

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
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AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Towns, Engagement & Public Health
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INTRODUCTION

Working in cabinet overseeing our Public Health priorities and the vision for our vibrant Towns is really exciting. By working towards our aspirations to put Calderdale on the map as the place to be for heritage, arts and music, and to make Calderdale the small business capital of the North, we are also helping the health of people visiting, living and working in these communities. If our towns are attractive, and people feel safe, they can live larger, more active lives. Being more active and participating in active travel has the added advantage of helping to tackle climate change and improve air quality.

TOWNS

Brighouse

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 members of the community were able to view the proposals, share their feedback and help shape scheme designs.

Todmorden

Business Cases are also in preparation for the projects that make up the £17.5m Todmorden Town Deal, with the ambition to create a thriving market town which capitalises on its unique landscape, its environment, and its renowned community activism and enterprising spirit. Work is progressing at pace on design work and costings

to enable project sponsors to finalise the business cases for independent assurance. This will ensure value for money and deliverability of projects, prior to sign off by the Town Deal board and submission to Government.

Elland Town Future High Street Fund

A new Elland Town Board met for the first time in May 2022. Following a recruitment exercise it brings together elected members, community and business representatives and Together Housing to guide, steer and influence the transformation of the town with an objective of driving inclusive, sustainable, long term economic growth.

Design development is continuing at pace on the Future High Street Fund projects, and the team will present to the Elland Town Board at the next meeting. Plans are also being progressed for further communication on the developments in the town.

Halifax

Tenders have now been received for the Future High Street Fund 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, alongside the Sowerby Bridge High Street Heritage Action Zone.

Sowerby Bridge

Work on the Old Town Hall is close to completion. Work also progressing on the HAZ funded Fire and Water building.

Officers are meeting Historic England on 18th July to review progress and discuss the upcoming programme for 2022/23. This will include a focus on the development of a programme to support shop front improvements in the town, based on a design guide that is currently in development.

Hebden Bridge

Work is being progressed to shape the development of a forward plan for the town, that helps position it for future funding, building on its strengths and existing investment.

ENGAGEMENT

Our Vision 2024 aspires for Calderdale to be a place where communities are kind and resilient and where people can live a larger life. People who are part of engaged and empowered communities have better outcomes across a wide range of areas including health, wellbeing, education, and employment.

Calderdale's communities have made an enormous contribution to the response to flooding, the Covid-19 pandemic, and our work on the climate emergency. We know that there are more challenges to come, as the cost-of-living increases, and that engaged and empowered communities are likely to have more resilience to the effects

of this, by supporting each other and working alongside service providers to ensure that support gets to the people that can benefit most from it.

Calderdale Council is keen to develop a strategic framework for engaged and empowered communities, sustaining this beyond the mobilising in response to crises, so this becomes the way we all work together Calderdale to achieve our Vision 2024 and beyond.

Community engagement will help bring the members of our communities deeper into the decision-making process; to increase trust between organisations and communities, increase participation in local democracy and achieve sustainable long-lasting impacts that increase the resilience of our communities.

Empowered and engaged communities make Calderdale's Vision 2024 a reality – distinctive, kind, resilient, talented, enterprising. They are also fundamental to the delivery of our three priorities – addressing inequality, tackling the climate emergency and creating thriving towns.

To support this, we are planning a programme of work within Calderdale Council and with partners and communities to explore our aspirations engaged and empowered communities and what they could mean for the way that organisations work.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Wellbeing Strategy

Calderdale's five-year wellbeing strategy was approved in December 2021 which includes four priority outcomes:

- Starting well: Children are ready for school
- Developing well: Every 15-year-old has hope and aspiration
- Living and working well: Working age people have good emotional health and wellbeing and fewer suicides
- Ageing well: Older people have strong social networks and live in vibrant communities

The Starting Well and Ageing Well Partnerships are both well established and have gathered intelligence and insight from partners and local communities to inform high level action plans, which are currently being developed

The Developing Well Partnership has been set up and will use the Calderdale wide results of the school-based health needs assessment when available, and engagement with young people, to identify priorities for action to achieve the outcome.

The Living and Working Well Partnership is not yet established. Partners are working on the development of a high-level action plan, which will inform who needs to be involved

in the partnership. In the meantime, work continues the delivery of our suicide prevention strategy.

Protecting the public's health

We are currently in a large wave of Covid 19 infections, with around 1 in 20 people in Calderdale estimated to have the virus last week. The current wave appears to have hit Calderdale sooner and more severely than other areas of the country. Unfortunately, the high number of cases is putting pressure on local health and care services, and a wide range of essential services are being impacted. Because of this we have issued some advice:

1. If you've tested positive or you have symptoms, stay at home if you can
2. Check you are up to date with your vaccines, it's not too late to get protected and people over 75 and with weakened immune systems are entitled to an extra booster.
3. Be kind and careful and remember that there's a lot of COVID about

Public Health, the UK Health Security Agency and the local NHS have been responding to a small cluster of a rare type of meningitis (Men B) in the Todmorden area. Partners agreed to offer Men B vaccination to everyone aged 16-24 who lives in the wider Todmorden area. People need to take 2 doses to be protected. Around half of those invited for the first dose took up the offer, which is higher than we expected. Invitations for the second dose have recently gone out. The higher-than-expected uptake is testament to the bereaved family of Kai Young who shared their story to encourage people to take up the vaccine; and to the community spirit in Todmorden.

The Public Health team have also put plans in place to respond to monkeypox, including ensuring that those at high risk are offered a vaccine.

Active Calderdale

Lots of Active Calderdale partners found interesting and exciting ways to get involved in Walking Month in May. Halifax Opportunities Trust had walking meetings during the month and the Lower Valley Children's Centre staff walked the distance to London and back. We also collated the details of walking groups in the borough and made the details available on the Active Calderdale website. The groups got involved in lots of walking month events and activities and we are running 3 walk leader training courses to support people who want to establish their own groups.

Active Calderdale partners have also been working to increase the use of our parks and green spaces for physical activity. Examples include People's Park in Halifax where women's rounders sessions have taken place and there are plans to put in place visual markings including mile markers and hopscotch. New information booklets and signage have been introduced at Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve. Park Play has been approved for implementation across 3 x local parks.

Increasing active travel is important because of its contribution to tackling climate change and improving air quality, as well as increasing physical activity. An active travel feasibility study has been submitted to the Department for Transport, requesting £800k and we await the outcome.

Healthy Schools

A Calderdale Healthy Schools programme has been co-designed by schools, public health, children's services and other partners and the approach was discussed recently by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board, and will come forward to Cabinet. The programme will be tested from September, and the intention is to will launch it formally in Jan 2023. The creating active schools programme (currently part of Active Calderdale) will be integrated into Calderdale Healthy Schools.

The school-based health and wellbeing survey has been completed by pupils at almost all local schools. Schools have received their own results, with Calderdale-level analysis is forthcoming. This information will provide important insight for schools trialling the Healthy Schools approach to them identify priorities for work to become a Healthy School.

A digital platform is to host resources for schools and professionals to support the healthy schools approach is under development.

Our Year 6 pupils have received their Healthy Futures transition packs, including a 16-page booklet co-produced with young people from across Calderdale. An accompanying video, which secondary students helped us create is available on the [Healthy Futures YouTube channel](#)

Recovery of public health following the pandemic

Calderdale public health team is working to recover the public health function following the pandemic. As part of this, consultation on a proposed new structure for the team is now underway until the end of August.