

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
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AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Regeneration and Strategy Deputy Leader of the Council
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## MAJOR PROJECTS

The Major Projects Service continue to deliver the capital portfolio at pace and in line with funding criteria. Key issues being managed at the moment are:

- **Construction Price Inflation:** Levels of inflation in the construction industry have been extremely high for the last two years, and we are seeing composite levels of over 12% and individual spikes for specific materials (e.g increases in steel of 93%). Recent pandemic recovery and the situation in Europe have increased inflation substantially over the course of 2022. Given that the majority of capital budgets for external projects were set before inflationary pressure was priced in (e.g. West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund budgets set in 2014), it is proving extremely challenging to deliver the projects within their current allocated funding limits. As such, it is expected that active projects will need to be re-scoped to allow for their continued delivery.
- **Recruitment & Retention:** It remains challenging to recruit qualified and experienced project management and technical staff for complex regeneration, construction and civil engineering projects. The Council is continuing its internal training programme for project managers, although at present the workforce has needed to be supplemented with consultant resource.

### Project Updates:

- **A641 Multi-modal Transportation scheme:** The Outline Business Case for this £75.5 million scheme was approved by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Board at its meeting on Thursday 23rd June. This represents a major milestone for the project which will deliver a package of transformative transport interventions along the 8-mile A641 corridor, with a key focus of improving walking, cycling and major highway improvements within the Brighouse area. The Outline Business Case approval will now release over £8 million to fund work on preparing the A641 Full Business Case. This work will now commence in earnest.

- **Clifton Enterprise Zone scheme:** Work has continued at pace to develop a multi-million-pound funding bid for the development of the proposed business park at Clifton Enterprise Zone. The funding bid is expected to be submitted to the Government by 6<sup>th</sup> July as part of its Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Programme. A bid announcement is anticipated during the Autumn.
- **Brighouse Town Deal Scheme:** Business Cases have now been prepared for each of the projects that comprise the £19.1 million Brighouse Town Deal initiative. The Town Deal initiative will deliver transformative public realm improvements in Brighouse town centre, a major revitalisation of Brighouse Market and an Industry 4.0 training and skills project. Each of these projects have been refined over the course of the last few weeks with significant input from the Brighouse Town Deal Board and stakeholder and public feedback. This included a major public engagement event that was held on Saturday 21st May at Brighouse Market where the community were able to view the proposals, share their feedback and help shape scheme designs.
- **Ryburn Valley High School:** Works are progressing very well, with the structural steel frame and roofing complete. Installation of the Metsec framing is well underway in readiness for the external cladding to be installed. The overall construction programme is approximately 60% complete and is on programme to handover as planned in August 2022, ready for the start of the new term.
- **Ash Green Primary:** Following the formal appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team, the feasibility study has commenced, with the schedule of accommodation, site surveys and indicative plans currently being prepared. Regular key progress meetings have been scheduled with school and the DfE throughout the feasibility phase, with the next meeting due to be held on site on the 6th July.
- **Ravenscliffe@Spring Hall:** Following agreement of the strategic brief for the expansion of the existing Post 16 provision at Spring Hall, Officers have prepared and issued tender documentation for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team for RIBA stages 0-7. A decision regarding appointment is expected w/c 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- **A629 Phase 1b:** Construction works continue to progress well and recent design challenges regarding the re-routing of statutory undertakings have now been resolved, albeit with some impact to programme. The project team continue to address material price issues brought about due to recent inflationary pressure. Traffic Management on the site is functioning well and the contractor has just received a near perfect Considerate Contractor assessment, indicating that their impact on local residents and the environment is being managed very well.
- **A629 Phase 2:** The project design is nearing completion and the scheme will shortly be tendered on the open market. This is a key milestone for the project and is a requirement of the WYCA assurance process which will provide construction phase funding for the project. Once tender prices are received the team will more fully understand the impact of recent inflation on the scope of the project and

whether current deliverables are realistic within mandated funds.

- **Halifax Station Gateway:** The project is undertaking further consultation with the community following further design development. Additional master planning work is also underway with Eureka! to ensure that the development around the Station is sustainable in the long term.
- **Northgate Commercial Development:** The development is now complete and Royal Sun Alliance (RSA) have taken the building. They are currently completing secure cabling required for their ICT systems and will move staff into the building in the next few months. Snagging and defects rectification is currently being delivered by the construction manager in collaboration with RSA.
- **Mixenden Hub:** After the withdrawal of the previous occupier from the scheme, the project team are currently drafting alternative arrangements for consideration by Cabinet in August.
- **Halifax Leisure Centre:** Structural reinforcement of the Bowling Dyke access bridge is now complete to enable construction traffic to access the site safely during the construction phase of the project. This is a temporary arrangement and historic cobbles and sets will be put back following completion of the building. Necessary adjustments to statutory undertakings are now moving forward to enable demolition work to progress in preparation for construction mobilisation.
- **Elland Town Future High Street Fund:** Design development is continuing at pace and the team will present at the next Elland Town Board meeting.
- **Halifax Future High Street Fund:** Tenders have now been received for the work to Halifax Borough Market and the team are currently reviewing these documents in terms of value for money. A paper for August Cabinet is being drafted to update Elected Members on progress on both Future High Street Fund programmes.

## PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

On 11 July the Local Plan took an important step forward on its journey towards adoption when Cabinet agreed to launch a consultation on the main modifications that are required to make the Plan sound and legally compliant. This consultation is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

At the same Cabinet meeting the Planning Service Improvement Plan was endorsed by Members following a recommendation from the Place Scrutiny Board, who undertook an excellent piece of work scrutinising the work on the Improvement Plan completed by officers. Overall whilst there continues to be challenges for the Planning Service, hard work by both officers and Members is starting to have a positive effect.

## STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Flooding Update**

Approximately 93 flood incidences were reported from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 (compared with 142 during 1/12/21 to 28/02/22). Out of these 44 have either been visited or remotely reviewed and issues resolved, 26 are currently subject to on-going investigations and 23 still require a Site Visit and will take place as soon as possible. As would be expected all visits have adhered to the current Covid-19 guidance.

Cameras and flow monitoring equipment have previously been sited at only two sites, Hebble Brook and Shroggs, adjacent to the trash screens. These allow remote monitoring of the sites to take place and thus enable more targeted interventions during high water. They have recently been joined by five more cameras at:

- Redwater Clough, Cornholme
- Stoney Royd Lane, Todmorden
- Nutclough, Hebden Bridge
- Copley, and,
- Jumps Road, Todmorden

Further telemetry equipment is going to be installed at Oakhill Clough, which will include cameras and flow monitoring equipment at a trash screen. This screen is currently being inspected in person where possible and is in poor condition, if blinded flood flows can significantly impact downstream as observed in previous flood events. The installation of telemetry will help with being better prepared for future flood events and aid in mobilising maintenance contractors quicker should the need arise.

A new round of the landowner grant scheme has been launched with up to £500,000 available for NFM schemes, applications are accepted until the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. Landowners are offered free support, from a range of NFM Operational Group partners, in developing their scheme and completing an application. Botanical surveys of land proposed for NFM projects are underway with a short turnaround of 2 weeks agreed for survey results, this is to ensure time is not spent developing a project which may not be feasible from an ecology perspective.

Under instruction from the NFM operational group Atkins have undertaken a study of the potential for NFM in Calderdale, the final report is now available with land use change found to be the most beneficial type of NFM. Key examples of this include woodland creation and moorland restoration.

Artists have been engaged to create artworks that act as NFM to help raise awareness of NFM and the work of community groups such as Slow the Flow and Treesponsibility, the programme of artworks will launch with works from world renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy in 2023.

## **Streetworks Update**

Northern Gas Networks continue to deliver their cast iron main renewal scheme within

Calderdale which is likely to last until 2035. At the moment there are two major schemes being undertaken, one in Heptonstall and one in the Southowram/Charlestown Rd area of Halifax. Both schemes will improve the service delivery to customers, eradicate ongoing issues with gas leak and also poor pressure in the winter months caused by the condition of the cast iron main.

The Heptonstall Scheme has taken 6 months to pull together with the emphasis being on keeping the school buses running, also the service buses, access for emergency services and causing the least amount of disruption to residents as possible. We have worked closely with the school, WYPTE, the bus operators/school buses to achieve this and kept the emergency services in the loop. Closures are required but have been programmed in with the bus services in mind.

Focus has also been on the quality of reinstatement in a conservation area, keeping both residents and Councillors up to date with the scheme, which has been done via the NGN website. The scheme is on track to be finished before the children go back to school in September.

The Southowram/Charlestown Road Scheme started in April and again is on track to be finished by September. A challenging scheme but access to Southowram has been maintained without any detriment to the bus/school service and been managed on the main roads with temporary traffic lights and only the feeder roads being closed.

## INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

The **Inclusive Economy Recovery Board** has helped shape the borough's response to the pandemic over the last two years, bringing together those organisations that have a stake in our inclusive economy and ensuring Calderdale is focused in its support to businesses and the promotion of an inclusive economy that benefits both businesses and people. At its June meeting, the Board agreed to move to a new phase, focusing more specifically on employment and skills and business support, and working to develop an approach that is broader than simply recovery. The Board will meet again in September with a focus on employment and skills and an update on the UKSPF and other regional funding programmes and initiatives.

**Developing a Strategic Plan with the local community for North Halifax:** The team is working on a plan for North Halifax with the community and partners across the Council. An update on our approach to UKSPF and how this will help us deliver in North Halifax is provided in the Leader's regional update.

**Park and Warley Pilot:** The externally funded Park and Warley pilot is now in its final six months. In recent months the Steering Group has funded a series of projects designed to test how together we can better support the economic health and wellbeing of the local area. Key projects supported include:

**St Augustine's Centre:** The Steering Group recently agreed funding for three programmes at the centre, to support St Augustine's to be able to deliver sustainable programmes of support for new arrivals around wellbeing and integration and to help



people without residency status or access to formal provision prepare for the jobs market. The steering Group also want to test out the idea of establishing a social enterprise building on the range of different skill sets that the centre brings together, initial ideas include establishing a cookery school, events catering, interpreting services, bike maintenance, tech refurbishment, beauty and hairdressing. The three programmes are:

- **The English Language Programme** provides basic, intermediate, and advanced English language classes to people newly arrived in Calderdale and seeking asylum, and specific support for people with little or no literacy, people needing childcare or trauma informed support.
- **The Activities and Integration Project** provides a range of sports, arts, cultural and enterprise activities to centre members, including opportunities to gain work skills through volunteering in different ways within the St Augustine's Centre and across Calderdale. Also, Integration Programme with new arrivals and others who are isolated to develop confidence, sense of belonging and wellbeing by encouraging involvement in the activity programme.
- **The Befriending service** for newly arrived or vulnerable Sanctuary seekers is currently in its pilot 3-month phase. The programme gets them out and about in the local area, building confidence, social skills, English language, awareness of opportunities in the local area. They learn to navigate the local area, use public transport and to engage confidently with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

**HOT Employment Project:** Continuation funding to Dec 22, to enable HOT to continue and build on the services it has delivered to date, and to work with the Inclusive Economy Team to develop partnership working with the Council's Employment Hub, Calderdale College and Newground.

**Mentoring Project:** The Steering group have recently agreed funding for HOT to deliver a two year mentoring project to support young people from the Park and Warley area. The project will work closely with a local secondary school, employers/businesses and wide range of other organisations and groups. By the end of the two years the project will have established a strong enough foundation to sustain mentoring support available to young people not just within Park and Warley but also across Calderdale.

**Flavourfest:** During June the Inclusive Economy project developed and funded a month-long festival celebrating culture and diversity in Calderdale and promoting Park and Warley as a great place to live work and visit. Multiple events and activities were delivered across the project area. A full evaluation is to be completed but initial reflections show that Flavourfest achieved its aim to demonstrate how the area contributes to our Vision 2024 as a place of enterprise and a distinctive destination. The community market provided a framework to support enterprise, cohesion and integration and culture.

## 1. Community-led and coproduced planning and delivery

- The festival mobilised broad participation across community and local

- business and was led by a community working group.
- Strong relationships and partnerships have developed between Calderdale College, Calderdale Markets and local business, and across Council departments (Inclusive Economy Team, Place Development Team, Start Up West Yorkshire, Halifax Central Initiative and Healthy Holidays).
- The festival name and branding was designed by Calderdale College students and agreed by the community-led festival working group. The festival website <http://flavourfest.org/> and content is hosted by the College so it remains community owned and presents an ongoing learning opportunity for future years' students.
- Business students also received funding to try out a business idea at the Flavourfest market and to plan and develop an event (fashion show) working with local charity shops.

## 2. Support for business to recover from Covid

- Extensive business engagement took place prior to and during the festival, undertaken by the Inclusive Economy and Place Development teams to develop interest and involvement in the festival through promotions, community market opportunities and encouraging support of community events. For example, P Wilkinson Bakers providing cakes for a King Cross library event.
- An additional 34 businesses have joined the local businesses mailing list.
- Promotion of King Cross and Queens Road businesses as a cultural and shopping destination, including availability of eco/sustainable shopping at various charity shops in area.
- JFood Fitbox (established during Covid with help of IE Enterprise Grant) who promote healthy eating have been involved in the delivery of Healthy Holidays events, support with Business students' projects and working group engagement.
- J Food and P Wilkinson Bakers featured in festival promo film by Calderdale College students.

## 3. Cohesion and integration

- A broad festival programme enabled local groups and organisations to promote existing activity such as the Queen's Jubilee events, and a small grants pot funded additional events including cooking demonstrations, heritage walks, men's health activities, refugee week celebrations.
- Many events were delivered without additional funding for example international tea/coffee morning at King Cross Library and the Himmat Community Fun Day.
- 2 x Healthy Holidays multi sports fun days were delivered to promote the Healthy Holidays programme, promote wealth of sport/youth activity available in the area and encourage physical activity and use/protection of green spaces.
- Heritage walks, community market and cooking demonstrations particularly good at bringing people from outside areas to visit.
- In total the programme included 27 events over the whole month.

## 4. Education and work experience opportunities

- Multiple opportunities for students' involvement in planning and delivery through marketing, IT, communications, market stalls and work experience.
- Learning is that mutually benefit for college and festival planning but we need to involve students at much earlier stage particularly catering and markets but there is much already in place to build on

## 5. Promote markets and buying local

- Flavourfest Market on the weekend of 25/26 June saw 36 hugely diverse stalls across both days. Many were new enterprise and people trying out a business idea.
- Stalls were available for free and the market uncovered a number of 'cottage industry' businesses.
- The college car park venue worked really well due to location and availability of parking and electrical point installation means the market could easily be repeated.
- WY Start Up Manger was available for advice around business registration and start up support.
- Excellent feedback from customers and stall holders.
- Highlighted an appetite for an evening market supported by a greater entertainment programme.

The **Future of Park and Warley Inclusive Economy pilot** – Work is underway with stakeholders to develop exit/future plans for the Park and Warley pilot which will end Dec 2022.

- Leeds Beckett have been commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the pilot – this will start in July and conclude in December. Early outputs will inform future planning for Northern Halifax
- Initial learning highlighted by the Steering Group has fed into UKSPF investment planning and will feed into the evaluation by Leeds Beckett.
- A possible Park and Warley Summit in Sep/Oct to share initial findings of the evaluation is being considered.
- **Fair Work Charter consultation** - The Fair Work Charter for West Yorkshire consultation was supported by an online business workshop delivered by the Inclusive Economy Team.
- **Inspiring Calderdale** – Inclusive Economy Programme Lead interviewed for Calderdale College Inspiring Calderdale online event on YouTube.

## Business

A new business support programme offering free and tailored advice for new businesses or budding entrepreneurs launched in Calderdale on 13 July. **Start-Up West Yorkshire** is a new initiative, supported by Calderdale Council, offering resources to help new businesses succeed, from workshops and seminars to one-to-one support. It's designed to help those with an idea for a new business or support growth for existing businesses under three years old.



59 businesses are currently at various stages of their start up journey in Calderdale via this programme of support, and within a day of the launch event another 12 people registered for support.

## Business Growth Calderdale

Key activities over the past quarter include:

- Working with new and existing businesses to support them to grow. Key topics have included general growth plans, training for staff, recruitment, funding and environmental impact
- Developed a four-day Business Support Week to run in September 2022 to focus support on recruitment, environmental issues, strategic marketing and start up support. This will be targeted at those businesses who meet criteria for the business growth or start up project in the first instance and will aim to support 150 businesses.
- Relaunching the Business Growth Newsletter to over 800 SME Growth Businesses introducing the team, their role and articles on business support available to businesses
- Filling the SME Growth Manager role until December 2022

Work is ongoing to develop the next phase of the business growth hub (alongside the Employment Hub as reported by Cllr Dacre), for delivery from April 2023. Learning from the existing model of delivery, which in Calderdale has supported 194 businesses, with 35 being supported with 3 hours intervention, and 6 being supported with 12 hours intervention, alongside the creation of 10 new jobs, and as part of a wider model supported by West Yorkshire Combined Authority, this early work will ensure the continuation of support for businesses in Calderdale.

## VISITOR ECONOMY

The Calderdale Tourism Conference took place on 5 July at the Shay Stadium. The event was hosted by Visit Calderdale, and welcomed over 100 attendees from across the hospitality, accommodation, and tourist attraction sectors. The aim was to bring hospitality businesses and organisations from around the borough together to network, to start to reconnect and, after the impact of the last two years, to learn best practice and see how business owners have diversified and turned living and working through COVID into a positive learning experience.

Speakers included Ann Jones from Old Chamber Farm and Camping in Hebden Bridge, Melanie Thompson from Pride & Provenance, Filmed in Yorkshire / Screen Yorkshire, local pizza business Crust and Crumb 77, IOU theatre and the Council's ISCAL scheme, which helps people with disabilities or other barriers into work.

The event was full of optimism for the summer ahead and the conference speakers instilled a real air of confidence about Calderdale as a visitor destination. There are some amazing opportunities in our local tourism industry and the conference

highlighted the growing appeal and recognition of Calderdale's distinctiveness and the impact of our high-profile attractions, heritage, arts, music and the major filming that's taken place in the borough.

CultureDale was launched on 26 May at the We Are Calderdale event. This new brand showcases Calderdale's unique culture, and supports the continued development of the borough's growing profile as a vibrant cultural destination. It combines our rich history, distinctive landscape, architectural jewels, special people, creative talent and enterprising spirit.

A CultureDale page has been created within the Visit Calderdale website: [www.visitcalderdale.com/culturedale](http://www.visitcalderdale.com/culturedale). This combines the cultural events, festivals, attractions, galleries, museums, markets and food and drink that can be found across the borough, plus a brand pack that businesses and community organisations can use to cross-promote Calderdale's distinctive cultural identity via a striking CultureDale logo, marketing materials and social media images.

Local businesses and attractions are being encouraged to use the new 'CultureDale' brand. The Visitor Economy team are also offering CultureDale-branded postcards and removable window stickers to local businesses to help spread the word. People are encouraged to follow @CultureDale2024 and use #CultureDale

Events and Film Officers have now launched the Film Calderdale Website [Film Calderdale – Film Friendly](#) and the Events Licensing online software, which means all event organisers can apply online. Filming requests are increasing.

Halifax was chosen as the venue for a major national conference on Friday 27 May 2022, highlighting Calderdale's key part in the national debate on the role of towns in our economic recovery, levelling up and thought leadership. Calderdale Council worked with 'Create Streets' and 'Onward' to host the final day of 'Restitch: The Social Fabric Summit' This high-profile event enabled important conversations on 'restitching' our social fabric and rebuilding connection following the pandemic, connecting to our history and heritage in Calderdale and the North.

Over 100 influential people visited Halifax, paving the way for major impacts in the future as we work towards the Vision2024 for Calderdale. Key figures from politics and the public and private sectors included Lisa Nandy, Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; Tracy Brabin, the Mayor of West Yorkshire; Andy Haldane, Chief Executive of the RSA who wrote the Levelling Up White Paper; and Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos. Guided tours of Halifax, Hebden Bridge and Todmorden also showcased Calderdale's amazing heritage, community spirit and regeneration.

The summit was a great opportunity to promote our built environment and the borough's work, especially in relation to community regeneration, civic pride, renewal and the role of towns in building a positive future, such as the Towns Fund investment in Brighouse and Todmorden. Speakers from the Council included the Leader, Cllr Tim Swift; Cllr Jane Scullion, Deputy Leader; and Shelagh O'Neill, Director of Regeneration and Strategy. Cllr Jane Scullion also spoke at the Restitch summit's stage-one event in London on Tuesday 24 May. Other speakers included the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP,

then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Dame Sara Khan, the government's advisor on social cohesion.