

COUNCIL, Wednesday, 9th February, 2022

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Pillai) in the Chair

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

65 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 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 24th November 2021, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and signed by the Mayor.

66 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.

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

- (A)** The Mayor invited Councillor Ford to pay tribute to the memory of Former Councillor Richard Marshall who had recently passed away. Councillor Ford shared memories of some of the work he had carried out with Mytholmroyd Community Centre and the national honours he received for the work he did. He highlighted the fund raising for Mytholmroyd Swimming Pool and hoped that if it got built in the future it may be named after Former Councillor Richard Marshall for all the work he had done for the people of the Calder Valley.
- (B)** Councillor Scullion paid tribute to the memory of Former Councillor Richard Marshall on behalf of the Labour Group and acknowledged and supported Councillor Fords comments. She highlighted the extreme kindness of Former Councillor Richard Marshall and expressed condolences to his family.
- (C)** Councillor Gallagher announced that Councillor Clarke had been nominated by the Labour Group as the Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year and the Council congratulated Councillor Clarke on her nomination.

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

- (A)** Councillor Ford presented a petition on behalf of residents in the Vauxhall Road area of Elland regarding the 'reinstatement of swings taken away 18 months ago for the young people of the area'.

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

- (B)** Councillor Patient presented a petition on behalf of Mytholmroyd residents to "lobby the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Metro to reinstate the 901-bus route".

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

- (C)** Councillor Cook presented a petition on behalf of residents to save our high streets to "support our residents and reverse the new parking charges".

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

69 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.**

"With NHS appointments now being offered more frequently residents are being given time slots as early as 7am. In light of this and the extortionate bus fare price increase, will the Council commit to working with West Yorkshire Metro in looking at removing the restrictions on peak time usage for disabled and concessionary passes? This will particularly support children that are having to miss valuable education time to attend appointments."

In response, Councillor Lynn advised that:

Calderdale Council recognise the importance of an economical regular and reliable bus service capable of taking people where they want to go when they need to go there and is already committed to working in partnership with WY Metro.

That is why we are fully supportive of the Mayoral pledge to "join up transport across West Yorkshire" the effects of which will be:

- To bring buses back under public control
- To introduce simpler fares
- To create a tap-in, tap-out capped fare
- To create flexible ticketing options, including contactless, and
- To introduce a greener bus fleet.

The scheme which is being referred to here, enables older people and those with disabilities to travel by bus free of charge after 09.30 on weekdays and at anytime at weekends, is a national scheme.

Whilst the Combined Authority currently has discretion to vary the scheme to enable free travel before 09.30, the additional cost would need to be funded from Council Tax. Although the Combined Authority's 2022/23 budget does not include provision to fund this, discussions are already ongoing with bus operators to facilitate cheaper fares for free bus pass holders travelling before 09.30 Monday to Friday.

- (B) Question from Joe Thompson to Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy.**

"As someone who works in a local business, I am worried about the ongoing uncertainties due to Covid-19. What support is currently available for businesses in Calderdale, and what is the Council doing to proactively get this support to businesses? Looking ahead, how will the Council be working with businesses and business leaders to ensure our area can thrive?"

In response, Councillor Scullion advised that:

We do understand how difficult it has been for local businesses in the last two years. Currently the Council is delivering funding to businesses to help support them through the effects of the COVID pandemic. This includes:

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant – this grant aimed at the Hospitality, Leisure, and Accommodation businesses can deliver up to £6,000.00 for businesses struggling to deal with the affects of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The Additional Restriction Grant – This is a one-off payment to businesses severely affected by COVID-19 restrictions and particularly the recent issues caused by the Omicron variant. This fund is open to all business sectors and can deliver up to £6,000.00 dependant on business size.

And we are preparing the delivery of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) – which will allow the Council to offer business rates relief to those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

There are also multiple business support programmes available, and these are listed below:

The Employment Hub – which can help businesses with recruitment, writing of job descriptions, connect businesses with work ready candidates, and find training for employees. They can also help employees who have been made redundant to find new employment.

Calderdale Growth Hub - The Calderdale Growth Hub is part of the Leeds City Region Growth Hub which is aimed at helping small to medium sized businesses recognise their potential for growth and help them grow. It can bring expertise into the local area to help businesses overcome their barriers and achieve their plans for growth.

Place Development Team - supports the borough's visitor economy with a team that works to create and promote trade and tourism and safely welcome people back to Calderdale. They can help with:

- Public health.
- COVID-19 awareness (VSI Alliance).
- Advocate the digital and skills activity.
- Find ways to create a cleaner greener environment.
- Support with the visitor offer

Start Up West Yorkshire – Offers a series of on-demand videos, live workshops and resources to help possible new business owners decide if it's right for them and tell them everything they need to know to get started on their start-up journey and offer support to businesses under 12 months old.

Infrastructure Investment – The Council has worked extremely hard to attract significant external capital investment. Monies have been secured from the Levelling Up Fund, West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, the Transforming Cities Fund, the Town Deal and the Future High Streets Fund (among others). These monies are being deployed across the borough through the Calderdale Next Chapter Programme (www.calderdalenextchapter.co.uk) and underpin our key priorities of reducing inequalities, prosperous towns and responding to the climate emergency.

Key investments are being made across the A629 Corridor which will improve access to Halifax and address historic 'pinch points', reducing journey times and transforming the visitor experience. Active travel routes for cyclists and pedestrians are also being developed alongside rail station investment in both Elland and Halifax. Building on the cultural offer in the Piece Hall, we will shortly invest in our historic Borough Market and Victoria Theatre, improving our leisure and retail facilities and nighttime economy.

Through Town Deal and Future High Street Fund investment we will see numerous town centre improvements in Todmorden, Elland, Halifax and Brighouse, directly linked to key town priorities and influenced through Town Development Boards who have a direct link to business.

We know it has been difficult, but we are fully committed as a Council to ensuring that our businesses get the help they need to thrive.

70 SOWERBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

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

that the recommendation of the Sowerby Neighbourhood Forum contained in the report be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the referendum result of 25th November 2021 where 85% of those voting voted in favour of the Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan, which is above the required 50% be noted;

(b) the Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan presented at Appendix 1 of the report be formally "made" so that it continues to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District; and

(c) the Director, Regeneration and Strategy be authorised to issue and publicise a Decision Statement included at Appendix 2 of the report.

Councillors Leigh MBE commented on the recommendation.

71 **TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:**

(A) CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR CALDERDALE

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 76 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Cultural Strategy for Calderdale be approved.

(B) GREEN AND HEALTHY STREETS CORPORATE POLICY

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 77 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Green and Healthy Streets Corporate Policy be adopted.

Councillors Baker, Bellenger and Patient commented on the recommendation.

(C) CORPORATE ESTATE – CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 81 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) £2.6m be added to the Council's capital programme for the essential health and safety works required, to be funded by prudential borrowing be approved; and

(b) the additional £169k revenue funding required to service the borrowing be added to the Council's revenue budget from 2022/23 onwards be approved;

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

(D) PHASE 3 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME – TODMORDEN SPORTS CENTRE

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 82 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) £2.076m be added to the Council capital programme for 2022/23 for the scheme with £350k of this to be funded by prudential borrowing; be approved; and

(b) the additional £23k revenue funding required to service the borrowing be added to the Council's revenue budget from 2022/23 onwards be approved.

(E) CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 87 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the following strategies and policies be approved:-

1. The Capital Strategy (Appendix 1)
2. The Investment Strategy (Appendix 2)
3. The Treasury Management Policy (Appendix 3)
4. The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (Appendix 4)
5. The Prudential Indicators (Appendix 5)

and;

(b) an Operational Boundary for external debt of £163m, £157m and £149m and an Authorised Limit for external debt of £171m, £164m and £157m for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively be approved.

(F) HALIFAX NEW LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT DELIVERY

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

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 89 be approved.

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

The following 25 Members voted for the Recommendation:

M Barnes	S A Patient
S Clarke	V M Porritt

S Courtney	S M Press
S Dacre	C Raistrick
D Durrans	H R Rivron
M Fazal	J Scullion
J Fenton-Glynn	F Shoukat
D S Foster	A Smith
A Gallagher	D Sutherland
C H Hutchinson	M K Swift
A Kingstone	T Swift MBE
J M Lynn	D K Young
R Metcalfe	

The following 15 Members voted against the Recommendation:

S Baines MBE	D E Kirton
G Beech	S Leigh MBE
T Benton	B Monteith
H G Blagbrough	G A Robinson
J Cook	R L Taylor
R G Dickenson	R Thornber
J Ford	S J Whittaker
F Issott	

The following 6 Members abstained from voting:

J D Baker	S Holdsworth
P A Bellenger	A Parsons-Hulse
A J R Evans	C Pillai

RESOLVED that:

(a) the vision to provide modern combined leisure and sport facilities at the existing North Bridge Leisure Centre site continues to be supported and option 1 set out part (e) to “deliver the New Halifax Leisure Centre in line with the November 2021 cost plan and associated operations management plan” be approved;

(b) the capital sum detailed in the report be incorporated into the Council’s Capital Programme and funded by prudential borrowing up to the maximum figure detailed in the report, to allow for lower than expected levels of grant funding from the Sport England Strategic Facilities Fund be approved;

(c) the additional sum of revenue funding detailed in the report, required to service the net borrowing (after taking into account additional income) and provide for the contingency detailed in the report, be incorporated into the Council’s revenue budget from 2023/24 onwards (£100k in 2022/23) be approved; and

(d) the required construction works be procured through the UK Leisure Framework described in section 4 of the report be approved;

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Councillors Leigh MBE, Parsons-Hulse, Baker, Dacre, MK Swift, Lynn, Holdsworth, Issott, Cook, Barnes, Baines MBE, Robinson, Fenton-Glynn, Bellenger, Shoukat and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

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

(A) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was moved by Councillor Baines MBE,
Seconded by Councillor Evans,

that the recommendation of the Audit Committee contained in Minute Number 48 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Council accepts the Public Sector Audit Appointments invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

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

(A) PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022-23

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

that the recommendation of the Governance and Business Committee contained in Minute Number 16 be approved.

RESOLVED that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23 as set out in the Chief Executive's written report and annexes be approved.

74 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

(A) MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023

It was moved by Councillor Scullion,
Seconded by Councillor MK Swift,

that the recommendation of the Standards Committee contained in Minute Number 9 be approved.

RESOLVED that the:

(a) Members' Allowances Scheme approved by the Council on 10th February 2021, be approved for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023; and

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(b) Annual adjustment provision for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 should be applied, meaning that there will be an increase in those allowances in May 2022 in line with Local Government Staff.

Councillors Leigh MBE, MK Swift, Press, Baines MBE, Bellenger, Cook, Issott, Barnes, Clarke, Baker, Rivron, Scullion and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.

75 MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS COUNCIL MEETING WITH ANY REMAINING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT A RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2022

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

that consideration of the remaining items be adjourned to a reconvened Council meeting to be held on 9th March 2022.

RESOLVED that consideration of the remaining items be adjourned to a reconvened Council meeting to be held on 9th March 2022.

Councillors Taylor, Robinson, Baker, Fenton-Glynn and T Swift MBE commented on the recommendation.