

## **COUNCIL MEETING ON 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Amendment to Motion - Local Government Financial Settlement**

**Delete all and and replace**

#### **Calderdale Council recognises:**

The stated intention of the Government's Plan for Growth was to focus on productivity and economic growth which would have complemented our plans in Calderdale and the West Yorkshire City Region to help residents and businesses across West Yorkshire to prosper in the coming years.

The promise of a move from single year to two-year settlements for local government funding would allow better planning at the local level.

#### **Calderdale Council notes that:**

- The measures proposed to address the cost of living crisis, whilst immediately welcome, do not go far enough and place the burden of repayment squarely on the taxpayer – a continuation of a previous Chancellor's "discount now, pay later" scheme.
- The impact of the Government's "Plan for Growth" has been disastrous for the country. We have seen the unprecedented criticism by the International Monetary Fund. This has been followed by the unprecedented intervention by the Bank of England to calm the financial markets in an attempt to prevent a further slide of the pound and ensure the Government can continue to borrow.
- There is a real risk that the role and needs of local authorities like Calderdale are being forgotten in the financial instability and chaos.
- The recent slide of the pound and the Bank of England's indication that it will raise the base rate will intensify the pre existing severe pressures on Local Authority Budgets-increasing costs of energy and petrol, increasing costs of our borrowing for capital projects.
- Councils, working at the local level with partners, are best placed to provide a safety net for residents who are struggling with the cost of living crisis and now face ever higher fuel, petrol and food prices and escalating mortgage payments. Councils will be unable to do this without additional and certain funding in the Local Government Settlement.

#### **Calderdale Council therefore calls for:**

- An urgent review of the Plan for Growth and for Government to take all necessary steps to safeguard the country's finances.
- The Prime Minister and her Cabinet to adopt sensible and thoughtful policy on the important role of local government.
- A Local Government Financial Settlement which addresses the real issues facing councils, and most importantly, the people of Calderdale, at this difficult time.

**And asks:**

That the Council, in light of the current crisis, instructs the Chief Executive to write to:

- The Prime Minister and the Chancellor to urge them to revise their Plan for Growth as matter of urgency and take all necessary steps to safeguard the country's finances.
- The Local Government Association and the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities asking them to continue to lobby vigorously for appropriate support for Local Authorities.
- The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng, to ask them for a fair settlement for councils.

**Proposed by: Councillor Silvia Dacre**

**Seconded by:**