

COUNCIL, Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Angie Gallagher) in the Chair

Atkinson	Fazal	Prashad
Baker	Fenton-Glynn	Rivron
Barnes	Ford	Robinson
Beech	Foster	Scullion
Bellenger	Hey	Shoukat
Benton	Holdsworth	A Smith
Blagbrough	Hutchinson	Sutherland
Brundell	Issott	T Swift MBE
Caffrey	Kirton	Taylor
Cairney	Kingstone	Thompson
Cavanagh	Leigh MBE	Thornber
Courtney	Lynn	Tremayne
Dacre	Monteith	Whittaker
Dickenson	Parsons-Hulse	Wilkinson
Durrans	Patient	Young
Evans	Pillai	
	Porritt	

90 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2023 AND BUDGET COUNCIL ON THE 27TH FEBRUARY 2023 TO BE AGREED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGNED BY THE MAYOR.

It was moved by the Mayor,
Seconded by Deputy Mayor, and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th February and 27th February 2023, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and signed by the Mayor.

91 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests which they might have in relation to the items to be considered at the Council meeting.

92 TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

- (A) The Chief Executive announced that the Council had been the successful winner of an iNetwork Award for the Shared DDos Protection Contract which demonstrated excellence in practice in relation to information technology, data security and digital systems.
- (B) The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE to address Council. The Leader thanked colleagues who would be standing down at the next Election and noted that for some Members the meeting would be their last. He explained that in his experience and cross party that people chose to stand for Council as they were motivated by service and commitment to the public.

93 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS, IF ANY, PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (A) Councillor Leigh MBE presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Calderdale regarding the Local Plan, "Save our Calderdale".

The Mayor confirmed that the petition would be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petitions Scheme.

94 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

(A) Question from Simon Smith to Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing

"When are services going to be fully accessible for people with autism and other neurodiverse needs. What has happened to the Calderdale Autism Strategy meetings?"

In response Councillor Fenton-Glynn advised that:

People who have a diagnosis of autism and neurodiversity have a wide range of needs and whilst there are social care providers who support many individuals and their families well, this does not always meet the needs of everyone who has a diagnosis as each person has their individual needs.

Calderdale's Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Local Authority have commissioned the Centre for Mental Health and Rethink to carry out a piece of discovery work and hold engagement events with people with lived experience and stakeholders to listen to the issues and needs of people with autism and neurodiversity. Centre for Mental Health and Rethink will present their findings to the ICB and Local Authority to inform the developments that are required.

West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board are also doing a deep dive into Neurodiversity to better inform service developments.

The Autism Strategy Board meetings are scheduled to recommence in May 2023.

(B) Question from Adrian Horton to Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy

"According to The Department for Transport, over 70% of car journeys are less than just 5 miles long. Additionally, around 35% of homes have no access to off road parking. So, will the Local Plan support the roll out of a comprehensive electric vehicle charging infrastructure programme in Calderdale to support those households without drives, and who are reliant on public charging facilities to encourage EV usage and to help to reduce air pollution in our communities? And will the cost to use these public chargers be affordable and commensurate with the costs of charging at home?"

In response Councillor Scullion advised that:

Planning and Building Control support the delivery of EV charging in new development through their policies and regulations.

The Council is also in the final stages of adopting an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, which will provide an operational approach to enabling and deploying charging infrastructure in Calderdale. At the same time we continue to bid for Government funding to deliver public residential charging infrastructure. For example, we have recently secured £236k (to be match funded by Supplier/Operator) through WYCA to deliver charging in up to 30 locations across the Borough.

Delivery will take time. We must tender for a provider and carefully undertake site selection. At the heart of our approach is to keep the cost down and equitable, although the cost of public charging will likely be more than home charging, the cost of home installation will also need to be factored into any comparison. We will have a better understanding of this once we procure a private sector provider.

Any information on this will be shared on our website.

(C) Question from Ann Rushworth to Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy

“I would like to know how far advanced the plans are for the proposed Lidl in West Vale and if there are any options to incorporate some low cost housing in the proposals, to replace the homes that are being knocked down?”

In response Councillor Scullion advised that:

LIDL have entered into pre-application discussions with the Council; however, as at the date of preparing this response [14 March 2023] no planning application has been received. It is also understood that LIDL have undertaken some consultation with the local community.

I understand that LIDL do not intend to include housing within their development scheme. The Council must consider any application that LIDL choose to submit on its own merits. The starting point for this assessment will be the Council's planning policies. In relation to this specific question, the Council would have to decide whether a retail development without any housing complies with these policies. As no application has been submitted yet, I cannot pre-judge this assessment.

(D) Question from Mark Pitkethly to Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

“With approximately 2/3 of all Council income now being spent on social care will Council commit to more digital/ social media advertising of this so the public is fully aware of how their Council Tax is spent?”

In response Councillor Dacre advised that:

We are currently commissioning a benchmarking tool that will help us to present this information in a simple and informative fashion. We will consider different styles of presentation and commit to improved presentation of this data.

95 PARK WARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE presented a report of the Director, Regeneration and Strategy that provided information on the Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan. The report identified that the Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum had prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan Area. The report requested that Council formally ‘make’ the Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan.

The Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan was the second Neighbourhood Plan in Calderdale to have been through the process of a referendum to become part of the Development Plan. The first Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted by the Council was the Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan in February 2022.

The report outlined background information, options considered, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

It was moved by the Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE,
Seconded by Councillor Lynn,

RESOLVED that:

(a) the referendum result of 9th February 2023, Appendix 4 of the report where 86% of those voting voted in favour of the Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan, which was above the required 50%, be noted;

(b) the Park Ward Neighbourhood Plan presented at Appendix 1 of the report so that it continued to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough, be approved;

(c) the Park Ward Policies Map at Appendix 2 of the report, be published; and

the Director, Regeneration and Strategy be authorised to issue and publicise the Decision Statement at Appendix 3 of the report.

96 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

(A) LOCAL PLAN – INSPECTOR’S REPORT

The Leader sought Council’s permission to suspend Council Procedure Rules to allow extra time for Members to comment on the Local Plan – Inspectors Report. It was proposed that the mover of the recommendation be permitted to speak for 15 minutes to present the recommendation, the seconder be permitted to speak for 5 minutes, Leaders of the opposition Groups be permitted to speak for 10 minutes each, all other Councillors wishing to comment be permitted to speak for 3 minutes each and the right to reply be 5 minutes.

The proposal was moved by Councillor T Swift MBE,
Seconded by Councillor Scullion,

The suspension of Council Procedure Rules for the Item on being put to the vote, was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Scullion,
Seconded by Councillor T Swift MBE,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 101 (Part b) be approved.

The provisions of Council Procedure Rule 18.4 having been complied with a recorded vote was taken.

The following 26 Members voted for the Recommendation:

M Barnes	J M Lynn
H Brundell	S Patient
S Cairney	V Porritt
R Cavanagh	H R Rivron
S Clarke	J Scullion
S Courtney	F Shoukat
S Dacre	A Smith
D Durrans	D Sutherland
M Fazal	T Swift MBE
J Fenton-Glynn	J Thompson
D S Foster	D Tremayne
C H Hutchinson	A Wilkinson
A Kingstone	D K Young

The following 23 Members voted against the Recommendation:

J Atkinson	S Holdsworth
J Baker	F Issott
G Beech	D Kirton
P A Bellenger	S Leigh MBE
T Benton	B Monteith
H Blagbrough	A Parsons-Hulse
P Caffrey	C Pillai
R Dickenson	C Prashad
A Evans	G Robinson
J Ford	R L Taylor
M Hey	R Thornber
	S Whittaker

The following Member abstained from voting:

The Mayor, A Gallagher

RESOLVED that recommendation contained in Minute Number 101 (Part b) be approved as follows:

- (i) the Calderdale Local Plan 2018/19 to 2032/33 (Appendix E), under Regulations 26 and 35 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which incorporated the main modifications (Appendix B and Appendix C) pursuant to section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 confirmed by the Inspector in her report (Appendix A), and the Council's additional (minor) modifications (Appendix G and Appendix H) be adopted;
- (ii) the Calderdale Local Plan 2018/19 to 2032/33 Policies Map (Appendix F) which incorporated the Schedule of Main Modifications to the Policies Map (Appendix D) be adopted;
- (iii) the content of the Adoption Statement (Appendix I) prepared in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) be noted;
- (iv) the Sustainability Appraisal Post-Adoption Statement (Appendix J) be noted and taken into account; and

- (v) subject to recommendation (i) the Director, Regeneration and Strategy in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy be given delegated authority to make any additional necessary minor textual, graphical, presentational or layout amendments to the Calderdale Local Plan (2018/19-2032/33) (Appendix E) and the accompanying Policies Map (Appendix F) to finalise the Plan prior to publication.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Baker, Hey, Prashad, Sutherland, Pillai, Brundell, Blagbrough, Fenton-Glynn, Porritt, Whittaker, Bellenger, Dacre, Issott, Cairney, Swift, Dickenson, Taylor, Kirton, Lynn, Holdsworth, Ford, Robinson, Courtney, Caffrey, Foster, Benton, Scullion and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

97 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

(A) INTERIM CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES UPDATE

It was moved by Councillor Foster,
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 20 be approved.

RESOLVED that interim amendments to reflect any current changes in legislation and strengthen descriptions of roles and responsibilities within the Contract Procedure Rules to address Governance issues and help prepare for further changes under the Public Procurement Reform Bill be approved.

98 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY.

The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE submitted a written report that provided Members with an update on the work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The Leader advised that he was pleased to welcome the West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin to the previous meeting and to hear of her support of the Council's key agendas including public transport, culture and the safety of women and girls was clear.

The Leader thanked Calderdale and West Yorkshire partners who participated in the recent Local Government Association Peer Review. One of the specific topics the peer review team were invited to share was their reflections on Calderdale's role within West Yorkshire. He confirmed that he looked forward to receiving their report.

The report provided background information on decisions made by WYCA, Development and Delivery and Climate Energy and Environment.

Councillor Parsons-Hulse explained that the country had over 2000 miles of navigable network and part of it was being used for major freight. Councillor Parsons-Hulse asked if WYCA would consider using West Yorkshire's canal network and that it be included in the Transport Plan. In response, the Leader advised that he did not have the information to hand and asked that Councillor Parsons-Hulse email him the details and he would respond accordingly.

99 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS ON THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:

(A) LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. The report identified that the period since the last Council meeting had seen three significant events for Calderdale:

- The approval of the budget for 2023/4;
- The recommendation to Council of the adoption of the Local Plan; and
- The Corporate Peer Challenge exercise carried out by a team from the Local Government Association.

At its most recent meeting Cabinet also considered four important items:-

- Cabinet welcomed the report into the cost-of-living crisis produced by the Place Scrutiny Board, which endorsed and strengthened the work being undertaken through the Council and partners;
- Agreed a strengthened approach to how the Council responds to customers and residents, which would be covered also in Councillor Lynn's report to Council;
- Adopted an updated strategy for learning, employment and skills; and
- Received the annual report on Health and Safety.

The Leader urged all Members to take time to read the Health and Safety report.

The report provided background information on the health partnership work and Budget 2023.

(B) CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

(i) Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Strategy

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy, submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. The report provided project updates on the following major projects.

A641 Multi-modal Transportation Scheme
A629 Phase 1b and Phase 2
Mixenden Hub
Halifax Leisure Centre

The report identified and provided background information on Planning and Building Control, Strategic Infrastructure and Support for Business and Calderdale's Inclusive Economy.

(ii) Adult Services and Wellbeing

Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing, submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council.

The report identified and provided background information on raising social workers salaries to keep the best people and cut down on agency work, NHS pressures, making sure the care system works for everyone in Calderdale whatever race religion or lifestyle, Care Quality Commission and charging systems.

(iii) Children and Young People's Services

Councillor Wilkinson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People's Services, submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last Council meeting.

The report identified and provided background information on Education, CYPS Commissioning Activity and Children's Social Care.

(iv) Climate Change and Resilience

Councillor Patient, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change and Resilience, submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last Council meeting.

The report identified and provided background information on Housing, Green Economy and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(v) Public Services and Communities

Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities, submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of the Council.

The report identified and provided background information on Cultural Services, Green Spaces and the Street Scene, Neighbourhoods and Cohesion, Customer Access, Sports Services, Welfare Benefits, Bereavement Services, Parking Services, Transport Services, Waste Management Services and Community Protection.

(vi) Resources

Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources, submitted a written report on the work she had undertaken since the last meeting of Council.

The report identified and provided background information on ICT and Digital, Performance Management, Transformation and Business Intelligence, Finance, Legal and Democratic Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Employment and Skills, Corporate Asset and Facilities Management and Markets.

(vii) Towns, Engagement and Public Health

Councillor Courtney, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Towns, Engagement and Public Health, submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of Council.

The report identified and provided background information on Towns, Engagement and Public Health.

Following the delivery of the Cabinet Member reports Members asked the following questions:

- Councillor Dickenson asked for reassurance that the land identified in the Local Plan that was situated in the greenbelt would be developed last. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that she could not reassure Members in terms of the phasing of the Local Plan. She asked that Councillor Dickenson email her detailing his concerns.
- Councillor Foster asked that following the unsuccessful Free School Bid for a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school, what would this mean for the future education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Calderdale? In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that he was also disappointed with the news. He advised that a meeting had been arranged with the Department for Education to understand why the bid was unsuccessful. He advised that the service was looking to build more SEND hubs within mainstream schools and to expand the existing provision. Councillor Wilkinson reassured Members that the Service was already preparing for the next time there was a round of bids.
- Councillor Foster asked that following the news from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the desperate state of the climate emergency, what more could the Council do to get people out of their cars? In response, Councillor Patient advised that low traffic neighbourhoods were already being designed around the Borough, and part of the Halifax Improvement Projects was aimed to make Halifax one of the first low traffic areas. Councillor Patient further advised that Council had placed a bid for a Streets for People Project in Skircoat Ward. He explained that in other parts of the country where cars were not placed at the centre of towns and places, those communities were thriving, and he felt this was the direction Calderdale needed to go.
- Councillor Rivron asked for an update on the support and protection that Calderdale was providing to refugees and those seeking asylum? In response, Councillor Lynn advised that there were 494 people seeking asylum in accommodation in Calderdale, and this was provided by the private sector company. Calderdale had been involved for the past 4/5 years with the Government's resettlement programme that supported refugees and helped them to get the support they needed. The Council also worked with St Augustine's Centre in Halifax, Halifax Opportunities Trust and the Todmorden Learning Centre that offered practical support to help people settle and integrate into the community. Councillor Lynn explained that the Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary organisation was recently granted £12,500 from the Supporting Strong Neighbourhood fund to enable them to develop activities to promotion inclusion of refuges and asylum seekers into the community.
- Councillor Taylor asked when Calderdale was going to follow the route of other authorities by introducing clean air zones and low traffic

neighbourhoods? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that she would provide a written response.

- Councillor Thompson explained that the Cow Green Development in Halifax town centre would provide over 100 flats and generate a substantial amount of investment and be built on a brownfield site. Councillor Thompson asked would the Council commit to this kind of brownfield development to encourage young professional people into the town centre. In response, Councillor Patient advised that there needed to be a choice of housing that encompassed social housing, affordable housing, housing that would attract young professionals in addition to homes for older people and people with disabilities. Councillor Patient explained that the award-winning development at Beech Hill was a good example of the mixture of the housing needed.
- Councillor Evans asked that following the last meeting of the Adults Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board where the Board had made recommendations to Cabinet, would the report be an item on the agenda for the next meeting of Cabinet? In response, Councillor Fenton-Glynn thanked representatives from Nur e Sabil, Members of the working group and Officers for an exceptional piece of work. He confirmed that whilst he could not speak for his Cabinet colleagues, he would be asking his colleagues to take on board and follow the recommendations contained within the report at the next meeting of Cabinet.
- Councillor Baker asked that within Cabinet Members report to Council for the Adult Services and Wellbeing Directorate, it stated that the Council was failing under its duties under the Care Act for care charges. Given that the Council spends two thirds of its money on social care, was the Council delivering value for money? In response, Councillor Fenton-Glynn advised that some of the reasons the charging system was failing was because of a change of computer system and how the charging would be implemented in the future. It was hoped that the new system would provide better value for money not only for the Council but also the service user. Councillor Fenton-Glynn confirmed he would provide updates in his future reports to Council.

100 TO APPOINT MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (AS NECESSARY) TO SERVE ON SCRUTINY BOARDS/PANELS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no appointments of Members and Substitute Members made to serve on Scrutiny Boards and Council Committees.

101 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES (AS NECESSARY) TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

There were no appointments of Representatives made on Outside Bodies.

102 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

(A) Question from Councillor Baker to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member for Public Services and Communities

The Government has been trailing the deployment of noise cameras to catch motorists who rev engines excessively and use illegal exhausts.

If they prove successful, will you support a rollout of these cameras to residents of the Borough, including those in Warley Ward who are particularly suffer with the noise of high-speed cars zooming past their houses late at night?

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

Deployment of acoustic cameras to identify offences of excessive noise from vehicles on the highway is not something that the Community Safety Partnership has previously considered. Noise from vehicles on the highway is regulated by the provisions of The Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, which does not fall within the regulatory responsibility of the Council. It is therefore unlikely that the Council would support a rollout of these cameras to respond to the problems of excessive noise from vehicles. Notwithstanding this, the Community Safety Partnership will investigate any complaints from residents who raise the concern of high-speed vehicles zooming past their houses late at night.

(B) Question from Councillor Parsons-Hulse to Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member for Resources

"I have been working with officers to try to ensure that the access road to Warley Town School is gritted. However, as this road is less than 3.5 metres wide, Council vehicles cannot reach the school.

Would you consider changing the winter gritting policy to accommodate the use of other vehicles or give permission for the vehicle to reverse as a means of gritting to ensure that the Council can grit the approaches to all of our hilltop schools so they can remain open?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

The Council's priority during severe winter weather is to keep the core highway network operational and safe, and so we have 22 precautionary gritting routes which treat over 600 km of carriageway in Calderdale.

For reasons of efficiency, these routes are all served by vehicles which can carry large amounts of salt without having to return to reload, but their size means they require a minimum of 3.5m clearance in order to operate safely.

They are all crewed by a single driver, and often operate in hours of darkness/poor visibility, and so routes are pre-planned to avoid the need for reversing, as this can be very dangerous without a banksman.

Unfortunately, this means that alternative arrangements have to be put in place in areas that are inaccessible to the gritting fleet, and this usually means the installation of a grit bin(s).

I can confirm that the roads around Warley Town school are too narrow for the gritting vehicles but I understand that there is a grit bin at the corner of Green Lane and Dark Lane.

If there is a feeling that more bins are necessary, then I can ask officers to look into this possibility, as we all want to ensure safe access to schools and keep them operational in bad weather if at all possible.

The council does not currently have the capacity to undertake manual salting, other than in town centres, so I am afraid it is up to local residents, businesses and schools to make use of grit bins to try to keep smaller roads in the vicinity accessible.

However, the council's gritting contracts are up for renewal this year, so there may be an opportunity to revisit the size of vehicles and/or methods of gritting, and I will make sure that access to schools such as Warley Town is considered as part of this process. The problem will be that any loss of efficiency through smaller vehicles, additional crew or manual gritting will result in additional costs, and these would have to be funded from elsewhere in the council's budget (or some roads would need to be removed from the current gritting schedule).

Nonetheless, if there are any improvements that can be made in the meantime at Warley, such as additional grit bins or other equipment, then we will of course look into this.

**103 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 14:**

(A) RIVER CALDER WATER QUALITY

The Mayor invited Councillor Baker to address Council. Councillor Baker advised that an amendment had been received from the Conservative Group which had been circulated to the full membership of the Council prior to the meeting. On receipt of the amendment, and after due consideration the Liberal Democrat Group amended their original motion to incorporate a number of recommendations from the Conservative Group. A copy of the revised Liberal Democrat Motion was circulated to all Members during the meeting and consent was sought to accept the revised Motion to allow cross party support.

Councillor Leigh MBE confirmed that he was happy to withdraw the Amendment and Councillor Blagbrough seconded the withdrawal of the Amendment.

After being put to the vote, the acceptance of the revised motion was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Baker,
Seconded by Councillor Patient,

The Revised Motion was approved to read as follows:

This Council notes

Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

- The widespread public concern over the discharge of sewage into waterways and onto beaches.
- The recent intervention by Halifax MP Holly Lynch, who has written to Yorkshire Water asking for an explanation as to why the river Calder was the UK's second most polluted waterway in 2021.
- That this Council notes, with great concern, that sewage discharges into the River Ryburn at Ripponden Sewage Works were criticised in a recent National Analysis as one of the worst offenders. These unauthorised discharges are a major contributor to the high-level of pollution of the River Calder, downstream from the confluence with the River Ryburn at Sowerby Bridge.
- That this Council has declared a biodiversity emergency.
- The work of the Calder Catchment Partnership to improve water stewardship, water quality, and biodiversity, across the catchment area.
- The importance of our local waterways as a blue-green asset, and both the natural beauty and sometimes destructive force of the river Calder.
- That Lewes District Council is moving towards adopting a Rights of River Ouse Charter, based on the Universal Declaration of River Rights
- **Council therefore resolves to support the work of the Calder Catchment Partnership and requests that:**
- Cabinet considers how to engage residents in a debate around adopting the Universal Declaration of River Rights for the River Calder.
- Place Scrutiny Panel considers the local authority's role in working to reduce pollution in our waterways, and how their amenity value can be enhanced.
- The Land & Nature task group within the Calderdale Climate Partnership considers including this work as part of the partnership's biodiversity action plan.
- Cabinet members and senior Councillors should call for Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to attend an Emergency Meeting at the Town Hall to set-up a series of priority actions to reduce the number and frequency of sewage discharges, and decide upon a set of priorities to be investigated and monitored by the Place Scrutiny Panel, with a view to that Panel reporting back to Cabinet/Full Council by the end of this Calendar Year.

The **Revised Motion** on being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED that:

This Council notes

- The widespread public concern over the discharge of sewage into waterways and onto beaches.
- The recent intervention by Halifax MP Holly Lynch, who has written to Yorkshire Water asking for an explanation as to why the river Calder was the UK's second most polluted waterway in 2021.
- That this Council notes, with great concern, that sewage discharges into the River Ryburn at Ripponden Sewage Works were criticised in a recent National Analysis as one of the worst offenders. These unauthorised discharges are a major contributor to the high-level of pollution of the River Calder, downstream from the confluence with the River Ryburn at Sowerby Bridge.
- That this Council has declared a biodiversity emergency.
- The work of the Calder Catchment Partnership to improve water stewardship, water quality, and biodiversity, across the catchment area.
- The importance of our local waterways as a blue-green asset, and both the natural beauty and sometimes destructive force of the river Calder.
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- The Land & Nature task group within the Calderdale Climate Partnership considers including this work as part of the partnership's biodiversity action plan.
- Cabinet members and senior Councillors should call for Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to attend an Emergency Meeting at the Town Hall to set-up a series of priority actions to reduce the number and frequency of sewage discharges, and decide upon a set of priorities to be investigated and monitored by the Place Scrutiny Panel, with a view to that Panel reporting back to Cabinet/Full Council by the end of this Calendar Year.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Cavanagh, Blagbrough and Kingstone commented on the Motion.

(B) INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES

It was moved by Councillor Wilkinson,
Seconded by Councillor Tremayne,

Council notes that:

- Members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted in overwhelming numbers to take strike action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.
- Teachers across England have been offered a 5 per cent pay rise, which represents a 7 per cent real terms cut to their pay when compared to the very high rates of inflation.
- One in four teachers leave the profession within two years of qualification: a third within five. Nearly one third of the teachers who qualified in the last decade are no longer teaching.
- Children are losing out because there are not enough teachers. One in eight maths lessons is taught by a teacher not qualified in the subject.
- The Government missed its target for recruitment of new secondary school teachers by 41 per cent this year and by 11 per cent for primary school teachers.
- There has been a fall of 23 per cent in trainee teacher recruitment in 2022 compared with the year before.
- Teachers are leaving the profession because of a mix of excessive workload and poor pay. A teacher who started working in 2010 and made normal progress up the pay scale has lost over £64,000 in real terms.
- Teachers in England top the OECD league table for working time outside lessons. In addition to their teaching timetable, primary teachers spend nearly 32 hours and secondary teachers nearly 33 hours working in addition to their teaching every week. This means working weeks of 55-60 hours are commonplace in staff rooms all over the nation.
- Secondary class sizes are at their highest for 40 years. Primary class sizes are now at their highest for 22 years.
- According to a survey sent out by the Department for Education (DfE) to all schools and trusts in England in May 2022 regarding gas and electricity contracts, the average quote given on renewal for gas has increased from £0.03 per kWh to £0.09 kWh for gas; and from £0.16 per kWh to £0.32 per kWh for electricity. These substantial cost increases are placing significant pressure on school budgets.

This Council also notes that:

Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

- Our Calderdale teachers do not want to go on strike – they want to be in properly resourced classrooms with enough support staff, teaching and supporting our amazing children and young people in the way they deserve.
- Teachers in Calderdale are doing their best for our children. The proportion of reception age children achieving a good level of development is above national and regional averages; the proportion of Y1 children achieving expected level in phonics is above national and regional averages; and the proportion of KS2 children achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths is above regional averages and in line with national averages.
- In recent years there have been substantial ongoing increases in the numbers of children in Calderdale requiring additional support in school due to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), or significant anxiety and mental health difficulties which act as a barrier to accessing their education.
- In the academic year 2021/22, there were 445 requests for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Calderdale of which 284 were issued. This compares to 169 issued in 2018/19.
- Whilst Calderdale has a strong record of inclusion, with a higher proportion of pupils with an EHCP attending mainstream schools, these increasing numbers of pupils with additional support needs are placing pressure on the number of places available in local special schools and alternative provision.
- According to an anonymous survey of primary heads compiled in November 2022 by Calderdale Against School Cuts (CASC), 69% had not replaced staff who left in 2021/22; 55% had made cuts in support staff; 26% had made reductions in teaching staff and 76% had made cuts to maintenance, grounds and building repairs.
- Data provided by CASC shows that in 2022/23 costs for a 'typical' primary school increased by approximately £70K to cover teacher pay awards; and by approximately £120K to cover pay awards for other staff. In 2023/24 it is projected they will have to find an additional £40K for teaching staff costs and a further £130K for other staff costs.
- According to CASC figures a typical primary school is likely to be paying approximately £200K per year in 2023/24 for energy, compared to £55K in 2021/22. This represents a 500% increase for gas and 225% for electricity.
- Staff and budgets can only stretch so far. Looking at the entire picture, is not difficult to see that faced with escalating running costs and unfunded pay rises heads will have no choice but to make cuts in areas which directly impact children such as additional support for those with SEND and other needs.
- These growing cost pressures are borne out by projections for Calderdale Council which show that without making compensatory cuts 30-40% of primary schools maintained by the local authority will struggle to balance

Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

their budgets in 2023/24, increasing to 65-75% the following year if no further funding is forthcoming.

- It is short-sighted for the Government to expect schools to make savings which impact on children, when it simply creates system pressures elsewhere such as increased demand for EHCPs and places at specialist schools and alternative provision.

This Council resolves:

- To support the campaign for the Westminster Government to provide a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise for all teachers and support staff.
- To write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to call for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.
- To resist the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education.

It was moved as an **AMENDMENT** by Councillor Blagbrough,
Seconded by Councillor Leigh MBE

Delete the following text:

This Council resolves:

- *To support the campaign for the Westminster Government to provide a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise for all teachers and support staff.*
- *To write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to call for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.*
- *To resist the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education.*

and replace with:

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to call for urgent meeting(s) between teachers' representatives and Government Officials with an objective of arriving at a settlement which will resolve the present industrial dispute, and which should also seek to anticipate and fix all the obvious funding shortfalls and difficulties facing the sector over the next five years.
- To do all that is within the power of this Council to help Calderdale teachers to do what they want to do [quote] 'they want to be in properly resourced classrooms with enough support staff, teaching and supporting our amazing children and young people in the way they deserve', and what this Council wants, which is to help Calderdale teachers to do what they do best, which

is to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our children and young people.

The **AMENDMENT** with the replacement wording on being put to the vote was not carried.

Councillors Patient, Thompson, Cavanagh, Fenton-Glynn and Wilkinson commented on the Amended Motion.

RESOLVED that:

Council notes that:

- Members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted in overwhelming numbers to take strike action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.
- Teachers across England have been offered a 5 per cent pay rise, which represents a 7 per cent real terms cut to their pay when compared to the very high rates of inflation.
- One in four teachers leave the profession within two years of qualification: a third within five. Nearly one third of the teachers who qualified in the last decade are no longer teaching.
- Children are losing out because there are not enough teachers. One in eight maths lessons is taught by a teacher not qualified in the subject.
- The Government missed its target for recruitment of new secondary school teachers by 41 per cent this year and by 11 per cent for primary school teachers.
- There has been a fall of 23 per cent in trainee teacher recruitment in 2022 compared with the year before.
- Teachers are leaving the profession because of a mix of excessive workload and poor pay. A teacher who started working in 2010 and made normal progress up the pay scale has lost over £64,000 in real terms.
- Teachers in England top the OECD league table for working time outside lessons. In addition to their teaching timetable, primary teachers spend nearly 32 hours and secondary teachers nearly 33 hours working in addition to their teaching every week. This means working weeks of 55-60 hours are commonplace in staff rooms all over the nation.
- Secondary class sizes are at their highest for 40 years. Primary class sizes are now at their highest for 22 years.
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kWh for electricity. These substantial cost increases are placing significant pressure on school budgets.

This Council also notes that:

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- Teachers in Calderdale are doing their best for our children. The proportion of reception age children achieving a good level of development is above national and regional averages; the proportion of Y1 children achieving expected level in phonics is above national and regional averages; and the proportion of KS2 children achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths is above regional averages and in line with national averages.
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impact children such as additional support for those with SEND and other needs.

- These growing cost pressures are borne out by projections for Calderdale Council which show that without making compensatory cuts 30-40% of primary schools maintained by the local authority will struggle to balance their budgets in 2023/24, increasing to 65-75% the following year if no further funding is forthcoming.
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This Council resolves:

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- To write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to call for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.
- To resist the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education.

(Councillor Issott declared a pecuniary interest as she was a teacher and a member of the Union).

(Councillor Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was involved with a charity who worked with parents of children with SEND).

104 COMMENTS ON THE WORK OF SCRUTINY BOARDS, PANELS AND COMMITTEES AND QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO THE CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY BOARDS, PANELS AND COMMITTEES

Councillor Evans, Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board sought approval from the Mayor to say a few words in favour of Councillor Baker. Councillor Evans advised that Councillor Baker would not be standing for re-election in May and explained that Councillor Baker had been an excellent Ward Councillor and Group Leader, and that his knowledge and commitment to politics was exceptional. Councillor Evans stated that Councillor Baker would be missed by both the Liberal Democrat Group and Ward residents, and that they wished him well in his new job and for the time that he would be able to spend with his family.

