resources that are available to the community and public sector. Although this could mean working with a co-operative or mutual to deliver council services, as we do with our local leisure services with Oldham Community Leisure, it also encompasses a much broader range of approaches that reflect the values and ethos of co-operatives working. This means working in ways which are ethical, fair and deliver good social value as well as value for money. It also means giving residents the opportunity to work in collaboration with us to design and, even help deliver, services.
Our spectrum of co-operative working shows the broad range of different ways in which this approach is applied in practice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-operative Approach</th>
<th>Co-operative Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working in line with co-operative values and principles</td>
<td>Services delivered through co-operatives and mutuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g. paying our staff the Living Wage so that no one who works for the council full-time earns less than the local cost of living.</td>
<td>e.g. setting-up Oldham Care and Support. This trading company will have a staff council and appoint community champions as non-executive directors, ensuring both representation of its employees and Oldham residents exists and allows them to influence its decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents actively informing decision making</td>
<td>Co-producing services with communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g. The Community Call-in pilot offers the opportunity to strengthen local democracy and build closer engagement between communities and decisions made at a district level. It also enhances local accountability and influence people have over local decisions.</td>
<td>e.g. leasing Fulwood Nature Reserve to a community group for a nominal fee, so they can refurbish the reserve and install community gardens, allotments, and sports facilities for local people to use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most importantly of all – far from simply managing decline in a context of exceptional economic and social challenges – we’re leading co-operative innovation by thinking creatively and working collaboratively far beyond the confines of our own organisation.
What we’re doing differently as a business

As an organisation, our co-operative approach provides us with the opportunity to find positive and sustainable solutions to the on-going financial challenges we face. Our values-driven approach underpins the way we do business. We believe in the importance of fairness and responsibility. In practice, that means maximising the positive social, economic and environmental impact that we can achieve through everything we do. From our procurement practices to our pay policy, we’re using our influence as a commissioner, service-provider and employer to deliver added social value through our business practices.

Our achievements at a glance

- October 2013 saw the launch of Oldham Care and Support and Oldham Care at Home – two new Council trading companies which will deliver adult social care across the borough and beyond.

- Through our Social Value Procurement Framework we are working with our suppliers to make sure they do their bit for the borough too, for example through paying fair wages, caring for the local environment, supporting local community groups, or growing local businesses.

- Our Employer Supported Volunteering scheme employees to give up to three days paid time to volunteer with local groups and schemes. To date, around 10% of our 3,900 employees have got involved. We aim to increase the number of employees volunteering in some way in 2013/14 to around 40% (1,560), and increasing that during 2014/15 to around 75%.

- Over the summer months Council staff donated nearly 300kg of food and approximately 20 large bags of unwanted goods to support the Oldham Food Bank and Dr Kershaw’s Hospice.

- We are the first Council in Greater Manchester to set up a Local Authority Mortgage Scheme, which to April 2013 had helped 55 first time buyers access the housing market. The scheme has been given the go-ahead for another year.

- We ran the largest local authority-led energy switching scheme in the country with over 8,500 people signing up, delivering potential savings to residents totalling £1.4m – an average saving of £171 per household.

- We secured a deal with First Bus giving Oldham residents a whopping 28% discount on daily and weekly travel tickets. This pricing structure is now in operation across Greater Manchester, delivering co-operative benefits across the region.
Case study: Our Ethical Framework

Our Ethical Framework is our enhanced approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR). As well as encompassing conventional CSR schemes like payroll giving and a commitment to environmental responsibility, our approach goes much further.

Our Co-operative Oldham Fund, which stands at around £1m, enables us to invest in innovative community ideas that deliver lasting and sustainable benefits for local people, whilst our commitment to the Living Wage means that no full-time member of council staff earns less than the local cost of living. Through our Employer-Supported Volunteering scheme, each member of council staff can spend three days each year supporting local voluntary organisations with their specialist skills and expertise.

On top of these initiatives, we’re constantly working to use our own power and influence to lobby for change on behalf of our communities through our campaigns for fairer public transport prices, fairer access to credit, fairer energy costs, and better support for local business start-ups and SMEs. Through these initiatives and many more, our Ethical Framework sets out how, as a business and as an employer, we are doing our bit for Oldham.

Case study: Fair Energy Campaign

Oldham Council is committed to campaigning for a fairer deal for Oldham residents. As fuel costs rise and family incomes fall, we’re doing our bit to help Oldham’s residents secure affordable energy through our Fair Energy Campaign.

In collaboration with our partner iChoosr, Oldham led the largest local authority-led switching scheme in the UK. In all, the auction saved residents over £1.4m, meaning an average saving per household of £171. Of the 8,726 residents who registered 1,200 accepted an offer and switched.

The council also received a fee for each resident who switched through this campaign. We are reinvesting this money to fund projects that help support local people out of fuel poverty.

This campaign was so successful it was rolled out across Greater Manchester and other key partner authorities across the UK. This delivered a new energy deal for an additional 40,000 people and average savings of £125 per household.
Case study: Social Value Procurement framework

In June 2013, Cabinet approved a new social value framework, which means that we will now include social value outcomes in every new contract we let. We spend in excess of £232 million with 5,700 suppliers each year, so by formally and consistently considering social value in our procurement decisions, we can make a major contribution to delivering a Co-operative Borough.

Over the past year, our procurement practices have already been re-shaped to better incorporate social value considerations. For example, our processes ensure that the following areas are evaluated in tenders:

- Generating sustainable employment and training opportunities for unemployed people in the Borough
- Providing traineeships (including apprenticeships) and or training opportunities for Oldham residents
- Promoting supply-chain opportunities to SMEs in the Borough

Our social value procurement framework aims to ensure that we have a systematic and consistent approach to social value across every contract that we let, as well as implementing an outcome-focused approach linked closely to our strategic priorities and organisational objectives.

Case study: Oldham Care and Support and Oldham Care and Support at Home

For the past two years the Council has been considering how best to protect internally provided Adult Social Care services from significant reductions in Government funding. To this end, in April 2013, Oldham Council established two companies – Oldham Care and Support to run existing council services, and Oldham Care and Support at Home.

The purpose of these companies is to provide excellent care and support services to the most vulnerable members of the community. Both will actively involve customers in the design, development and delivery of provision. Additionally, market-testing activity has already taken place with customers and carers, shaping the design principles for proposed new services.

Both companies have adopted Oldham Council’s co-operative values and will embed them in their everyday activity to help Oldham become a co-operative, confident and ambitious borough.

The commitment of the workforce is key to achieving the companies’ co-operative ambitions. Plans are already in development and activities in place to create a culture of employee ownership through the establishment of a staff council, which will see every staff member having a stake in the success of the company.

The companies will continue to actively support the Council to identify local need and will test out innovative and cost-effective ways to meet those needs, in line with the Council’s co-operative ambition.
And there is more to come...

We are working to embed the co-operative ethos and principles into all areas of the business.

Over the next few months we will be re-launching our customer service standards, which will start to shift customer expectation and priorities, emphasising resilience and self-help.

We will also identify new co-operative campaigns, where we can use our influence to continue to deliver a fairer deal for Oldham’s residents. We will build on our existing work, such as the Fair Energy campaign, to focus on new ways of tackling fuel poverty, and will continue our work with Oldham Credit Union to offer fair finance to Oldham’s residents.

As a business we will continue to evaluate and report on what we are doing to deliver the co-operative difference.

We are currently developing a co-operative difference annual return, which will capture the difference that our co-operative approach is making across the council, its services and its employees.
What we’re doing differently with partners

We must work together if we are to meet the unprecedented challenges of rising unemployment, significant health inequalities, and rapidly reducing public-sector resources. This means pooling budgets, co-producing solutions and thinking again about our relationship with partner agencies.

That’s why we’re encouraging our partners across the public, private and third sectors to take more of a leading role in driving positive change – and why we’re working together to deliver innovation through collaboration.

Our achievements at a glance

• Working with our partners across all sectors, our Get Oldham Working initiative has been set up to help support local residents into sustainable jobs. We have set an ambitious target of creating 2,015 job related opportunities by 2015.

• The Unity Partnership have made a major commitment to the Get Oldham Working campaign by contributing £200K over four years to support local people into work.

• We have launched the Enterprise Trust with a £1m donation from Norman Stoller. The Trust, part of the Get Oldham Working programme, aims to guarantee that every 18 year old leaving school in 2015 can access continued education, training, apprenticeship or a job.

• We have awarded a ten year leisure contract to Oldham Community Leisure Limited, a community benefit company. As a company owned democratically by its members and operated for the benefit of the community, OCL’s ethos reflects our co-operative values.

• We are currently managing the Co-operative Councils’ Innovation Network on behalf of 16 member authorities, who are collectively committed to innovation in public services, working with communities for better outcomes.

• In June, we launched the £1m Co-operative Oldham Fund with our partners Voluntary Action Oldham. In September the first awards were granted including to two work clubs – Oldham and Hollinwood.

• Oldham Council is leading the Public Sector Reform Troubled Families work on behalf of Greater Manchester. This work is looking at how a partnership approach to investment, commissioning and decommissioning services can help to deliver more effective support for troubled families, whilst reducing the costs.

• As a Universal Credit Pathfinder we have worked with partners to deliver all aspects of the pilot including access to online resources, personal budgeting support and frontline signposting and support.
Case study:
Get Oldham Working

The Get Oldham Working (GOW) Programme was launched at the One Business Awards in May 2013. By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to prepare young people and the unemployed for work – and to encourage businesses to invest in Oldham and create employment opportunities – it aims to make a significant and positive impact on employment levels in the Borough.

The project is developing and implementing a co-operative approach to getting higher numbers of Oldham people into work. In the short term this will:

- Provide 2,015 work related opportunities by 2015
- Guarantee that every 18 year old leaving school in 2015 can access continued education, training, apprenticeship or a job

This will be achieved by:

1. Working with young people and potential employees to improve their employability and or their entrepreneurialism
2. Working with employers to create more employment and work-related opportunities and be a catalyst for job creation via Invest in Oldham and infrastructure development
3. Working with colleagues in a range of organisations to connect employers and employees more effectively
4. Designing a co-operative long-term solution that maintains a higher level of employment in Oldham, with shorter periods of unemployment for our residents

To date, 338 job related opportunities have been created, including 120 new jobs and 75 work experience placements and 45 apprenticeships.
Case study:
Troubled Families Programme

Oldham’s Troubled Families Programme aims to turn around the lives of, and reduce the number of, troubled families across the borough by developing a partnership approach to investment, commissioning and decommissioning services through our public service reform programme.

The co-operative ambition has been central in developing our approach to working with troubled families. The central focus is on giving people a hand-up, so that they can develop the skills to be independent and self-reliant in future, and therefore reduce demand on public services. It also recognises, and makes the most of, the support that can be offered by friends, family and neighbours.

Families who need support to become more self-sufficient have been identified through data-matching and referrals. District Family Panels have been created in all of Oldham’s Districts, bringing together colleagues from a range of partner organisations to share their knowledge and understanding of the needs of these families and agree a suitable approach to working with them.

In January 2013, a partnership Family Focus Prototype was developed in Failsworth and Hollinwood to test a method of providing more intensive support to those families who need it via key workers. The prototype team was made up of staff from a range of agencies, including the Council, Positive Steps, DAAT and the Probation Service. Practitioners have been working actively with each family for six months. This is clearly not long enough to demonstrate quantitatively that this approach is achieving better outcomes than ‘business as usual’. However, practitioner feedback and qualitative information about the families being supported suggests that the approach is successful. Therefore, the Family Focus model is being scaled-up to provide borough-wide provision as an option for all six of the District Family Panels to refer into.

The current Family Focus Team in Failsworth and Hollinwood has been expanded to cover Royton and Shaw, Crompton and Saddleworth and Lees. These teams will operate until March 2014 to further assess their impact on improving outcomes for families.
Case study: Meals at Home Plus

Meals at Home Plus is an innovative partnership between Oldham Council, the Pavilion Café, and local volunteers. Funded through the Chadderton District Partnership, this exciting co-operative initiative allows us to go far beyond simply delivering meals at home, providing a comprehensive wrap-around service which uses volunteers to:

- Deliver a healthy, freshly prepared, hot, nutritious meal to the home once a day
- Reduce loneliness and social isolation, as the volunteers spend at least half an hour with each person they visit
- Proactively identify any additional support or care needs which the customer may have

The initiative provides a tailored service by asking the customer for information about their food preferences, including dietary or cultural needs, eating times, portion sizes etc. This provides a much more flexible and bespoke service than was previously available.

Volunteers deliver the meals to customers’ homes, make the customer a drink and serve the meal. They also spend some time chatting with the client while they eat their meal.

Volunteers are given a comprehensive training and induction programme, including listening skills and learning how to be effective ‘eyes and ears’ in the community – as well as what to do if they think the customer needs extra care or support.
And there is more to come...

Working with our partners is going to be essential in ensuring that Oldham is prepared and resilient enough to meet the challenges of the future. Discussions are already underway with partners, supporting them to think about how they can make a co-operative difference within their organisations and services, and we are encouraging them to sign up to Oldham’s Social Value Charter.

The imminent launch of Oldham’s Learning Co-operative signals the next step in our approach to working with partners. The Learning Co-operative is Oldham’s response to the current challenges and barriers to achieving excellent educational outcomes in Oldham and recognises the importance of preparing and supporting young people as they approach employment.
What we’re doing differently with residents and communities

Working with communities at a neighbourhood level, we’re enabling residents to take greater control over their own lives and over the services and amenities that matter most to them.

We’re devolving power and responsibility, and we’re supporting people to do more to help themselves and each other. By building greater resilience and self-reliance, we’re enabling individuals and communities to make positive choices to change neighbourhoods for the better – whether that means small choices that make a big difference, like putting litter in the bin instead of dropping it on the street, or making a big change, like taking control of local services.

Our achievements at a glance

• We have introduced the live-streaming of full council, and we were the first council to introduce interactive social media questions as the meeting is taking place. Public questions can be submitted by social media, so an individual can ask a question at 5.55pm and see it being answered by the Leader on their computer 20 minutes later – a strong example of local democracy in action.

• Supporting Elected Members to become more effective local leaders through a bespoke development programme and the introduction of Councillors’ Annual Reports to increase local accountability and transparency.

• Greater recognition and involvement of Youth Councillors in the democratic processes including: enabling the Youth Council to contribute to full Council meetings, presenting resolutions when appropriate, and the creation of two Youth Council places on the Co-operative Commission.

• Launch of the Community Call-in pilot, which enables residents to call District Executive decisions in for further scrutiny, enhancing local accountability and the influence people have over local decisions.

• The District Team supported the Asset Transfer of a piece of land to Fulwood Rangers, including supporting them to secure external funding. The land now hosts a community garden and a football pitch.

• Our District Family Panels are working locally to support some of our most vulnerable families. By sharing local intelligence they can create better interventions that bring about behaviour change and limit the impact troubled families have on the wider community.

• Each District now has a network of voluntary and third sector organisations. From Chadderton Together, to NEON (Networking in East Oldham Neighbourhoods) and Saddleworth’s Village a Month, the District Networks are a vital building block of a Co-operative Borough. These networks enable us to mobilise communities and are at the forefront of local responses to local issues.
Case study:
Co-operative Oldham Fund

In collaboration with our partners, Voluntary Action Oldham, the Co-operative Oldham Fund (COF) provides grants to projects designed to promote health and wellbeing amongst residents and support unemployed people in to work.

Through the reallocation of dormant trust funds and a variety of fundraising initiatives, the COF has created a sustainable source of funding, currently worth in excess of £1m, enabling us to invest in innovative community ideas that deliver lasting and long-term benefits for local people.

By utilising our partnerships across the public, private and third sector, the fund provides the flexibility and support to allow local communities to engage in social projects within their area.

The sustainability and flexibility of the fund provide a great base on which to innovate and the COF recognises innovation, particularly when targeted at long standing issues or problems. The Fund will be targeted to add value to existing work, rather than simply creating more of the same.

The focus of the fund currently encourages grant applications which underpin these core values. Through the COF, we aim to bring added social, economic and environmental benefits to communities across our Borough.

More information on the fund is available at: www.vaoldham.org.uk/Cooperative_Oldham_Fund
Case study:
Local Leaders Programme

Oldham Council is leading the development of a Co-operative Public Services Model for the borough. This seeks to turn the current challenging environment into an opportunity to redefine the relationship between the Council and its residents in order to provide more local services which are responsive to communities.

In achieving the Oldham Co-operative Neighbourhood model, we will move from top-down services to citizen-led services, with Ward Members playing a crucial role to:

1. Reconnect the Council to its residents
2. Create social value for residents and communities
3. Enhance the independence, capability and resilience of individuals
4. Unlock the resource and potential in neighbourhoods
5. Support existing social networks and build collective community capacity
6. Ultimately, reduce demand on the public purse

This year Ward Members have taken part in the bespoke Oldham Local Leaders training programme. Focusing on the skills needed for strong community empowerment and leadership in these challenging times, the programme has proven invaluable, with 93% of Members saying they were satisfied or very satisfied.

The individual modules have covered a number of topics ranging from negotiation and influencing to the changing context, and from change conversations to developing local solutions.

We are now consulting with Members to plan the next stage of the Local Leaders programme to ensure we deliver high quality training which remains relevant to the changes taking place across the council and the borough.
Case study:
District working – working together for positive outcomes

Ward Members and District Teams are working closely with communities, empowering them to bring about positive outcomes for their neighbourhoods. Through effective district working we will reconnect with local residents and create the co-operative opportunities that are vital to see Oldham reach its potential for our residents.

For example, August 2012 saw the culmination of many celebrations in a day-long event in Royton, Shaw and Crompton. This event brought together celebrations for the Olympics, the 800th birthday of Royton, the centenary of Royton Park, and the So Way North event.

The event was planned and delivered by a collaboration of community groups, the private sector and public services. Key partners involved included the Youth Forum, Ward Members, the District Team, local traders, the Roughyeds and many more.

The event was a huge undertaking made possible by the dedication and hard work of many volunteers in the run-up to, and after, the event. On the day over 1,500 local residents turned up to get involved with sports and community activity, enjoy live entertainment and even sample local produce at the Real Food Market. Organisations such as the Police and Fire Service were also present offering advice and support.

In Saddleworth North Ward, Diggle residents were concerned about the future of their local band club.

Working with Ward Members and the District Team they have been able to put in a range of measures to make the club more viable. This has included new signage, creating links with local businesses and provision for young people every Monday evening.
Case study:
Welfare reform and district working

The national welfare reform agenda is something that we have been tackling at local level alongside our partners. We co-delivered an awareness raising campaign with our District Networks, giving us greater reach than we would have had if we operated alone. One example of how this has worked has been in Oldham District, where we have trained up community budget advisors to provide basic budget advice to allow the Citizens Advice Bureau to concentrate on more complex cases.

Local Elected Members have also been at the forefront of Oldham Council’s response to welfare reform. Ward Members are best placed to understand how the changes would affect their local communities and to deliver key messages to those affected. In recognition of this, Members were given detailed training on the welfare reforms and access to in-depth data about the impact of the changes at a district and ward level.

Awareness raising events were delivered in each district, targeted at key wards and neighbourhoods where we anticipated that welfare reform would hit the hardest.

Ward Members were on the front-line of these events, delivering key messages and signposting their constituents to advice and support from a range of services. This is a powerful example of Ward Members in their role as local leaders, using their local profile and influence to support residents and communities to be more resilient.
And there is more to come…

Over the past twelve months we have achieved a great deal to move the council and borough closer to our co-operative ambition. These successes are the solid foundation we require to make further steps forward in co-operative district working.

We have to get district working right. It is the model by which we will reform public service delivery to be fit for purpose in the changing world. Through effective district working we will reconnect with local residents and create the co-operative opportunities that are vital if Oldham and all its residents are to reach their potential.

A number of initiatives are underway to help us achieve our ambition, including:

- The launch of the second phase of Love Where you Live which will showcase examples of the co-operative difference that residents are making, using these to inspire others to do the same
- The launch of a community growing programme to increase community sustainability and capacity and improve public health through increasing the availability of fresh and healthy food
- The signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant, giving formal recognition to the contribution of our armed forces and setting out the support which the local authority and its partners can provide.
Co-operative Oldham

Our vision
To deliver a co-operative future where everyone does their bit to create a confident and ambitious borough.

How to sum it up
Everybody does their bit for Oldham, and everybody benefits.

What makes it different?
Building a co-operative future is about fundamentally changing the relationship between public services and local people by enabling and encouraging residents to take more responsibility for making our borough a great place to live and work.

Our values
Co-operative Oldham is a values-driven approach, underpinned by a belief in the importance of fairness, and a commitment to delivering it.

Fairness
Openness
Responsibility
Working together
Accountability
Respect
Democracy

If you’d like to learn more about Oldham’s Co-operative Future please contact:

Corporate Policy Team
Policy@oldham.gov.uk
0161 770 5755

working for a co-operative borough