

Calderdale Council

Wards Affected: All

Cabinet

12 February 2024

Cabinet Budget Proposals for Consultation – Response of Overview and Scrutiny

Report of Senior Scrutiny Officer on behalf of Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board

1 ISSUE

This report from Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board sets out the response of the Council's Scrutiny Boards to Cabinet's draft budget proposals that were published on 15 February 2024 for consultation.

Scrutiny members held two workshops in December 2023 and January 2024 to consider their response to the draft budget proposals. A summary of the views expressed at those workshops was agreed by Scrutiny Board chairs and deputy chairs and presented to Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board on 7 February.

2 NEED FOR A DECISION

This report is submitted to Cabinet as part of the overall budget consultation process. Cabinet is asked to adopt the recommendations of this report and take account of the comments made when it prepares a budget proposal for Cabinet to consider on 26 February 2024.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to consider the following recommendations of Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board and to take account of the comments made within this report.

- 1. We recommend that Cabinet bring forward the process of publishing the budget proposals and the scrutiny of those proposals to November for consideration of the 2025/26 budget.**
- 2. We recommend that, in future years, considerably more detail is provided in the initial Cabinet report detailing the budget proposals.**
- 3. We recommend that Equality Impact Assessments should be prepared for all budget proposals and published alongside the draft Cabinet budget proposals in future years.**
- 4. We consider that further detailed conversations need to be held with NHS partners to fully understand the impacts of the proposed savings. We recommend that these conversations are held before Full Council on 26 February.**
- 5. This is a new way of overview and scrutiny considering Cabinet budget proposals, we recommend that Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board should review the whole budget process at its meeting in March 2024.**
- 6. This year's proposals are a much longer list. It is therefore recommended that each Scrutiny Board should consider, how it wishes, to monitor progress towards the implementation of these proposals within the work programmes for 2024/25.**
- 7. We recommend that a report on the Young Person's Supported Housing Project (Care Leavers) scheme is considered by CYP Scrutiny Board early in the municipal year 2024/25 so that members can fully examine the benefits of the scheme for care leavers and monitor progress on implementation.**
- 8. We recommend that throughout the municipal year, 2024/25, Place Scrutiny Board have regular items on the impact and legacy of Calderdale's Year of Culture. As a part of this, Place Scrutiny Board should consider the contribution that The Piece Hall makes to Calderdale and its economic impact, along with the impact of other budget proposals on the "cultural offer" in the Borough. These discussions should include sport as part of the cultural offer, as well as the funding mechanisms of the Victoria Theatre.**
- 9. We recommend that the Council and the NHS work together with the voluntary and community sector to ensure a coordinated approach to funding.**

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 This year scrutiny of Cabinet budget proposals has been undertaken in a different way to previous years. On 12 December the first informal seminar was held. Cllr Dacre, Cabinet Member for Resources, and Becky McIntyre, Director of Resources and Transformation, attended to give a presentation setting out the Council's current financial situation. The second half of the meeting was taken up by scrutiny councillors working in small groups to consider the areas of questioning they wished to pursue when Cabinet published its budget proposals in January.
- 4.2 The second workshop was held on 23 January and used the questions developed in December as a framework for discussion of the draft Cabinet budget proposals. Further to the 23 January meeting, members have had the opportunity to raise additional questions. This report sets out the conclusions of those discussions.
- 4.3 Scrutiny of Cabinet budget proposals is an important process to ensure that the proposals are soundly based and do not lead to more serious financial challenges in future years. The process should also seek assurance that budget proposals are helping address the Council's stated priorities.
- 4.4 This report pulls together the outcomes of discussions at the two scrutiny workshops, a few comments received from Members outside those workshops, and additional comments and recommendations made at the Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board meeting on 7 February 2024. Scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs were asked to comment on an earlier draft of this report and responded confirming the content of the report with a few suggestions for amendments.
- 4.5 Scrutiny members recognised that the Council is in a difficult financial position. In order to achieve a balanced budget and avoid reaching the point a number of other Local Authorities have reached in recent months, difficult decisions have to be made. All the comments made in this report are set within that context.

The Budget Process

- 4.6 Scrutiny of the budget process is crammed into a very short time period, which, effectively, is a little over three weeks. This year the formal process for scrutiny started on 15 January when Cabinet published its budget proposals and ends on 7 February with a report to Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board. Scrutiny officers have had only a short time to build in S&P Scrutiny Board amendments before the report is circulated to Cabinet by Friday 9 February. Many councils start this process much earlier, often in November. **We recommend that Cabinet bring forward the process of publishing the budget proposals and the scrutiny of those proposals to November for consideration of the 2025/26 budget.**
- 4.7 The report *Update on Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2027 and Proposed Budget For 2024/25 and Provisional Budgets For 2025/26 and 2026/27* contains very little information about the proposals. In some instances, this amounted to two or three words and the amount of the growth or reduction proposal, for example, *Recovery College*. This does not help Members, or the public, have a full understanding of what the proposal is. A little more information is available in the Equality Impact Assessments, but these are not published at the same time as the draft budget proposals. **We recommend that, in future years, considerably more detail is provided in the initial Cabinet report detailing the budget proposals.**
- 4.8 The Director of Resources and Transformation subsequently provided more detailed pro forma for most of the proposals, which was very helpful, but was for internal use only, so not available to the general public.
- 4.9 Equalities Impact Assessments have not been made available for all the proposals. Some of the proposals without Equality Impact Assessment Schemes, for example, changes to the Council Tax Reduction scheme seem likely to have equalities implications. Members should be able to consider the equalities implications of proposals before they decide whether to approve them. **We recommend that Equality Impact Assessments should be prepared for all budget proposals and published alongside draft Cabinet budget proposals in future years.**
- 4.9 Some of the schemes have no detail available. Examples include Commissioned Services (£500k in 2024/5 up to £2m in 2026/7) and Resources and Transformation – Service Reduction. This means that Members are being asked to approve a budget change with no knowledge about what impact it will have.
- 4.10 Members were concerned about whether key partners had been consulted about the proposals and the impact of said proposals would have on those partners. The chair of the AHSC Scrutiny Board wrote to the Chief Operating Officer, Calderdale Cares. His response is attached at Appendix 2.

We consider that further detailed conversations need to be held with NHS partners to fully understand the impact of the proposed savings

and we recommend that those conversations are held before Full Council on 26 February.

- 4.11 Last year's budget had a relatively short list of growth and reduction items. **This year's proposals are a much longer list, and it is recommended that each Scrutiny Board should consider how it wishes to assure itself of progress towards implementation of those proposals in their work programmes for 2024/5.**
- 4.12 **As stated above, this is a new way of overview and scrutiny considering Cabinet budget proposals and we recommend that Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board should review the whole budget process at its meeting in March 2024.**

Scrutiny Boards

- 4.13 Scrutiny Boards should ensure that their work programmes for 2024/25 include regular reports monitoring the implementation of these proposals. Some of the proposals have not yet been developed yet (eg Commissioned Services and Contracts - target savings through procurement and commissioning plans). Members stressed the importance of these proposals being considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Boards as they are fully developed. Members mentioned the lack of detail and information around the proposals for savings in Commissioned Services and Procurement and that this lack of detail raises concerns about the achievability and impact of the projected savings.
- 4.14 Members considered the proposal to reduce expenditure on the Young Person's Supported Housing Project (Care Leavers). Members were interested to learn how the savings would be implemented and how this scheme would work. Members broadly welcomed the scheme and asked whether it could be an appropriate way to explore housing older Asylum Seeking children as opposed to fostering and other schemes. **We recommend that a report on the Young Person's Supported Housing Project (Care Leavers) scheme is considered by CYP Scrutiny Board early in the municipal year 2024/25 so that members can fully examine the benefits of the scheme for care leavers and monitor progress on implementation.**
- 4.15 Following on from a discussion by Place Scrutiny Board earlier in January, a question was raised about the costs associated with Calderdale's Year of Culture at a time when Council Tax will be increasing and services are being cut, some of which are directly linked to the Council's cultural offer e.g., a proposed £50,000 decrease in the library book fund and the disposal of The Shay. There was a further discussion relating to the Council's decision to provide additional resource for the Piece Hall in 2024/25 and 2025/26. Members recognised the value of the Piece Hall and its impact within Calderdale but would welcome further discussion on the benefits of this investment.
- 4.16 Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board agreed that Place Scrutiny Board should be asked to include sport and theatre in their discussions

of the cultural offer in 2024/5, in particular alternative funding mechanisms for the Victoria Theatre. **We recommend that throughout the municipal year, 2024/25, Place Scrutiny Board should have regular items on the impact and legacy of the Year of Culture. Place Scrutiny Board should also consider on the contribution that The Piece Hall makes to Calderdale and its economic impact, alongside the impact of other budget proposals on the “cultural offer” in the Borough. These discussions should include sport as part of the cultural offer and should also consider funding mechanisms of the Victoria Theatre.**

A Sustainable Budget

- 4.17 The Council has an obligation to provide a range of statutory services and scrutiny Members understand the need to protect those services. However, the distinction between statutory and non-statutory is not always clear. The Council can and does find ways of delivering statutory services more efficiently at less cost. Suppressing demand for expensive external residential placements for children by opening more local council run children’s homes is a prime example.
- 4.18 We are concerned that making reductions in preventative services will result in increased demand for statutory services in future years and so make it more difficult to provide those statutory services in a few years’ time.
- 4.19 There is a predicted overspend in the current revenue budget. Scrutiny Members asked whether these proposals and the revised Medium Term Financial Plan mean that the Council starts with a “straight line” on 1 April 2024 so that the consequence of an overspend this year does not make it more difficult to deliver the budget in 2024/5.
- 4.20 There are some services that are not directly statutory but contribute to statutory objectives. Work to address the climate emergency that the Council has declared could be considered to fall into this category.

A Priority Led Budget.

- 4.21 When Members met in December, they decided to consider the budget proposals in the context of the Council’s priorities of Thriving Towns, Reducing Inequalities and addressing the Climate Emergency. In practice, the meeting on 23 January did not directly follow that agenda and so this section of the report pulls together issues raised at the workshops under the headings of those priorities. At Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board on 7 February Becky McIntyre reminded Members that the budget proposals only focus on a small percentage of the budget and that much of the rest of the budget is directed towards the Council priorities.

Thriving Towns

- 4.22 Concerns were raised relating to the closure of Elland Waste and Recycling Centre, particularly in relation to a potential increase in fly-tipping and unauthorised disposal of waste. Members reported that the Waste and

Recycling Centre is regularly busy and the removal of it will increase journey times for some residents, notably in Elland, Greetland and Stainland. Further concerns were raised in relation to the disproportionate impact this may have on residents who do not have access to their own cars.

Inequalities

- 4.23 Members were concerned at the proposed savings in the Youth Service and the Youth Justice Service. The Youth Service has already had a substantial reduction in service from 2020. There is a risk that less provision of these services will lead to an increase in young people needing social care in the future.
- 4.24 Concerns were raised about reducing the preventative work of the Youth Justice Service, particularly in light of current national concerns about knife crime. This may well increase pressure on partners such as school and the police therefore leading to more young people in future needing the Youth Justice Service and/or more formal social care. It is important that the impact of this is fully considered, and Members wish to be reassured that this reduction will not undo the progress that has been made in tackling this issue in Calderdale.
- 4.25 The Budget proposals indicate that the Voluntary Sector has a critical role to play in mitigating some of the proposed reductions in Council services. Members are concerned that reduction in grants could significantly affect that mitigation, notwithstanding the gainshare funding. In his email to the Chair of the AHSC Scrutiny Board, the Chief Operating Officer, Calderdale Cares says:

“The impact needs to be [understood] given Health also supports the VCS and their contribution can be underestimated in delivery of services. The Health and Wellbeing board has recognised the need for a vibrant sustainable VCS for Calderdale and West Yorkshire to support health and care services”.

Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board on 7 February recognised the impact that the voluntary sector makes and the additional impact that savings made by the Council and the NHS may have on the community and voluntary sector.

We recommend that the Council and the NHS work together with the voluntary and community sector to ensure a coordinated approach to funding the community and voluntary sector.

- 4.26 Members expressed concern that changing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme would cause greater financial hardship to low-income households within the borough. Members explored the possibility of holding a referendum next year to increase the rate of Council Tax beyond government limits. If successful more income would be generated from Council Tax and therefore

there may be no need to change the rate of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

- 4.27 In Adult Services and Wellbeing Services there are proposals to make several savings across the provision of mental health services to Calderdale residents and Members were worried that about the impact this may have. Members were also concerned that this would impact on NHS mental health provision and was passing the financial burden onto the NHS. Members expressed concern that this may impact the current strong partnership relationships between the Council and NHS partners.
- 4.28 A concern was raised relating to cuts in the healthy homes team and the impact of a slimmed down team would have on Calderdale residents, particularly considering the recent death in Rochdale and subsequent statutory requirements. Members accepted that currently gainshare funding was being used to keep these teams in place over the course of the next two years.

Climate

- 4.29 The Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Active Travel and Housing confirmed that gainshare funding would ensure that the Climate and Emergency team would have adequate funding for the next two years to continue their valuable work. However, every effort would be made to ensure funding would continue after the gainshare funding finished.

Gainshare

- 4.30 In total, five of the proposals are supported by gainshare. The Director of Resources and Transformation has kindly provided the following explanation of gainshare:

In all mayoral combined authorities, apart from Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Gainshare (or Investment Fund Grant) is an amount agreed between central government and the combined authority as part of the devolution deal. It can then be used to meet the functions of the mayor's office. WYCA has control of £38 million per year allocation of gainshare investment funding over 30 years, to drive growth and take forward our priorities. West Yorkshire Combined Authority has a split of 75 (revenue): 25 (capital)

Allocations have been devolved to local authority partners to spend on agreed priorities. We have to agree a programme of eligible activity locally (agreed by Leader and Deputy Leader and submitted to Chief Executives) which is then submitted to WYCA for agreement and approved at a formal meeting of the Combined Authority. We are required to report against delivery outcomes.

*The current Gainshare is for two years and future Gainshare will be used to fund bus reform and other city region priorities and so any **potential** future gainshare allocations will be significantly reduced. These discussions will be undertaken in coming months but are tied in to the Level 4 Devolution.*

Income generation

- 4.31 There was a discussion amongst Members on how best to maximise the Council's income whilst also making the most of Calderdale's assets. Suggestions raised during the course of this discussion included; a 'Calderdale Card' which would give residents free or discounted entry to museums/heritage buildings whilst charging tourists an increased amount; selling merchandise for Calderdale buildings; more guided tours of Calderdale's heritage sites; and using Halifax Town Hall for weddings.
- 4.32 Members also raised whether there was an opportunity of using capital as an "invest to save" strategy to reduce revenue expenditure and that this should be considered.

Additional Comments – Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board – 7 February 2024

The following issues were discussed in the Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board meeting on 7 February 2024

- The Government has announced that £600m extra will be available to support local government. Calderdale's share of this is £1.9m. Becky McIntyre told the Board that she will recommend that this is used to reduce the call on using reserves.
- At the informal meeting of Adults Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board, staff told Members of ideas they have for efficiencies in their services. Members thought that it would be valuable for Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board to include on a future agenda an item about how the council can make best use of ideas generated by staff.
- The Director of Transformation and Resources suggested that she work with Councillors to develop a greater understanding of the operation of the Council's financial reserves. This work would benefit all Councillors and could be incorporated into the Member Development Programme.

5 OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Scrutiny Members received all relevant reports from the Director of Resources and Transformation including the Budget Proposals for Consultation (Cabinet report, 15 January 2024). Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board received a summary of discussions at two workshops. The Cabinet Member for Resources and the Director of Resources and Transformation attended both workshops and Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board on 7 February 2024 and addressed Members' questions.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

8 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

9 CONSULTATION

Cabinet's budget proposals for 2024/27 are subject to public consultation until 7 February 2024. Cabinet will consider the comments from the public, Scrutiny Members and any other feedback at the meeting on 12 February 2023.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

11 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

12 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board in relation to the Cabinet Budget Proposals for 2024/25 are included in paragraph 3 of this report. Cabinet is also requested to take into account the observations made by Scrutiny members when they prepare a revised budget proposal to present to Council.

For further information on this report contact Mike Lodge, Senior Scrutiny Officer
mike.lodge@calderdale.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Budget Questions 2024 (generated from workshop on 12th December 2023)

Appendix 2: Email Correspondence between the Chair of the AHSC Scrutiny Board and the Chief Operating Officer, Calderdale Cares

Appendix 1:

BUDGET QUESTIONS 2024

Overview:

Following the first part of the Scrutiny Budget Seminar on 12th December 2023, the Scrutiny Team analysed the responses generated at each table. The key themes and issues identified by members as being important are shown in the questions below. It is hoped that these will assist members when attending the second part of the Budget Seminar on Tuesday 23 January which is when Scrutiny Board members will be able to consider the budget for 2024/25.

Before the Seminar on 23 January there will be a meeting of Scrutiny Chairs and Deputy Chairs. It is proposed that if members wish to add any further questions to the list below that those are forwarded to the Scrutiny team so that they can be considered at the Chairs and Deputies meeting.

It would be very helpful if members confirmed their attendance on 23 January through the Outlook appointment if they haven't yet done so. The meeting is face to face and will be held at the Town Hall at 6pm on 23 January.

The Budget Proposals as a whole

Sustainable?

Are the proposals sufficient to make a Section 114 declaration unlikely in the foreseeable future?	
Are the budget proposals prevention and early intervention focussed?	Are we taking decisions that will suppress demand in the future?
Are we investing in the future?	Eg – career paths to enter the Council
Does the budget align with the Corporate Plan, the Workforce Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Wellbeing Strategy etc?	For example, does the vacancy freeze make it more difficult to achieve a more diverse workforce?
How do these proposals shift the balance between statutory and non-statutory services?	Can we adjust the thresholds for statutory services so that other services that have a longer term impact (eg preventive services) can be protected?

Are there further opportunities for invest to save proposals?	
Are we making realistic assumptions/projections to make budget calculations (e.g. 3% inflation)?	

A Priority Led Budget?

Do the budget proposals progress the Council's three priorities?	
Climate Emergency	How do the budget proposals contribute towards achieving carbon net zero by 2038?
	Have the proposals been carbon-costed?
	Are flood alleviation schemes ring-fenced? Will we continue to invest in schemes that save money in the longer term?
Thriving Towns	How do the proposals take the Thriving Towns proposals forward?
	How will the budget support SMEs and Tourism, which ultimately lead to bringing money into the Council in other ways?
Reducing Inequalities	How do the proposals overall reduce inequalities? Do the proposals overall shift resources from better off areas to those more in need of support?

Efficiencies / Short Term Savings, and alternatives to budget savings

What effect has the vacancy freeze had so far?	How long will the vacancy freeze last?
What interest has there been in the VER, Voluntary Redundancy proposal?	Have there been any requests for sabbaticals?
	What consideration has been given to staff who will remain at Calderdale but who's workload may increase following

	the vacancy freeze? Are their concerns this may cause more staff to leave?
	How will the vacancy freeze impact how services are delivered? What is the likelihood of redundancies? And how feasible are these in the short term?
What steps are we taking to reduce agency staff /locums / temporary consultant costs at a time of a vacancy freeze?	Is there a planned reduction in agency costs?
What steps have we taken to reducing running costs?	
Have we looked at reducing grants or financial support to other organisations?	
Have all opportunities been taken to use capital to generate revenue savings?	Like the streetlight scheme
Have all the savings from the five officer focus groups established last year been achieved and built into the Medium Term Financial Plan?	Have the focus groups been disbanded?
What income maximisation schemes have you identified?	Could charges rise more?
Will the 2023/4 budget balance?	The 2023/4 budget identified an increase in four posts aiming to improve private sector housing – two EH officers, one Building Control Officer, one solicitor. Have all these posts been filled?
Will the Council consider re-assessing investment strategy and look at highest yield investments?	If the Council do choose to invest, what checks and balances are in place to ensure safe investments and minimise risk?

Impact on Others

Overall, how will these proposals impact on Calderdale People?	Will any particular groups gain?
	Who will lose out?
Have we / will we consult explicitly with partner organisations?	Do the proposals have any impact on the police, the NHS, business, the voluntary sector?

Individual Schemes (Growth and Savings)

For each scheme	What is the proposal?
	What is the objective?
	What will be the outcome?
	What will be the impact on service users?
	What will be the impact on staff?
	Are there any – so far – unidentified wider consequences?
	Are you confident that years 2 and 3 of the proposals can be achieved?

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Appendix 2: Email Correspondence between the Chair of AHSC Scrutiny Board and Chief Operating Officer, Calderdale Cares

From: SMURTHWAITE, Neil (NHS WEST YORKSHIRE ICB - 02T) <neil.smurthwaite1@nhs.net>

Sent: 23 January 2024 16:24

To: Councillor Howard Blagbrough <Councillor.HBlagbrough@calderdale.gov.uk>

Cc: Mike Lodge <Mike.Lodge@calderdale.gov.uk>; Libby Whiley <Libby.Whiley@calderdale.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Calderdale Budget Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Councillor Blagbrough,

Unfortunately, Tuesday is upon us as only received this today. As partners in the Health and Social Care system we will be commenting on the budget consultation and are having conversations to understand the potential impact on the proposals. Given the short notice I have only been able to provide some high-level comments for your meeting this evening and I hope they are helpful for workshop.

Adult services

- CHC decision support tool £200k saving. We recognise correct interpretation of frameworks for both health and social care is important, particularly Continuing Health Care. This can be difficult to understand and use of a tool is helpful. For the NHS perspective we would expect the introduction of this tool to be done jointly with partners to ensure smooth implementation and enable communication of decisions to be joined up. Failure to implement as a system could result in cost shunting between organisations and damage good relationships
- Recovery college, vacant social care posts in MH pathway, withdraw social care from SWYFT vocational service. We recognise that these are not statutory roles and have been developed over time through integration and partnership working. Expecting withdrawal or health to pick up the cost could be detrimental to the outcomes those with mental health receive. We would expect system conversations about how the risk of withdrawal is managed.

Chief Exec office

- Public health commissioning plan proposals will need understanding for the impact they will have. The equality impact needs further consideration as it recognises that savings could be invested in more impactful way but doesn't describe how reinvested and given it is down as a contribution to savings it is a real term cut to preventative services and public health grant is being utilised for other Council services. It is not clear what that is as assessment says they contribute to public health. A targeted approach is welcome and helps prioritise limited resource and it would be good through the Health and Wellbeing Board to understand the plans as a system in more detail

Regen and Strategy

- VCS grants and volunteering support grants. The impact needs to be understood given Health also supports the VCS and their contribution can be underestimated in delivery of services. The Health and Wellbeing board has recognised the need for a vibrant sustainable VCS for Calderdale and West Yorkshire to support health and care services.

There is also the cross council commissioned services and contracts growing from £500k to £2m that needs further understanding to assess the impact on health.

I hope this helps,

Many thanks

Neil

Neil Smurthwaite
Chief Operating Officer, Calderdale Cares

Email: neil.smurthwaite1@nhs.net

Phone number: 07920 182383

PA support - Will Thompson (please note new support)

Email: w.thompson10@nhs.net

From: Councillor Howard Blagbrough <Councillor.HBlagbrough@calderdale.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:32 AM

To: SMURTHWAITE, Neil (NHS WEST YORKSHIRE ICB - 02T) <neil.smurthwaite1@nhs.net>

Cc: Mike Lodge <Mike.Lodge@calderdale.gov.uk>; Libby Whiley <Libby.Whiley@calderdale.gov.uk>

Subject: Calderdale Budget Proposal

You don't often get email from councillor.hblagbrough@calderdale.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning

I hope you are keeping well

As I'm sure you know the Council's Cabinet has published its draft budget proposals. You can find them here. [Cabinet's budget proposals | Calderdale Council](#)

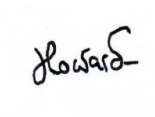
Several of them have a direct or indirect impact on the NHS, in my view, and as chair of AHSC Scrutiny Board, I am interested in your view on the extent of this impact and whether the NHS has had an opportunity to comment on the proposals or plan to during the consultation period.

The Council's Scrutiny Councillors have a workshop on Tuesday evening (23 January) to consider the budget proposals and the outcome of that workshop will be reported to a meeting of Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board on 7 February. I appreciate that Tuesday is nearly upon us, but it would be great to have your views before then. If not, and I appreciate it may be difficult, any comments you may have can be fed into the discussions on 7 February.

I am particularly concerned that several of the proposed savings have a direct impact on mental health services.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance

Many thanks and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard' followed by a stylized flourish.

Howard Blagbrough
Conservative Councillor for Brighouse
Deputy Leader of The Conservative & Unionist Group for Calderdale
Chair of Adults Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board

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