

## **COUNCIL, Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Pillai) in the Chair

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

**84 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 AND 28TH FEBRUARY 2022 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 9th February 2022 and 28th February 2022, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and signed by the Mayor.

**85 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.

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

- (A)** The Mayor invited Councillor A Smith to make an announcement. Councillor A Smith advised that following the cancellation of the Mayor's Charity Ball, the beneficiary being the Alzheimer's Society, a collection had been undertaken and she was happy to present the donations received to the Mayor.
- (B)** The Chief Executive announced that there would be a vigil held for Ukraine at the Halifax Minster which had been organised by the local Ukrainian community on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 5:30pm, anyone was welcome to attend.
- (C)** The Chief Executive announced of a recent act of bravery by a member of Staff, Andy Barwell from the Safer Cleaner Greener Team, who in January whilst conducting an inspection of the park around Clay House became aware of a woman and her dog who were in difficulty in the river. Andy was able to jump in and get both to safety. This was an incredible act of bravery and the Chief Executive commended him for his bravery and actions and invited Andy to receive a formal commendation from the Mayor.
- (D)** The Mayor invited the Deputy Leader, Councillor J Scullion to lead tributes to Keith Farrington, The Mayor's Attendant, who would be retiring at the end of March. Councillor J Scullion explained that Keith had supported the Mayoral Office, Mayors and Deputy Mayors with integrity, respect and a formidable sense of humour.

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

- (A) Councillor Parsons-Hulse presented a petition on behalf of residents in Greetland regarding the 'Campaign for road safety measures in Greetland'.

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

- (B) Councillor Holdsworth presented a petition on behalf of residents in Greetland regarding the 'Safer Streets in Greetland'.

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

**88 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.**

"A number of residents in Illingworth and Mixenden have contacted me regarding the amount of dog fouling on the streets, particularly in high footfall areas such as near schools. Will the Council commit to a regular presence from wardens at key times in these persistent areas in order to clean up our streets?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised:

"Our wardens provide visibility and reassurance in neighbourhoods patrolling alongside other uniformed organisations such as the Police and the Fire Service. Officers will focus their patrols in areas where either the community have identified problems or where they know there will be high footfall. I can reassure you that schools are a key deployment for our wardens especially at the start and end of the day and should officers see an incident of dog fouling there will not hesitate to act. We will continue to focus our attention on schools as well as parks and other high footfall areas.

Dog fouling and dog nuisance is an issue which the Council knows does really matter to local communities and that is why the Council has taken steps to protect Calderdale streets and open spaces through the use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). The PSPO makes dog fouling and other dog nuisance issues an offence and action can be taken by either authorised Council Officers (wardens) and the Police. More often than not the presence of a uniformed officer prevents dog fouling and other dog related offences however, we accept that our wardens cannot be everywhere so we ask for public support to stop, the minority of dog owners who allow their dogs to foul, from blighting our neighbourhoods. If you know a perpetrator in your neighbourhood please tell the Council by reporting the person on-line [Start: Report dog fouling: Calderdale Council](#), we can and will take action based on your information.

Reporting issues to the Council really helps the Council to prioritise and respond effectively to issues. Our wardens do work closely with the local community so will know many of the hotspot areas for dog fouling however, we don't always get to hear of emerging areas so if you feel that dog fouling is becoming an issue in your area please let the Council know by reporting the problem on-line [Start:](#)

[Report dog fouling: Calderdale Council](#) or raising it at your local ward forum where community issues are raised, discussed or prioritised.”

**89 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:**

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland,  
Seconded by Councillor Thornber,

**RESOLVED** that Calderdale Council continues to request an ESOL Entry Level 3 English test for all Taxi and Private Hire driver new license applications as part of a consistent approach across West Yorkshire authorities but also to accept an English taught qualification of Level 1 or above.

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

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader presented a written report of the Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE that provided Members with an update on the work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The report identified that the West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin had visited Dean Clough on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Elected Members and Officers from the Regeneration and Strategy directorate to meet with Jeremy Hall and colleagues and visited a number of businesses on site including Covea. The transformation of Dean Clough was a fantastic example of how Calderdale created new opportunities that build on our heritage, and it was great to be able to showcase this work.

Mayor Brabin also visited Mixenden on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Meeting local stakeholders and hearing key messages about hopes and aspirations, and the need to level up and invest in North Halifax.

She also attended the Women's Centre and various projects and stakeholders in Todmorden the same day, helping build further links with Calderdale and a mutual understanding of our shared priorities.

The report provided background information on decisions made by WYCA, Development and Delivery and the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership.

In addition to the report Councillor Scullion advised there would be information uploaded to the Council's website which would provide information on how people could support the people of Ukraine. She also advised that whilst Covid-19 restrictions had been relaxed there was still many cases recorded within the Borough which needed hospitalisation and she urged Members to be cautious and continue to follow Covid-19 safety measures.

Councillor Scullion announced that Councillors Press, Metcalfe, B Smith and Raistrick would not be standing for re-election in May and thanked them for their service to the Council.

- Councillor Issott advised that double yellow lines had been painted outside a number of businesses on Oldham Road in Rishworth which had caused distress to the business owners as customers could no longer park outside to

shop. She asked why these decisions were being made based on computer models without site visits being undertaken and what was the Leader doing to ensure Calderdale businesses were being treated fairly? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that computer models were appropriate for the technical aspects of the work and confirmed that Calderdale had pressed WYCA to undertake site visits before making decisions. She confirmed that she would request a written response from WYCA.

- Councillor Baines MBE expressed his concerns of the state of the roads within Calderdale. He noted that potholes were still a problem within the Borough along with the lack of road markings which had an impact on road safety and the implementation of parking fines. Councillor Baines MBE asked for an update on the situation. In response, Councillor Scullion confirmed that Calderdale was responsible for Highways, not WYCA, and confirmed that she would provide a written response.

**91 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)** Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader presented a written report of the Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. The report advised of the shock of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the potential scale of civilian casualties, and growing number of refugees.

Calderdale would show its solidarity as a Council and the community with the lighting up of Wainhouse Tower in Ukrainian colours and were looking at other measures. There had been a huge groundswell of support in the community which the Council had promoted.

The most important practical measures that would be taken would be support for the relocation of refugees, and Members would be kept updated on this.

Since the last report to Council, Cabinet had met once. Significant decisions include:-

- Agreeing the new Calderdale Cares Partnership agreement setting out how the Council, health, and the voluntary sector would continue to work together on health and wellbeing;
- Responding to the Scrutiny Panel report and proposals on tackling problem debt;
- Agreeing changes to the Workplace and Office Accommodation Strategy relating to the future use of Horton Street; and
- Noting the latest positions in terms of capital and revenue monitoring.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND COHESION**

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader presented a written report of the Leader, Councillor T Swift MBE on the work he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council. .

The report provided background information on Covid-19; reviewing the Covid-19 response and Active Calderdale.

## **(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 and the report detailed the work on the following projects in particular Ash Green Community Primary School following the devastating fire in February which had affected and entire extension to the school:

- Ryburn Valley High School
- A641 Corridor Improvement Programme
- A629 Corridor Improvement Programme
- Halifax Leisure Centre;
- Mixenden Hub
- Future High Street Fund Halifax and Elland;
- Northgate Commercial Development;

The report provided further background information on Corporate Asset and Facilities Management (CAFM), Towns Development Fund, Planning and Building Control, Economy, Housing and Investment, Business & Skills and Visitor Economy.

### **(ii) 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. He advised that the report also marked a year of being in post and that he wanted to put on record the truly excellent team I work with in Adult's Health and Wellbeing. It had not been an easy time, but during this period the Council had not only responded to day-to-day difficulties, but also looked forward to projects like the Age Friendly community and Dementia and Disability Centres of Excellence.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 was the National Day of Reflection for coronavirus and having taken over this brief during the Covid-19 crisis he paid tribute to the truly remarkable professionalism and resilience that our staff in care had shown and he shared that he was proud to work with them every day.

The report identified and provided background information on Bridge House, Integrated Commissioning, Contracts and Quality Update March 2022, Operational Update - Continued Support for all Social Care Providers during the Omicron Variant, Burnt Bridges/Complex Lives and compliments received.

In addition to the report Councillor Fenton-Glynn paid tribute to Councillor Metcalfe, former Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing who would not be standing for re-election in May. He advised that Councillor Metcalfe had worked in local government for half a century and had

worked tirelessly with Officers over the past eleven years in transforming Adult Services into the Service it was.

Councillor Fenton-Glynn also paid a personal tribute to Councillor Press who would not be standing for re-election and shared that she had become a great friend over many years.

**(iii) Children and Young People's Service**

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

The report identified and provided background information on Early Years, Schools, Education Recovery Plan, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion Group, School Plan Planning, Operation Warm Welcome, Ash Green Community Primary School, School Rebuilding Programme, Ofsted Inspections in Education, New Healthy Holidays Programme for 2022, Early Intervention and Safeguarding and LGA Peer Review of Corporate Parenting arrangements.

In addition to the report Councillor Courtney advised that she had pleasure in presenting an award at the recent Children and Young People's Service awards and commended the social work teams for their dedication and commitment to children and young people. Councillor Courtney paid tribute to Councillor Raistrick, Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board who would not be standing for re-election in May. She advised that Councillor Raistrick was a fantastic Chair, and it had been her pleasure to work alongside him as his Deputy Chair.

**(iv) 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.

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

**(v) 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 advised that Members had already been reminded of the worrying situation in Ukraine she confirmed that the Asylum and Migration team within the Public Services directorate were getting ready to respond and support those fleeing Ukraine.

She took the opportunity to thank the local Halifax Ukrainian community for their fantastic efforts. They had been collecting donations at D Mill at Dean Clough and she explained that at least six lorry loads had already left and have made it to the Polish border where it was so badly needed. Councillor Lynn advised that if anyone wanted to help, either by volunteering time or making a donation, please check their Facebook sites to see what was needed via the Halifax Ukrainian Club – Uky Club and SavingUkraine 2022.

Special thanks were given to Council staff who had worked tirelessly through the recent storms in clearing fallen trees, tackling overflowing drains and other issues at all hours of the day and night.

The report identified and provided background information on Bereavement Services, Transport Services, Parking Services, , Green Spaces and Streetscene, Waste and Recycling, Community Protection, Customer Services, Neighbourhoods and Cohesion, Sports Services and Cultural Services,

**(vi) 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 Employment and Skills, ICT Infrastructure, Digital Transformation and Strategy, Performance Management, Transformation and Business Intelligence, Finance, Legal and Democratic Services and Human Resources and Organisational Development.

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

- Councillor Leigh MBE asked for clarity around what discussions and information could be shared when an item was deemed to be exempt in a meeting? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that she ask the Leader to respond in writing.
- Councillor Monteith shared her concerns that the national figure for children missing from education was ten percent and she asked for assurance that the Children and Young People's (CYPS) directorate were actively monitoring the situation in Calderdale. In response, Councillor Courtney confirmed that she had been reassured by both the Director, CYPS and the Assistant Director, Early Intervention and Safeguarding that throughout the pandemic all children who were looked after or at risk were monitored and reconfirmed that all face-to-face meetings had continued throughout lockdown.
- Councillor Blagbrough advised that it had been challenging throughout the pandemic to hold Ward Forum meetings and that there had been a reduction in the number of people attending virtually. He advised that there were some funds left over in relation to Brighouse Ward Forum and asked if these funds could be reallocated to organisations that needed them? In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she was unsure if monies could be transferred over and confirmed that she would provide a written response.
- Councillor Issott advised that there was an issue of fly tipping in Calderdale where traffic left the M62 Motorway at Junction 22. She asked if the Council could make it a priority to clean this area as it was not the view that was wanted for tourists visiting the area? In response, Councillor Lynn acknowledged there was an issue of fly tipping not only in Calderdale but nationally. She advised that she would discuss the area with Officers.



- Councillor Barnes advised that he had been asked by a resident if the LED lighting scheme that was approved in 2017 had achieved the benefits stated in the original proposal? In response, Councillor Scullion advised that the LED lighting scheme was an invest to save initiative and she confirmed that it had already saved money. She explained that the estimated cost of lighting in 2023 was expected to be approximately £1.4 million as opposed to £4 million if the scheme had not been implemented.
- Councillor Foster advised that the Universal Credit Housing Allowance had remained the same for a number of years, she asked if the Allowance was sufficient to meet the needs of families against the rising costs of housing? In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she was unsure if the Allowance was sufficient as the calculation needed to be undertaken for the current year. She advised that she would speak to Officers for further information and revert in due course.
- Councillor Tremayne asked how were apprenticeships affected during the pandemic and what role did the Authority see apprenticeships playing in the recovery from Covid-19, and had the Council been successful in recruiting Children Looked After to apprenticeships? In response, Councillor Dacre advised that during the pandemic apprenticeships did fall, and this was seen nationally because of Covid-19 restrictions. Councillor Dacre referred to a recent ECall that listed all current apprenticeships and she explained that as part of the recruitment campaign Officers would visit schools and speak to students. Councillor Dacre advised that there were and had been successful apprenticeships of Children Looked After and as Corporate Parents this was really important that we provided this opportunity for our young people.
- Councillor Hutchinson noted that Public Health England has estimated between twenty-eight and thirty-six thousand people died each year in the United Kingdom because of air pollution. As the Government was committed to banning new petrol cars by 2030, what strategy was the Council developing to allow home owners to enjoy the benefits of using electric cars that could be charged from home? In response, Councillor Patient advised that Officers were working with colleagues across West Yorkshire on the West Yorkshire Low Emissions Strategy to create a wider strategy around how authorities tackled this subject to the topography and individuality of each area. Councillor Patient advised that a strategy would need to be developed to incorporate many departments, Highways, Parking and Public Services and confirmed work was being undertaken to ensure that this was developed cohesively.
- Councillor Baker asked what the timeframe was for Calderdale to implement Public Space Protection Orders to prevent the anti-social behaviour in relation to the anti-social use of vehicles to support the Police? In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she would be happy to liaise with Officers and the Police to see what extent the Public Space Protection Orders could be used within Calderdale.
- Councillor Thornber referred to the early question from Councillor Issott regarding flying-tipping off Junction 22 of M62. He advised that a volunteer

group had offered to clear this area and noted that due to Health and Safety issues this was not possible. He asked if the Council could work with the volunteer group to clear the area and if CCTV could be installed in this area? In response, Councillor Lynn asked Councillor Thornber to pass her contact details of the volunteer group so that she could pass this information onto Officers. She advised that would look at the possibility of installing CCTV as she understood that on occasions this had happened in problematic areas.

Councillor Wilkinson took the opportunity to thank Councillor Courtney for acting as Interim Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People's Service. Within this time, he advised the Services had received an Ofsted visit and there had also been the fire at Ash Green School. Councillor Wilkinson extended his thanks to Rob Murray, Assistant Director, Early Intervention and Safeguarding who would be retiring in the near future and noted that he had done an excellent job in the most challenging of times during the pandemic.

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

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

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

**RESOLVED** that the following Officers of the Council 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:

<b>Halifax BID Limited</b>	Shelagh O'Neill, Director, Regeneration and Strategy
	Diana Greenwood, Tourism & Visitor Economy Manager

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

**(A) Question from Councillor Taylor to Councillor Scullion, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy:**

Part 1: With the current ongoing work to upgrade Halifax Bus Station and the subsequent closure of the public lavatories there, would the cabinet member liaise with the WYCA and the council's CAFM team to facilitate the need for extra conveniences please? As someone with both IBS and a swollen prostate, access to public conveniences is important to me and many others. Also, with additional bus stops temporarily provided along Waterhouse Street and (upper) Crown Street, I feel the obvious answer is to reopen the George Street facilities closed some two years ago citing COVID as the reason.

Part II: Among the many alterations forthcoming in Halifax Town centre, the access to Market Street and its many well used bus stops will cease meaning passengers will have to walk further away from the town centre to catch their respective buses. This is a very useful access point very near to many well used retailer outlets and is also reasonably near especially for those with mobility problems and no private transport. May I ask that no permanent closure infrastructure is installed for a trial period of 12 months from closure and a survey of passengers be carried out as to their feelings when it is closed? Could the retailing outlets around Market Street be included in the survey also? Then, if it becomes clear that the closure is leading to loss of shoppers to other places or is making life difficult for many, it can be reopened without much need for undoing previously installed infrastructure and not costing so much.

In response Councillor Scullion advised:

#### Part 1

The Halifax Bus Station project is being carried out by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority through external funding provided by the Department for Transport. Officers have been working with WYCA to address the issue of public toilet provision during the construction phase of the project. As an immediate extension of provision, the opening hours of the public toilets located on Albion Street have been extended to 12 hours per day, seven days per week.

Options for the provision of temporary toilet facilities on the construction site have been explored. However, the Combined Authority has confirmed that this is proving difficult, due primarily to space constraints, levels and surveillance. Further options are being actively explored and, as soon as an appropriate solution has been identified, Councillor Taylor will be informed, and this will be publicised.

#### Part 2

The pedestrianisation of Market Street is part of the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) Phase 2 project. The scope and interventions proposed for the project went through an exhaustive consultation process and have received planning permission some time ago. The scheme is now fully designed and will be going out for procurement in April. The project delivers considerable improvements to bus circulation across the entire Town Centre core alongside public realm benefits. Bus passengers will be able to access Market Street facilities through bus stops on Horton Street. The pedestrianisation will enhance the opportunities for retail provision and events on Market Street in addition to improvements in air quality and pedestrian circulation.

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

#### **(A) FUEL POVERTY**

The Mayor advised that a Motion had been received from the Labour Group regarding Fuel Poverty. The Mayor further advised that an amendment had

been received from the Liberal Democrat Group which had been circulated to the full membership of the Council prior to the meeting. On receipt of the amendment the Labour Group, after due consideration, amended their original Motion to incorporate Liberal Democrat Group Amendment. A copy of a revised Labour Democrat Motion was circulated to all Members during the meeting and consent was sought to accept the revised Motion without debate.

The Mayor asked Councillor Dacre if both herself and Councillor Patient were happy to propose and second the incorporation of the Liberal Democrat Amendment into the Labour Motion. Both Councillor Dacre and Councillor Patient confirmed that they were happy to accept the Liberal Democrat Amendment.

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

This Council welcomes the fuel rebate payable to Council Tax payers in Bands A-D and the Discretionary scheme for vulnerable non-Council Tax Payers.

However:

- These schemes do not go far enough to protect those on low incomes who spend a higher proportion of their income on fuel or those “just about managing” who will be tipped into fuel poverty by the expected rises in fuel costs.
- We are a relatively wealthy country. It is wrong that we have residents who have to choose between food or heating.
- Too many homes in our country are inadequately insulated. We are still building homes which will need to be retrofitted with effective insulation.
- It is absurd that so many of us have to consume more fuel simply to compensate for poorly insulated homes.
- The Government’s approach to this problem has been piecemeal and chaotic-as evidenced by the scrapping of their flagship Green Homes Scheme.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder of the risks of relying on foreign fossil fuels.
- A nationwide, funded scheme of home insulation would address fuel poverty, provide employment and reduce our fossil fuel dependency.
- We cannot afford not to make this investment in our country.

This Council resolves to

Ask the Chief Executive and Leader to write to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for them to:

- Impose stronger insulation requirements on all new homes, without delay.
- Adopt a strategic approach to retrofitting home insulation and roll out a nationwide scheme with adequate investment to ensure all homes are properly insulated.
- Adopt a strategic approach to energy generation, recognising both carbon reduction and national security imperatives.

Request that Cabinet, in the absence of co-ordinated Government action, consider as a matter of urgency and in partnership with WYCA a piece of work setting out this Council's options for implementing a substantial programme of home insulation in this Borough. Such a programme would have beneficial effects in the in the areas of fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis and would contribute to meeting the Borough's carbon reduction targets

Councillor Cook addressed Council to move the Conservative Amendment to the Labour Motion circulated prior to the meeting. Upon a challenge from Councillor Baker to Councillor Cook for him to declare a pecuniary interest in the motion that as a Director of an insulation company he would have a financial benefit if the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned for Councillor Cook to receive legal advice. The meeting resumed where the Head of Legal and Democratic Services announced that Councillor Cook had declared a pecuniary interest as he was the Director of company that provided insulation and would not take part in the discussion or vote to the Motion.

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

Delete all of the original motion and replace with the following:

### **Home Insulation Strategy**

This Council recognises:

- As mentioned in the Cabinet's Housing Strategy paper, the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Outcome Delivery Plan 2021 to 2022 sets out Government aims for housing: Deliver more, better quality and greener homes.
- Over this Parliament, central government is investing over £3 billion to help improve energy efficiency in almost 500,000 low-income, fuel poor households, delivering average bill savings of nearly £300 every year with grants of up to £25,000.
- The existence of a strong, robust national Government scheme to tackle fuel poverty called the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). This scheme is administered by Ofgem and since its inception in 2013 has overseen the installation of insulation and efficient heating measures in 2.4 million properties across the U.K. installing more than 3.4 million measures.
- The ECO Scheme accounts for 97% of total measures installed under Government schemes. The estimated lifetime carbon savings from these schemes is approximately 59 MtCO<sub>2</sub>. The impact on fuel poverty has been enormous with total lifetime bill savings for people who have benefitted from ECO estimated to be nearly £19bn.
- Local Authorities may participate in the ECO Scheme under the Local Authority flexible eligibility arrangements (LA Flex). This means that Local Authorities can help to identify fuel poor households within its Borough and ensure they qualify for free insulation and heating measures under the ECO

Scheme. This gives the Local Authority an opportunity to engage with energy suppliers and other local companies to ensure that homes within the Borough get insulated. Calderdale Council has so far not taken sufficient advantage of these LA Flex arrangements under ECO to have a large enough impact locally.

- That under the statutory guidance “Conservation of fuel and power: Approved Document L” for Building Regulations has meant that since 2014, it has been illegal to build new homes in this country without adequate insulation. New homes are therefore no longer being built without adequate insulation.
- The Government has taken significant steps to decarbonise the energy network in this country and focus on renewable generation.
- Calderdale has benefited from the Green Homes Grant for Local Authority Delivery Schemes. Following Phase 1A and 2, 286 homes have benefited from this funding. Further funding has been secured for Phase 3; installation will commence in March 2022 up until March 2023.

This Council further recognises central government’s package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with rising energy bills, worth £9.1 billion in 2022-23. This includes:

- A £200 discount on their energy bill this autumn for domestic electricity customers in Great Britain. This will be paid back automatically over the next 5 years.
- A £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in council tax bands A to D, known as the Council Tax Rebate.
- £144 million of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate, known as the Discretionary Fund.

Finally, this Council acknowledges the Chancellor’s announcement at the Spring Review.

The current VAT relief for families installing energy saving materials like solar panels, heat pumps or insulation used to be more generous. But the European Court of Justice in 2019 forced us to add complex red tape which limited eligibility, removed certain items from qualifying, and restricts VAT relief to 5 per cent. Now we have left the EU, the government are using our Brexit freedoms to remove this 5 per cent VAT charge over the next five years, reverse the EU’s decision to take wind and water turbines out of scope, and remove all the complex EU-imposed red tape. This adds up to a £250 million tax cut for energy efficiency. A typical family installing roof top solar panels will save £1,000 on installation, and then £300 annually on their energy bills.

This Council resolves to:

- Set up a large Calderdale Council-led scheme that utilises the existing Local Authority flexibility arrangements under the current Government ECO scheme to insulate 1000’s of homes across the Borough in the next 12 months and have a real impact on fuel poverty.

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- Work with energy suppliers and local businesses to set defined targets for the number of properties to be insulated across the Borough under the ECO Scheme.

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

Councillors Lynn, Press, Issott, Dickenson, Baker, Hutchinson and Barnes commented on the Amended Motion

**RESOLVED** that:

This Council welcomes the fuel rebate payable to Council Tax payers in Bands A-D and the Discretionary scheme for vulnerable non-Council Tax Payers.

However:

- These schemes do not go far enough to protect those on low incomes who spend a higher proportion of their income on fuel or those “just about managing” who will be tipped into fuel poverty by the expected rises in fuel costs.
- We are a relatively wealthy country. It is wrong that we have residents who have to choose between food or heating.
- Too many homes in our country are inadequately insulated. We are still building homes which will need to be retrofitted with effective insulation.
- It is absurd that so many of us have to consume more fuel simply to compensate for poorly insulated homes.
- The Government’s approach to this problem has been piecemeal and chaotic- as evidenced by the scrapping of their flagship Green Homes Scheme.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder of the risks of relying on foreign fossil fuels.
- A nationwide, funded scheme of home insulation would address fuel poverty, provide employment and reduce our fossil fuel dependency.
- We cannot afford not to make this investment in our country.

This Council resolves to

Ask the Chief Executive and Leader to write to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for them to:

- Impose stronger insulation requirements on all new homes, without delay.
- Adopt a strategic approach to retrofitting home insulation and roll out a nationwide scheme with adequate investment to ensure all homes are properly insulated.
- Adopt a strategic approach to energy generation, recognising both carbon reduction and national security imperatives.

Request that Cabinet, in the absence of co-ordinated Government action, consider as a matter of urgency and in partnership with WYCA a piece of work setting out this Council’s options for implementing a substantial programme of home insulation in this Borough. Such a programme would have beneficial

effects in the in the areas of fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis and would contribute to meeting the Borough's carbon reduction targets

- (B)** Councillor Leigh MBE explained that the Conservative Party had wished to present a motion to the February Council meeting in relation to migrants which had failed for legal reasons. He advised that the legal issues had now been resolved and sought Council approval to suspend Council Procedure Rule 26.1 to allow Council to consider a late Motion.

It was moved as a **Proposal** by Councillor Leigh MBE, and  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

The **Proposal** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 26.1 on being put to the vote was not carried.

Councillors Scullion, Robinson, Baker, Bellenger, Issott, Barnes, Shoukat, Fenton-Glynn, Holdsworth, Press and MK Swift, commented on the proposal.

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

Councillor Baines MBE, Chair of the Audit Committee expressed his thanks and appreciation to Nigel Broadbent, Head of Finance for the support and commitment to the Audit Committee over the years and confirmed that he would be missed following his retirement.