

COUNCIL, Wednesday, 24th November, 2021

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Pillai) in the Chair

Baines MBE	Ford	Raistrick
Baker	Foster	Rivron
Beech	Gallagher	Robinson
Bellenger	Holdsworth	Scullion
Benton	Hutchinson	Shoukat
Caffrey	Issott	A Smith
Cavanagh	Kirton	Sutherland
Clarke	Kingstone	M Swift
Cook	Leigh MBE	T Swift MBE
Courtney	Lynn	Taylor
Dacre	Metcalf	Thornber
Dickenson	Monteith	Tremayne
Evans	Parsons-Hulse	Whittaker
Fazal	Patient	Wilkinson
Fenton-Glynn	Press	Young
	Porritt	

49 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2021 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 22nd September 2021, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and signed by the Mayor.

50 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.

Councillor Scullion declared an interest in Item 6a – Calderdale Housing Strategy 2021-2026 as her husband was the Voluntary Sector Secretary of the Community Land Trust.

51 TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE announced that Councillor Angie Gallagher had been nominated by the Labour Group as the Mayor Elect for 2022/23 Municipal Year. Elected Members of the Council congratulated Councillor Gallagher on her nomination.

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

- (A) Councillor Baines MBE presented a petition on behalf of residents in Holmfield regarding 'Stop the Holmfield Hum'.

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

- (B) Councillor Cook presented a petition on behalf of residents in West Vale to 'Make West Vale an Air Quality Management Area'.

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

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

- (A) Question from Nikki Kelly to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities.

“On 13 November 2021, an article was published in the Daily Mirror, which covered social problems and the lack of community amenities in Mixenden. In particular, the article referred to drug abuse by teenagers in the area, and the effects on their mental health. Will the Council review the proposed Mixenden Hub to include a unit for third-sector service provision? Such services could provide advice and support to young people in North Halifax who are currently struggling with addiction and poor mental health.”

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

‘Youth Provision - Open Access

Newground Together (Part of Together Housing Group) have recently been commissioned to deliver Youth Provision service delivery in Mixenden and outreach in Illingworth. The contract with Newground commenced from 1/11/21. Newground are being pro-active and using social media to promote services, also working collaboratively linking in with the Early Help referral panel.

The service delivery proposal is for 75-150 Young People (13-19yrs old) and the delivery plan is for the development of programmes that give young people opportunities, experiences, and skills to develop their understanding and make informed choices about their lives. This includes activities aimed at building resilience and confidence, underpinned by informal education. Processes will be embedded in provision that ensure young people are listened to and are enabled to influence decisions about their lives, community, local services, and national agendas which bring about real change.

Partnership working is a key feature of the proposal **and** drawing upon the Together Housing Group’s Internal links with agencies such as ASB team, neighbourhood officers, welfare benefits and sustainable tenancies. Linking young people and their families in with community programmes, employment and skills support as well as further support from specialist VCSE partners, council services and internal Together Housing Group services where tenants.

Targeted Youth Support Activities in Mixenden

- Currently delivering one-night a week detached youth work in Mixenden.
- Young people from Mixenden can be referred to the early intervention panel for 1-1 work.
- Young people can also access targeted youth work groups delivered through the Orange box.
- The Team Leader Targeted Youth Service attends the Safer, greener, Cleaner meeting where any hotspots in relation to young people are identified and targeted interventions are offered.

Branching out

Branching Out have a designated worker for North Halifax. This worker has done some direct delivery in Ash Green Primary School to Year 6 around caffeine, alcohol, and prescription meds. There is no high school in Mixenden, but they deliver regular groupwork sessions and one to one work in the bordering schools (Halifax Grammar and Trinity) and the PRU.

The Positive Futures programme also offers sessions at Mags and Ramps (Skate Park) on the programme – this is Ovenden but very close and is open to Young People from Mixenden.

There is also the Hidden Harm offer – working with Young People who are affected by others substance misuse.

Response from Open minds

Whilst referral data is not broken down to ward level, monitoring data illustrates that the highest number of referrals for young people have an HX2 postcode which includes Mixenden.

Open Minds (CAMHS) also have close links with Ash Green school and have been involved in a number of initiatives and developments to support children and families from the school community in recent years, other partners such as Healthy Minds have also delivered support through the school.

Open minds are working ever more closely with our Healthy Futures Calderdale colleagues from the School Nursing and Branching Out/Humankind substance misuse services.

Services on offer in Mixenden from Open Minds

Support for professionals working with young people/families:

- **Resource Library** -on the Open Minds Website which offers mental health and emotional wellbeing resources for professionals (these resources have been checked with young people, professionals and parents/carers to ensure clarity and engagement).
- **Free training**- delivered by a mental health practitioner on: Introduction to Mental Health, Anxiety in Children and Young People, Depression in Children and Young People, Self-harm Awareness, Suicide Awareness, Building Resilience
- **Free consultation**- with a mental health practitioner in schools to look at supporting emotional wellbeing, strategies to use within the school/classroom environment and signposting
- **Free access to support** within the Wellbeing for Education Return and Recovery initiative: this includes training around Psychological First Aid and The Whole School Approach. Bitesize session are also available on self-esteem, anger and difference
- **First Point of Contact** provides advice and consultation to professionals, young people and their families about emotional health needs and will signpost to different resources/services or invite a referral
- **Open Minds (CAMHS)** Open Minds (CAMHS) may be able to help when **emotional or mental health problems which significantly affect a child's daily life have persisted despite a preventative or universal services intervention**. A referral to Open Minds (CAMHS) should be considered if some or all of the following issues are present:
 - Serious **deterioration in self-care**

- All/most family members **highly distressed**
- **Non-school attendance** as a result of mental health presentation
- Serious **deterioration in academic attainment** related to mental health presentation
- **Social withdrawal** (e.g. no contact with friends)
- Relations with peers leading to **serious risk-taking** Open Minds

(CAMHS) provides an integrated service which offers a **range of support options** depending on the needs of the young person/family. These include **digital therapy, face to face, and phone/video support**.

A range of **short-term interventions** can be offered depending on the needs of the young person/family. Longer interventions are offered on a case-by-case basis for more complex and enduring difficulties.

• **Crisis Support** Ring First Point of Contact for advice and support on **01422 300001**. 8pm-8am contact Night Owls on 03002003900 or text 07984392700 or chat online via wynightowls.org.uk

Support for parents/carers

- **Parent guides** to support parents with key mental health issues including signs and symptoms, suggested resources, strategies, and service for further support; *Anxiety, Low mood, Anger, Routines, Self-harm, Suicidal thoughts*
- **Parent Workshops** delivered by a mental health practitioner which include: Understanding and Supporting Anxiety (years 5&6) Supporting Transition (year 6)
- **Bespoke Parent Workshops** which may be requested by schools, this can include: Anxiety, Covid 19 and My Child, Supporting Transition (infant to junior) and Anxiety, Resilience and Social Media

Support for young people

- <http://www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk/> created by and for children and young people
- **Kooth** is a free, safe anonymous online counselling and support service. Young people can access Kooth's counselling service, self-help resources, peer to peer forums and interesting articles written by young people for young people.
- **The BREW Project** -delivered by Invictus Wellbeing offers children and young people who present with personal, social, emotional concerns to access bespoke support sessions.
- **Time Out-** delivered by Healthy Minds helps children and young people 'find their thing', through activities such as arts, crafts, sports, singing and drama sessions. Time Out also has a **Listening Line** which provides support and advice for students. **Text 07418 311736**.
- **Emotional wellbeing workshops for CYP** including Mental Health Awareness, Resilience, Anxiety, Transition, Friendship, Kindness and Social Media and Diversity, gender identity and relationships. Contact
- **Therapeutic Interventions in Secondary Schools (THISS)** 11 secondary schools are part of this jointly funded programme which enable access to EHWP support for KS3 students from Noah's Ark (*schools contribute to the cost of delivery*)
- **Calderdale School Nursing Team** identify health needs and help manage long and short-term conditions in education settings for children and young

people. **Chat Health** is a text messaging service for young people aged 11 - 19 (**07480 635297**). Parents/carers can text: **07507 332157** to start a conversation

- **Silvercloud** Open Minds (CAMHS) is now able to offer access to free on-line support for young people, parents and carers.

This support is free, accessible and involves minimal waits. A 'Supporter' from Open Minds (CAMHS) will provide on-line encouragement, guidance and advice and help monitor risk and effectiveness.

To benefit from Silvercloud support, young people (aged 14+) or their parents/carers will need access to a device (smartphone, tablet and laptop) and be IT literate. This support is not suitable for young people where there are significant risk concerns.'

(B) Question from Penny Hutchinson to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities.

"Following the extension of car parking charges until 8pm, I have spoken with hospitality businesses located in Halifax Town Centre, and I am saddened to hear the detrimental impact of the policy on their business. Cancelled bookings; regular customers, now very irregular; and pre-8pm bookings now unpopular. Customers are complaining and choosing to spend their money elsewhere, away from the town centre. After a tough 18 months, we should be helping our town and businesses get back on their feet. Will the Council survey local businesses to assess the impacts that these charges are having?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

'The changes that have been recently introduced in Halifax town centre are designed to encourage a turnover of parking spaces in response to the high demand generated by the night-time and weekend economy, and therefore to support local businesses by ensuring those customers who wish to park nearby are able to find spaces.

What we have done is create choice – for those wanting to park in what is considered a more convenient, 'premium' space, a charge is applied, whereas if people do not wish to pay then they can continue to park a bit further away from the central area, where parking remains free after 6pm, on Sundays and on Bank Holidays.

It is important to note that blue badge holders and other permit holders are unaffected and can continue to park as before, and there are also, of course, options other than using a private vehicle to come into the town centre, which is served by good public transport links - both bus and train.

Setting parking charges at an appropriate level requires a fine balance, with costs needing to be affordable in order to encourage visitors and shoppers, but not too low so that spaces become full too quickly and for too long, thereby making it difficult to find a space.

A recent external peer review of the Highways service recommended a review of parking charges, as these were seen to be much lower than other similar

areas, and it specifically recommended the introduction of evening charges to support the delivery of the Council's wider priorities relating to climate change and air quality.

Therefore, we carefully considered all these factors and the locations where changes have been made have been chosen based on traffic management considerations in order to support town centre retail, whilst also addressing environmental concerns such as congestion/circulation of traffic and carbon emissions.

It's been over eight years since charging hours in Calderdale were last reviewed and three years since tariffs were changed. Of course, we know people don't like paying more but the extension of charging hours into the evenings, Sundays and bank holidays is a reflection of the demand for good quality, convenient parking spaces at these times and thus ensures there is a good turnover of spaces in order to support, not hinder, town centre vitality.

So far we have had little resistance to what are relatively modest changes that, ultimately, should retain the necessary balance of affordability with traffic management and wider Council priorities.'

(C) Question from Michael Bradly to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities.

"Regarding the proposed new swimming pool that is to be built at the North Bridge Leisure Centre, is it even feasible to dig deeper in order to incorporate a diving pit, considering the location of the Hebble Brook culvert that "is approximately 8 metres below the site" according to the planning statement for this project?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

'The Environment Agency have been involved throughout the design of the proposed Halifax Leisure Centre. The detailed plans incorporating the exact route of the culvert beneath the leisure centre and the pool locations reflect this.

It would be possible to accommodate deep water, however the costs of doing so are prohibitive.'

(D) Question from Michael Bradly to The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE.

"When permission was sought to CPO land required for this new station named Elland, why weren't all the known owners presented in the papers put forward to Councillors?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

'The report gives detail of the land required for the build of the Station and the access package. In some instances, the owner of the land is "unknown" as the land isn't registered, in other instances the land registration may be out of date. In all instances it is the land requirement that is the key element of the report.

As a precursor to any compulsory purchase the Council will attempt to negotiate the land sale under conventional means, and it may be that at this stage the full details of ownership come to light. It's only if these negotiations break down, or indeed the owner of any "unregistered" land (if there actually is one) fails to come to light, that the Compulsory Purchase is actioned by serving the papers on the relevant parties in readiness for the Secretary of State's consideration.'

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

(A) CALDERDALE HOUSING STRATEGY 2021-2026

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 39 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Calderdale Housing Strategy 2021-2026 and associated action plan be approved and adopted.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Baker, Barnes, Scullion, Patient and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

(B) AGE FRIENDLY CALDERDALE

It was moved by Councillor T Swift MBE,
Seconded by Councillor Fenton-Glynn,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 45 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the policy objective to become a World Health Organisation Age Friendly Community be approved;

(b) to become members of the UK Network for Age Friendly Communities be agreed; and

(c) to commit to and sign the Centre for Ageing Better and Public Health England Healthy Ageing Consensus Statement be agreed.

Councillors Press, Leigh MBE, Taylor, Dacre and Fenton-Glynn commented on the recommendation.

(C) CALDERDALE COUNCIL'S EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2021-2025

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 54 be approved.

RESOLVED that Calderdale Council's Equality Objectives 2021-2025 and associated action plan be approved.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Baker, Dacre and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

(D) MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2024/25

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

That the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 58 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 and associated action plan be approved.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Baker, Dacre and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

(E) ADULT'S SERVICES AND WELLBEING & CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 5 YEAR COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY PLAN - EXEMPT

It was moved by Councillor T Swift MBE,
Seconded by Councillor Fenton-Glynn,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 59 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the Commissioning and Procurement Activity Plan attached to the Directors, Adult Services and Wellbeing, Children and Young People's Service and of Public Health written report at Appendix B, and Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment be approved; and

(b) the Procurement Activity Plan and the extensions highlighted to allow Adult and Children's Services and Public Health to comply with the Contract Procedure Rules and deliver high quality services that meet people's needs and improve their outcome be approved.

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

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

that the recommendation of the Governance and Business Committee contained in Minute Number 12 be approved.

Councillor Hutchinson commented on the recommendation.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the meeting timetable for the 2022/23 Municipal Year be approved, as set out on the following page, and it was agreed that the meeting of the Governance and Business Committee due to sit on the August Bank Holiday 2022 be moved to the 5th September 2022;

(b) Democratic Services be requested to arrange a further Council Meeting between Full Council in February 2023 and the Annual Council;

(c) the Budget Council meeting in 2023 be held on **Monday, 27th February 2023**; and

(d) the Annual Council meeting in 2023 be held on **Wednesday, 17th May 2023** commencing at 12:00 hours.

56 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

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

that the recommendation of the Audit Committee contained in Minute Number 30 be approved.

RESOLVED that Councillor Evans be appointed as Deputy Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

57 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND SIX MONTH RULE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

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

RESOLVED that in accordance, with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor Bryan Smith's non-attendance at meetings until the day after the end of the current municipal year on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to him.

58 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). He advised that following the announced Integrated Rail Plan, it was disappointing news for Calderdale and the whole of the North. Just over two years after the Prime Minister announced that he wanted 'to be the Prime Minister who

does with Northern Powerhouse Rail what we did for Crossrail in London', we now find that instead of a new, high-speed line between Manchester and Leeds, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) would instead take shape in upgrades to the existing line.

On top of this, in a reversal of devolution, Government had also decided that responsibility for carrying out these works would not lie in the north itself but rather would be whisked back to Whitehall, following the rejection of the ambitious plans developed by Transport for the North. Simply upgrading the existing line would do nothing to create space for more and more frequent local services. This would leave many smaller areas between the two cities without the access to transport needed to improve the region's connectivity and accelerate levelling up.

As a Borough that had links to both Bradford and Leeds, Calderdale stood to benefit from high speed rail improvements to both of our neighbouring cities, but the way Bradford had been let down in particular was a huge blow not only had the Government failed to invest in the future of our close neighbour, but the proposed new NPR station would have held out the prospect of ending the dreadful delays caused to Calder Valley line services by the nature of Bradford Interchange. And the promised electrification of the line between Bradford and Leeds only made sense if it were to be accompanied by the electrification of the Calder Valley line, something that had been promised by this Government since 2015 but now appeared to have been quietly forgotten. As West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin said, 'This is absolutely not levelling up. Instead of new lines being built for the 21st century, we're being offered a 20th century upgrade to 19th century'.

The Leader also advised that Councillor Scott Patient, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change and Resilience was able to be present at COP26 along with the West Yorkshire, WYCA and Calderdale Climate lead Officers. This led to several interesting discussions and connections which would help inform our forward planning. More of this is covered in Scott's report.

The report provided background information on Governance and Delivery within WYCA.

- Councillor Issott advised that WYCA had been awarded by Government the sum of £655,281.30 to improve the safety and use of parks by women and girls as well as to develop further education projects to promote safety for women. Councillor Issott asked the Leader how he would secure funding for Calderdale?

Councillor Issott noted that an online pilot project had been created nationally called 'Street Safe' that allowed the public to report anonymously to the Police any area they felt unsafe, which would build a picture of areas of concern. How would the Council promote this website for the residents of Calderdale?

In response, the Leader thanked Councillor Issott for her detailed questions and asked that she email him directly for a response as the content of the questions covered a number of directorates.

- Councillor Dickenson confirmed that he had emailed the Leader following his request at the last meeting of Council with details of potential peripheral bus routes, he confirmed he was still awaiting a response. Councillor Dickenson

asked the Leader if he had an update on whether low emission buses had been secured for Calderdale? In response, the Leader recalled correspondence had been issued and would look into it. He confirmed that he did not have an update but explained that the subject was discussed in detail at the WYCA Transport Committee and suggested that thought needed to be given to how information was shared with Members following these meetings.

- Councillor Baines MBE advised that as part of the Devolution Deal £67 million had been devolved to WYCA for the development of brownfield sites so that they could be developed for low housing. How many sites had been nominated for Calderdale? In response, the Leader advised that a number of Calderdale sites had been nominated and explained some of the challenges involved around the proposals, developments and size of sites.
- Councillor Baker noted the loss of funding for High Speed 2 (HS2) which had resulted in the HS2 leg of the network not being extended to Leeds. He asked if the Leader felt that government saw the Labour Leaders of West Yorkshire as an easy target? In response, the Leader advised that Government would be mistaken if that was the case. The Leader explained that the impact of the cancellation of HS2 to Leeds did not only result in the loss of rail lines but had a greater impact on other projects as Bradford and Leeds would have based their regeneration plans around the assumption that HS2 would happen. The Leader advised of impacts this would mean to the Calder Valley Line.
- Councillor Barnes advised that himself and Councillor Robinson had attended a WYCA Corporate Scrutiny meeting where the West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin attended a question-and-answer session. He informed Council that Mayor Brabin would be holding a number of these sessions over the municipal year and asked Members if they had any questions they wished to ask her, to pass these onto Members of the relevant Scrutiny Boards to ask on their behalf.

59 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

Councillor T Swift MBE, Leader, submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. The Leader advised he was shocked by the tragic and senseless murder of Sir David Amess MP and would once again place on record our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

The Leader noted that Cabinet had met twice since the last full Council meeting and there were a number of items for approval at the meeting including most significantly the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. There were a number of opportunities on the agenda to discuss the financial situation, together with the implications of the national budget and spending review.

The Leader shared that he was delighted that Cabinet were recommending that the Council adopt the intention to become an Age Friendly Borough and hoped this would command unanimous support.

In addition to the items for approval the Leader highlighted:-

- The update to the Partnership programme with Together Housing, which complements the Housing Strategy;
- The report on the development of an updated Cultural Strategy; and
- The approval of an updated anti-poverty action plan.

The report identified and provided background information on Remembrance Sunday, the integrated rail plan, Think You Know Halifax?, Health Partnership issues, flood partnership and COP26.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND COHESION

Councillor T Swift MBE, Leader, presented a written report on the work carried out since the last meeting of the Council. It was advised that following a sustained period of large numbers of Covid-19 cases over the Summer, in September and October Calderdale experienced the highest cases rates seen in the whole pandemic, with the 7 day case rate rising to above 600 per 100,000 for the first time on 13th October. Of particular concern was the high case rate in people aged 60, which was among the highest in the country. This led to high levels of hospitalisation. The number of people with Covid-19 in our local hospital rose to almost two-thirds of the peak of April 2020. This put local health and care services under significant pressure.

The high number of cases and associated pressure on health and care services in October was clearly driven by transmission in schools, with cases being passed from children and young people to older and more vulnerable people. Discussions with schools and other partners led the Council to advise schools to consider putting additional public health measures in place to slow the increase in transmission in school, so that fewer children would miss school due to Covid-19 and to protect the local health and care system. We wrote to schools and parents/ carers on 13th October giving our advice.

Since the extra measures were put in place, we had seen a steady reduction in the overall Covid-19 case rate and in cases in school aged children and young people. At the time of writing (people tested 17-13 November) the case rate had reduced to 245 per 100,000, giving Calderdale the lowest case rate in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Early indications for the coming days, suggested that the Calderdale case rate would stop reducing, which was likely to be due to increased transmission in schools following the return to school after half-term.

The advice to schools about considering additional measures was reviewed every 2 weeks. The evidence suggested that it had been effective in both reducing transmission in schools and increasing school attendance, so it would remain in place until it was reviewed again at the end of November.

The report provided background information on the Covid-19 vaccination programme, preparing for winter, Children's Public Health, Public Mental Health and healthy sustainable food.

(B) CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

(i) Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Strategy

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategy submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of the Council.

Councillor Scullion confirmed the Major Projects Team had continued to make progress on all capital projects despite the pandemic and the report detailed the work on the following projects:

- Schools Capital & Maintenance
- South East Calderdale Regeneration Programme
- Halifax Town Centre Regeneration Programme
- A629 Corridor Programme

The report provided further background information on the Town Development Fund, Planning and Building Control, Strategic Infrastructure and Economy, Housing and Investment.

(ii) Public Services and Communities

Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member for Public Services and Communities submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. Councillor Lynn confirmed that as autumn moved into winter, Council staff had been hard at work delivering the wide range of public services that residents relied on - everything from helping lots of hard-pressed families access extra financial support, to clearing up those falling leaves, and preparing for gritting in cold weather! Like everyone else, the Council was having to work in a way that recognised that Covid-19 had not gone away and as the report explained, many of our services were beginning to operate in a less restrictive way. Councillor Lynn extended her sincere thanks to all Officers and staff.

Councillor Lynn congratulated the West Yorkshire Police Service who had received an outstanding report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

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

(iii) Resources

Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member 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 Infrastructure, Digital transformation and strategy, Performance Management, Transformation and Business Intelligence, Finance, Legal and Democratic Services, Business and Skills, Adult Learning, and Procurement.

(iv) Children and Young People's Service

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

meeting. Councillor Wilkinson advised Schools and other education settings continued to do an outstanding job of managing the continued pressures of the pandemic. Thankfully Calderdale had seen a marked and sustained decrease in covid cases since we issued a recommendation that schools introduce additional measures to protect their pupils and staff from transmitting the virus. This decrease was particularly pronounced amongst secondary school pupils.

Headteachers had said they greatly value the flexibility to introduce measures as and when they needed to. The general view was that they felt face coverings were a hindrance in classrooms but they were encouraging students to make their own decision about communal areas. They all strongly supported the advice that a household contact should be advised to stay at home and have a PCR 3-5 days after the first case.

Going forward the Council want our schools to make decisions based on what was right for them. Attendance had improved since the local advice about additional measures was introduced on 13th October. Attendance based on available data for week ending 12th November was 93%.

Secondary schools had worked closely with Public Health and the School Immunisation Team to co-produce arrangements for the 12-15 vaccination programme. This was still underway with second visits now being made to schools to ensure all those wanting the vaccination had the opportunity to receive it. The Department of Education had congratulated Calderdale for the high levels of take up and the effective joint arrangements to ensure the programme's success. The Safe Education Group met weekly and a written update was sent to all schools, settings, chairs of governors and wider partners.

Councillor Wilkinson has pleasure in sharing that following an Ofsted Inspection Linden Brook, a residential unit that provided short breaks and respite for young people with disabilities had been found to be outstanding in all areas and he congratulated all staff that had been involved.

The report identified and provided background information on the Education Recovery Plan, Ofsted inspections in education, the Competition and Markets Authority review of Children Looked After placements, Healthy Holidays, front door health check, Fostering Appeal, Young Carers Cookbook Launch Event, Local Government event for Children and Young People's Lead Members Programme, family hubs announcement and the climate emergency.

(v) Adult Services and Wellbeing

Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Wellbeing submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. Councillor Fenton-Glynn advised that the report has been written for a Council that would follow the Government's recent social care bill. He shared that he felt that this was sadly another missed opportunity missed by this Government to address our social care crisis, offering no extra money and continued to keep the burden for funding care on Councils. The funds raised would come disproportionately from those with the least and would not add funding.

The Council had fundamental issues with the pay and retention of social care staff. The system needed a long-term solution, and the bill passed last night takes money from those with the least without offering more for the Government.

Since the last Council meeting the Adult Services and Wellbeing directorate had been coming to the end of its restructure. The focused had been on vaccination of our care staff and care home residents. We had also seen Calderdale care staff recognised in the great British Care Awards.

Councillor Fenton-Glynn announced that Joanne Thomas had received the regional Care Assessor/Care Planner Award from the Great British Care Awards, and would be nominated for the national awards.

The report identified and provided background information on s Operations Division Restructure 2020/21, the Great British Care Awards, age friendly community, vaccinations, the Basement Street Homeless Project and the Adult Safeguarding Board Peer Review.

(vi) Climate Change and Resilience

Councillor Patient, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last Council meeting. Councillor Patient advised that it had been a momentous time for work on Climate Change, housing and the voluntary sector over the past few months with major schemes greenlit for investigation like Horley Green, where following community involvement in Beech Hill, the same could be true for this much needed housing site. Scrutiny saw this development get the green light again, thanks to all for a constructive and honest discussion about housing need in the right places. Papers on Renewed Policy around Voluntary Sector commissioning and support plus new housing strategy were now in place as mentioned further below.

Councillor Patient advised that a local event run by the Climate Challenge College in Todmorden was a huge success, showcasing local action, education and leadership on the 5th November where it was explained about the work of the Council as deliverer and enabler to much praise. He advised he was honoured to share the stage with other Climate Activists not least Luke Steele from Wild Justice who talked about the need for Landowner and Land use reform to protect our ecology, biodiversity and Peatlands, not forgetting inspirational schoolboy Jude Walker who walked to Westminster from Hebden Bridge to raise the profile of putting a carbon tax on the biggest polluters - this action put over 100,000 signatures on the petition which meant it was debated in parliament - go Jude!!

It was confirmed that he travelled to COP 26 in Glasgow with Council Officers for the second week of the conference. An inspiring but equally infuriating time. Will Soloman from our Climate Working Party also attended and spoke eloquently as part of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly and best of luck to him up for "Young Community Champion" at next week's Community Foundation Awards.

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

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

- Councillor Issott asked that in relation to electric vehicle charging points how was the Council going to physically address that there were only 88 charging points within the Borough, taking into consideration that residents were not allowed to charge cars on a highway, and that some residents were from low social economic backgrounds who did not have a drive to charge their car? In response, Councillor Patient advised that the Council was working hard to develop an Electric Car Charging Strategy for Calderdale that worked in tandem with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) Strategy. He explained that it was not only about developing the Council's strategy and responsibility but how to encourage the private and business sector to participate.
- Councillor Courtney asked what the implications of the Government's recent announcement of the cancellation of the Leeds leg of High Speed 2 were for Calderdale and what pressure could we bring to ensure that Calderdale benefits from a properly functional coast to coast service? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that she was saddened by the missed opportunities of the Integrated Rail Plan. She explained and gave examples of how the Council would campaign for electrification of the rail network and to prioritise current rail users rather than projects that many would not live long enough to see.
- Councillor Cook asked what was the Council going to do to immediately hold Suez to account for missed collections and why was the Council afraid to tackle the situation with Suez? In response, Councillor Lynn advised that until earlier in the year the Government forbid the imposing of penalties on contractors during the pandemic. Councillor Lynn advised that it was a strategic plan at the start of lockdown to prioritise the collection of general waste and not recycling for public health reasons, those collections had remained at nearly 100%. For recycling collections, there had been a shortage of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers, which was a national not regional crisis which had impacted on collections. Suez were operating with only 75% of its driving staff but had managed 85% of recycling collections. Discussions were taking place as a result of negotiations with Suez to assist in trying to retain staff in terms of paying conditions.

Councillor Lynn understood the frustrations of missed collections and paid tribute to staff who were working in extremely difficult circumstances. Councillor Lynn explained that there was two years left to run on the contract and services were already looking at what changes could be made to improve services. Waste Services would be scrutinised at a future meeting of Place Scrutiny Board and Members were welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

- Councillor Tremayne asked how would the Government's announcement for local authorities caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

(UASC) affect Calderdale? In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that Calderdale had already supported a number of UASC's. Following the Government mandating the number of UASC's that each authority takes, Calderdale would be asked to accommodate one more child which was manageable for the Service.

Councillor Wilkinson shared the tragic news that thirty-one people had lost their lives in the English Channel which had reinforced the importance of this work.

- Councillor Metcalfe explained that the Government had voted on Adult Social Care Means Testing Support without any impact assessments. Did the Council know what financial effect this would have on the residents of Calderdale? In response, Councillor Fenton-Glynn shared his disappointment following the vote, and explained how this would not benefit the people that needed the service and support the most.
- Councillor Hutchinson stated that the Institute of Fiscal Studies, once again reconfirmed the benefits of the short Start programme cutting hospitalizations for children, particularly adolescents who had been through that programme to the effect of about 16,000 reduced missions every year. He asked that following the budgetary announcements, did this mean Calderdale would get relief to maintain its children centres? In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that he believed that there would only be twelve local authorities that would benefit from having a family hub and hoped that this was a pilot scheme which could be extended. He confirmed that Calderdale would bid for one of the hubs and that Calderdale was doing all that it could to attract funding for early years.
- Councillor Baker explained that he was concerned that a number of people within his ward were parking and then taking nitrous oxide and then disposing of the cannisters by the road. He also shared his concerns of people driving under the influence of drugs and suggested the Council looked at what other preventative measures could be put in place to tackle this problem. In response, Councillor Lynn agreed that she too was concerned around the problems of substance misuse and driving under the influence and confirmed that she would raise this with colleagues in the Community Safety Partnership.
- Councillor Porritt shared that she was disappointed with unambitious targets that were announced at COP26. What could the Council do as a Local Authority to mitigate climate change and make a real difference in the face of national and international indifference? In response, Councillor Patient advised that local authorities needed to work together and be clear about what the Council's message was, and what was expected from residents and to share the stories of the people that were suffering from the effects of climate change. Councillor Patient advised that the West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin recently visited Calderdale to discuss her Climate Action Plan and Calderdale needed to develop this and build upon its relationships with partners.

- Councillor Robinson advised that he believed that the Council should not only be selling some of its corporate estate but that it should be developing sites itself. Councillor Robinson explained that for a number of sites that it would be a low-risk strategy that could maximise receipts. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that potentially the Council could do more and shared some of the examples where the Council had invested and developed some of its corporate estate. Councillor Scullion gave references to examples of when some sites were sold on, they were done so with planning permission and confirmed that she would provide Councillor Robinson with a written answer providing further detail.
- Councillor Thornber noted there had been some improvement to the timescales for processing planning applications and asked if there was a way to speed up the whole process either by introducing technologies or updating practices? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that Cabinet have been transparent about the issues within the Planning department and shared some of the actions that have been taken to address this. An external agency had been contracted to support the processing of straightforward applications to reduce the backlog and also confirmed that a Peer Review had been commissioned for the Services which was in draft form. Councillor Scullion referenced recruitment issues within the team though did note that recruitment was a national issue within planning services. Councillor Scullion confirmed that she would provide Councillor Thornber with a written response.
- Councillor Bellenger explained the problems that a number of his constituents were having in relation to their recycling collection being missed and not knowing when the next one would be. He asked if the Council would be able to claim money back for missed collections and explained that constituents would not be provided with recycling calendars and that this information was online. He felt that this was not acceptable as many constituents did not have access to the internet. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that a briefing note had been circulated to Elected Members in November which did address some of the issues raised and also reiterated her comments from earlier in the meeting around the issues that Suez was facing from a reduced number of HGV drivers and the extra costs associated with them employing agency staff to cover routes. Councillor Lynn advised that a number of Councillors and residents had contacted the Service with regards to the calendars and she confirmed she would look into this further.
- Councillor Foster advised that Sowerby Bridge was recently host to 'Something in the Air Project' which discussed a number of aspects around air quality and pollution, including the pollution that was generated from wood burners and fires. Councillor Foster asked if there was a way to address the increased use of wood burners and how could information be provided to the public of the pollution they generated? In response, Councillor Patient advised that the Council was at the final stages of preparing the Draft Air Quality Strategy which would set out the strategic goals for tackling air quality and confirmed that he understood the impact that wood burners had on pollution. He confirmed that he would provide a written answer to Councillor Foster.

- Councillor Wilkinson advised that a recent survey by the Local Government Association ahead of COP 26 found that local Councils were trusted the most to take action on climate change and make a difference in local areas on reducing carbon emissions ahead of both the Government and World Leaders. Despite this, the Conservative Party had distributed leaflets in Calderdale, describing our investment in tackling the climate emergency as a Labour vanity project. Did Councillor Patient agree with this assessment, and what was his view of the role that local Councils must play in tackling climate change?

The Mayor advised Councillor Wilkinson that Councillor Patient would respond in writing to allow further questions from Members.

- Councillor Raistrick noted that part of Councillor Wilkinson report referenced the Competition and Markets Authority who had stated that Residential Homes were making vast profits. Councillor Raistrick asked that considering the excellent reputation of the Council's residential homes should the Council be investing in building further residential homes to care for our own children as well as providing a service for children out of area to increase the Council's revenue. In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that if the Council were to build multiple homes and welcome young people from other areas, that yes the Council would make a profit but that this did not help in relation to the increased pressures this would put on the Services.

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

RESOLVED that Councillors and others be appointed to serve as Members and Substitute Members of Scrutiny Boards, Panels and Committees for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year:

Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board	Delete Councillor Robinson as a Member and Replace with Councillor Baines MBE. Delete Councillor Baines MBE as a Substitute and Replace with Councillor Robinson.
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board	Delete Councillor Ford as a Member and Replace with Councillor Issott.
Employment Committee	Delete Councillor Evans as a Member and Replace with Councillor Baker.
Place Scrutiny Board	Delete Councillor Kirton as a Substitute and Replace with Councillor Issott.
Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board	Delete Councillor Leigh MBE as a Member and Replace with Councillor

	<p>Robinson.</p> <p>Delete Councillor Robinson as a Substitute and Replace with Councillor Issott.</p> <p>Delete Councillor Monteith as a Substitute and Replace with Councillor Leigh MBE.</p>
Governance and Business Committee	Delete Councillor Ford as a Substitute and Replace with Councillor Issott.

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

RESOLVED that Members of the Council and others be appointed to serve as representatives of the Council on outside bodies unless they resign, become disqualified or are replaced by resolution of the Council as follows:

National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA)	Councillor M K Swift to replace Councillor A Smith as a member
West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Economy and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Press as a member

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

(A) Question from Councillor Baker to Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy:

‘In June this year the Liberal Democrat Group suggested that Calderdale Council could follow the lead of other local authorities in helping to organise a rainbow pride crossing to demonstrate support of the local LGBT+ community.

We believe this would be in the spirit of the Council’s motto “Everyone different, everyone matters”.

Is this something you support in principle? If so, what progress has been made to get such a crossing ready for Pride Month 2022?

Is the Council in a position to accept funds raised by the public via crowdfunding efforts towards this project?’

In response, Councillor Scullion confirmed that:

‘We do support this in principle and that the highways team are currently looking to identify suitable pedestrian crossing points.

She also confirmed that the principle of accepting external funding for identified works has already been established.'

(B) Question from Councillor Holdsworth to Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities:

"The current proposals for a new leisure centre in Halifax differ from those contained in the 2017 "Built Facilities Strategy", which is the Council's own evidence about the need and priorities for sporting facilities.

That plan, spanning 2017-2027, stated that an eight-lane pool with diving facilities, deep water with a moveable floor in a 17x9m training pool and 3G football pitch facilities were needed. This statement of identified need is the evidence which Sport England will use when assessing the Council's application for funding. They will start with Calderdale's own review of needs.

Would you accept that it is likely that the Council risks losing out on capital funding from Sport England if the plans adopted by the Cabinet for a new Sports and Leisure Facility do not align with the stated sporting and leisure needs of the Council's own Built Facilities Strategy?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

'The 2017 Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) provided the Council with a projected overview of leisure needs and priorities for the whole of the Calderdale area.

The BFS clarifies that any suggestions will need to be tested in relation to its feasibility and affordability.

Sport England have been in ongoing communication with the project team and have been updated and consulted as the design and facilities have developed. Sport England consider numerous factors when assessing bids, including affordability and extending the use of proposed facilities beyond traditional sport, to encourage sectors of the community who would not have previously visited. The bidding process for the Strategic Facilities Fund will be completed shortly.'

(C) Question from Councillor Leigh MBE to The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE.

'On 20 October, ahead of COP26, Calderdale Council posted a video on its Facebook page, where the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience stated that "we've shown that capitalism in itself is an issue".

Capitalism is an economic and political system, where trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit. The People's Republic of China is a Marxist-Leninist Socialist state which is the largest emitter of carbon emissions in the world. The former Soviet Union was one of the largest polluters in the world and one of the largest exporters of fossil fuels, particularly coal and natural gas. It is not the system which is the problem, but heavily polluting industrial and manufacturing processes which can exist in any system. The

answers to climate change and the progress in achieving net-zero will come from the innovation, creativity and dynamism of market forces.

This video tarnishes the politically neutral position of Calderdale Council and should not have been published on its official page. The Cabinet Member was featured alongside politically neutral Council Officers, who are being associated with an ideological statement. A review should be undertaken to prevent any future posts containing an ideological bias in any communications purporting to be from the Council and the post should be taken down immediately.'

In response, The Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE advised that:

'I have taken advice from the Council's head of legal and democratic services and based on this I am not convinced that anything in the video concerned breaches the rules on political impartiality. Councillor Patient is not stating support for a specific political party in his comment, he is simply stating that the way capitalism operates is 'an issue' in the climate emergency.

The behaviour of and actions of China are also an issue, as also in my opinion are the policies and actions of a number of other of the world's largest economies.

Councillor Leigh's question seems to be based on a somewhat black and white caricatured view of political and economic systems. Most sensible people would accept that whilst some innovations to address climate change may well be delivered through market forces, the reality is much more complex than this black and white approach suggests. The work of Marianna Mazzucato demonstrates, for example, that many of the most important and significant technological innovations are in reality the result of a mix of publicly funded research and private innovation – as has been demonstrated most recently with the Astra Zeneca vaccines and others.

Capitalism operates within a framework of politics and policies; indeed capitalism itself is impossible without a framework of law. There are sadly too many examples –the suppression of research into the harms of smoking being just one – of massive corporations seeking to use their powers in ways that harm the wellbeing of us all, where government intervention to prevent this necessary and justified. I would hardly have seen this as a political controversial point. It is after all nearly fifty years since a Conservative Prime Minister found it necessary to condemn the actions of some businessmen as 'the unacceptable face of capitalism'.

I know that our communications team always take their obligations to abide by the rules governing council publicity very seriously, but I would be very disappointed if this rather contrived complaint were allowed to distract from the excellent and vital work Councillor Patient is leading to start to address the Climate Emergency.'

(D) Question from Councillor Parsons-Hulse to Councillor Wilkinson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People's Services.

‘Good early years education is key to reducing inequalities and improving life opportunities.

This Council set itself a target of 84% of two-year-olds taking up and benefiting from this education. However, the Council currently RAG rates itself red against this target, with just 76% of two-year-olds taking up these places.

Why is this administration failing to reduce inequality through its failure to hit its own targets?’

In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that:

‘The 76% figure on the Dataworks website is from 2020 so it is out of date. However, it is worth noting that even at that point in time the 76% figure compared to a National figure of 69%, so we were considerably outperforming most other authorities.

We are currently unable to publish the national figures for 2021 (hence the 2020 figures still showing on the Dataworks website), however DfE states that national uptake has been impacted due to the impact of COVID-19, in terms of uncertainties placed on providers and a fall in demand from parents.

Despite this, we have high ambition for the take up in Calderdale and considerable work has gone on to increase it. In Spring we had increased our take up to 81% and by summer we were at 84% meeting the Council’s target, and significantly outperforming national figures.

Our figure is likely to increase again as we allow total flexibility on two year old take up throughout the term in Calderdale, unlike many other LAs where there is a cut-off date.

The fact that in Calderdale we have continued to increase our take up, against the context of the pandemic and the reduction in the national rate, reflects considerable work to engage families with good early years education, to reduce inequalities and improve life opportunities.

We are working with our Performance and BI Team to ensure that more up to date local data is published, but far from failing to meet our targets and tackle inequalities we should be very proud of the work this council our officers are doing on this.’

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

(A) KEEPING HALIFAX A SAFE NIGHT OUT

A Motion was submitted by the Conservative Group that addressed ‘Keeping Halifax a Safe Night Out’, with amendments received from both the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.

The Leader, T Swift MBE advised that following a discussion with the Leaders of the remaining political groups, and the strong views around the safety of the

community in Halifax, that there was potential to undertake further work with the Community Safety Partnership Group and it was proposed that the Motion be withdrawn, and a new proposal be brought to a future meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that the Motion be withdrawn.

(B) COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW

It was moved by Councillor Dacre,
Seconded by Councillor Rivron

This Council notes:

That the Chancellor's recent Spending Review made some welcome announcements but fell very far short of what is necessary to support our local residents and the services provided to them by Calderdale Council.

Nationally the Government announced £4.8 billion additional grant funding for councils over the next three years. Calderdale's share is likely to be in region of £5 million a year.

In spite of this announcement experts from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Local Government Association say this is not even enough for councils to maintain necessary service levels and amounts to less than half of the £10 billion that is needed. There are also indications that central Government is likely to direct that this is to be used for specified additional costs such as increased NI contributions and the national living wage increase arising from the recent Social Care announcement and funding for cyber security. It will barely leave councils at a standstill.

Over the last ten years the Government has reduced central grants again and again, expecting councils to make up shortfalls by increasing Council Tax. This puts a disproportionate burden on Calderdale residents, especially those with lower property values. It is residents in the lowest council tax band properties who generally have the lowest disposable income.

Government claims that council spending power will increase over the next three years are hollow because this can only be achieved by councils like Calderdale increasing Council Tax by three per cent per annum. The Government is outsourcing tax rises and shunting costs onto local people to avoid responsibility for cuts in services.

This Council also notes that:

Far from seeing extra money for local people and services the Chancellor's announcement means real cuts in services in the coming year. Calderdale's Medium Term Financial Strategy current forecasts predict that to balance increasing costs against the background of reduced central funding may mean cuts of up to £3.2 million in 2022/23 rising to £5.3 million by 2024/25. That means very difficult decisions about the prioritisation of resources as the Council has already made savings of £115 million in 2022/23 (compared to the 2010 budget) and reduced the workforce by a third. Given most of the Council's spend is on Adults and Children Social Care it becomes hard to contemplate cuts that affect the rest of the services that local people value.

This Council therefore asks that the Chief Executive writes to the Chancellor calling on him to:

- Acknowledge the shortfall in real funding for Local Authorities.
- Commit to moving away from short term piecemeal handouts for restricted purposes.
- Reinstate general grant funding based on an objective formula for assessing need.
- Support the Levelling Up Agenda by ending competitive bidding for funding
- Give local people the power through the ballot box to decide how their council spends money.

Councillors Leigh MBE, Cook, Scullion, Kingstone, Baker, Fenton-Glynn, Press, Hutchinson, Issott, Barnes and Rivron commented on the Motion.

RESOLVED that:

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

There were no questions to the Chairs of Scrutiny Boards, Panels and Committees or comments from Members.