Township Committee
I was pleased to take the Chair for the first meeting of the Rochdale South Township Committee and I look forward to the coming year. Members were presented with a report in relation to the designation of the proposed Thornham St. John’s Neighbourhood Area Forum.

Rochdale South Township Action & Resources Committee
Officers presented reports detailing the capital and revenue funding available to Rochdale South for 2019/20. Members considered the allocation of funds to community groups, some of which were joint-applications with Rochdale North. Also there for consideration was a one-way system proposal in my ward, following residents raising concerns about traffic in the area for many years.

Balderstone & Kirkholt Area Forum
Anti-social behaviour was the main topic of concern at the meeting. A discussion was held over the recent spate of thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles which have occurred in the area due to the components being worth a high scrap value. Also burglaries in one particular estate in the ward were a big concern, and Police advised they are classed as priority by GMP due to the effect on the local residents and the community.

Bamford & Oakenrod Area Forum
The forum received updates from Greater Manchester Police, and discussed a number of matters relating to the environment, traffic, and an update about Marland Golf Course. Members were also informed about the changes to the structure of the Rochdale Township, resulting in Rochdale North and Rochdale South.

Brimrod, Marland & Sudden Area forum
The focus at this meeting was policing and environmental issues. A number of reports of fly-tipping were made and officers agreed to look into the matters. There were concerns regarding dog-fouling, tree cutting and access issues to Cotton Lane.

Castleton Area Forum
The Carnegie building was officially opened by the new Mayor, Councillor Billy Sheerin of Castleton, and is host to several businesses and open to the general public. The forum was informed that Castleton will again feature in Rochdale Township in Bloom this year with the group hoping to carry out more work within the Thornham area and aiming to retain the gold medal as awarded in previous years.

Milkstone & Deeplish Area forum
The meeting was a very busy one with over 80 residents in attendance. Many issues were discussed, including traffic regulation orders, planning matters and the future development of Stoneyfield Park. Residents were also informed that Ward funds will once again be available to address issues in the ward during 2019-20.

Kingsway Area Forum
Traffic issues, speeding and road surfaces dominated residents’ concerns at the
In ward news; works to the kick pitch are now complete at Robinson’s Common, and also the outdoor gym works are currently taking place there and at Lowerplace Play Area. Councillors Ali and Ahmed, along with forum attendees, congratulated A representative from the Medina Mosque attended the forum and advised that the mosque was open to all for Iftar within the holy month of Ramadan.

Environmental Management
Preparations are under way for North West in Bloom judges arrival on 22nd July to make sure all our parks, open spaces, streets, hanging baskets and other flower displays etc are all at their best possible for judging. Big thanks to all our frontline staff for their hard work so far and still to come, they really work very hard to ensure they are showing the Town at its best to visitors. Thanks also to In Bloom and Friends groups for various sites for all their volunteering efforts.

Rochdale Riverside (Genr8)
The construction of the Rochdale Riverside scheme in the town centre continues to make excellent progress, and is expected to open in Easter 2020. H&M has agreed to take a lease to occupy the scheme and we are continuing to negotiate with further potential occupiers.

Rochdale Town Hall & Town Hall Square
The procurement of the specialist design team has now been completed and essential surveys have been undertaken for the restoration of the Town Hall. Landscape architects have been appointed for the redesign of Town Hall Square and are now starting to work with the Council to develop the scheme.

Market
The Rochdale outdoor Market is trading on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and the indoor food hall is open six days a week. An artisan market is now held on the last Saturday of every month.

Fire Service Museum
The Council and the Museum Trust have appointed the team of architects and designers, with work expected to start on site later this summer.

Drake Street
A number of schemes are complete or are nearing completion which will bring new residents into the town centre and bring buildings back in to use. An area based historic building repair grant scheme was launched April. An exhibition of work by students from Manchester School of Architecture is on display in Number One Riverside.

Councillor Mohammed Zaman
Rochdale South Township Chair

Thank you Mr. Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Rochdale South Township Committee.