

COUNCIL, Wednesday, 28th September, 2022

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Gallagher) in the Chair

Atkinson	Evans	Pillai
Baker	Fazal	Porritt
Barnes	Fenton-Glynn	Prashad
Beech	Ford	Rivron
Bellenger	Foster	Robinson
Benton	Hey	Scullion
Blagbrough	Holdsworth	Shoukat
Brundell	Hutchinson	A Smith
Caffrey	Issott	Sutherland
Cairney	Kirton	Taylor
Cavanagh	Kingstone	Thompson
Clarke	Leigh MBE	Thornber
Courtney	Lynn	Tremayne
Dacre	Monteith	Whittaker
Dickenson	Parsons-Hulse	Wilkinson
Durrans	Patient	

35 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH JULY 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 27th July 2022, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and signed by the Mayor.

36 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.

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

The Mayor paid tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, expressed condolences on behalf of the Council, and thanked Council staff on the efficiency with which they implemented Operation London Bridge.

Councillor Blagbrough paid tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of the Conservative Group. He described Queen Elizabeth II as a wonderful lady, with remarkable and outstanding loyalty, who served to the end.

Councillor Scullion congratulated staff of Calderdale Council and its partner organisations for the response to Operation London Bridge which did Calderdale and the memory of Queen Elizabeth II proud. She spoke of Queen Elizabeth II's dedication to service and her community, recognised in Calderdale Council by its Officers and Members who also had commitment and dedication to serve.

Councillor Baker thanked Council staff for the response to Operation London Bridge on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. He reflected on the life of Queen Elizabeth II, an ambassador for Britishness overseas and a shining example of the world as a global community.

The Chief Executive noted and received with delight the Yorkshire Property Industry Award for Residential Development of the Year for the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Councillor Patient, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience, attended the ceremony with colleagues. This was a sign of the progress being made in both pace and quality of development in Calderdale.

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

(A) Councillor Evans presented a petition on behalf of Warley Town Community Group regarding the deployment of a CCTV camera in Warley Town Car Park.

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

- (B)** Councillor Baker presented a petition on behalf of residents regarding keeping Roils Head Moor public.

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

39 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12.

- (A) Question from Sarah Wright to Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources.**

"Following on from today's (Wed 27.7.22) employment tribunal judgement in Bailey v Stonewall & Garden Court Chambers, in which the tribunal held that "gender identity theory as proselytised by Stonewall is severely detrimental" to women and to lesbians, will CMBC commit to a review of their continuing association with Stonewall?"

In response, Councillor Dacre advised:

"We review our membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme on an annual basis. Our review at the end of 2022 will include consideration of our legal obligations including case law and organisational and employee benefits and impact."

40 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- (A) MIXENDEN HUB DEVELOPMENT**

It was moved by Councillor Scullion,
Seconded by Councillor Dacre,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 32(c) be approved.

RESOLVED that the amount identified at paragraph 3c of the report be added to the Council's Capital Programme to be funded by prudential borrowing.

- (B) NORTH HALIFAX TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME- CONTRACT AWARD**

It was moved by Councillor Scullion,
Seconded by Councillor Patient,

that the recommendation of the Cabinet contained in Minute Number 40(f) be approved.

RESOLVED that 50% of any capital receipt received from the three surplus sites be ringfenced towards delivering on the actions in the Council's Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.

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

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategy, submitted a written report that provided Members with an update on the work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The report advised that levels of inflation in the construction industry had been extremely high for the last two years and given that most capital budgets for external projects were set before inflationary pressure was priced in it was proving extremely challenging to deliver the projects within their allocated funding limits. Discussions were on-going with WYCA to determine the impact of inflation on West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) and Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programmes of work.

The report advised that Calderdale Officers and Members had welcomed WYCA's recent focus on addressing the impact of the cost of living. Work was progressing with WYCA to consider how additional resources could be channelled into the ReBiz programme and voluntary sector organisations working with those most impacted by rising costs.

In addition to the report, Councillor Scullion advised that West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin had been on her first trade mission to India to speak of West Yorkshire's proud heritage and bright future.

Following the delivery of the report, Members asked the following questions.

- Councillor Parsons-Hulse commented that reliability was one of the most important aspects of the transport network and asked for details of the Service Level Agreement held between WYCA and bus services in relation to getting real-time information. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that WYCA and the bus companies were working towards an enhanced partnership and an understanding of how the needs of the private companies could work with the Local Authority's needs of having the best possible service for its residents.
- Councillor Parsons-Hulse asked who was responsible for decarbonisation. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that the responsibility lay at all levels, with individuals, communities, Local Authorities and WYCA.
- Councillor Issott asked how WYCA made decisions on which bus routes to amend due to driver shortages and questioned whether the bus strategy was working for the entirety of West Yorkshire or focussing on cities. In response, Councillor Scullion described the funding options for the less profitable bus routes and advised that work was ongoing with bus companies and WYCA to look for ways to replace some of the cancelled services.
- Councillor Leigh MBE asked whether the critical A641 project had been subject to reviews or amended ambitions. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that she was committed to fighting for the A641, but the project might be subject to

deferment due to the economy and restrictions of construction inflation and energy costs.

- Councillor Bellenger asked why the vital 539 bus service had not been reduced, instead of cut. This route was used by school children and vulnerable people who would be forced into social isolation. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that this was under discussion with WYCA Officers in order to allow travel for work, education, and health services, although the Bus Service Improvement Plan did need to be future-proofed.

42 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) LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

A report was not submitted by the Leader.

(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. The report provided project updates on the following major projects.

A641 Multi-modal Transportation Scheme
Clifton Enterprise Zone Scheme
Ryburn Valley High School
Ash Green Primary
Ravenscliffe@Spring Hall
A629 Phase 1b, Phase 2 and Phase 4
Halifax Station Gateway
Northgate Commercial Development
Mixenden Hub
Halifax Leisure Centre

The report identified and provided background information on Planning and Building Control, Strategic Infrastructure and Support for Business and Calderdale's Inclusive 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. The report advised that in recent months he had been visiting Calderdale's front-line services, including day services, where respite care was offered for families with caring needs. A lot of these services were based in older buildings which were not always the most appropriate spaces. Following his visits, Councillor Fenton-Glynn was working with one of the Assistant Directors on an action plan to improve the buildings for people who used them in the short term and to ensure findings would inform the ongoing work to reimagine day services.

The report advised that Councillor Fenton-Glynn had also visited the reablement team who had a role in helping people remain in their homes, both out of hospital and those with more general issues. He advised that they did fantastic work and had done so throughout the pandemic. The team was being restructured in order to create more sustainable jobs with more hours and clearer career progression. This restructure would reduce headcount without any compulsory redundancy and create better jobs.

The report identified and provided background information on Charging Reform and New IT, the Care Staff Recruitment Campaign, Ethical Care Commissioning Charter and Ethical Care Charter, the Cost of Living, CQC Reviews, Railway Bridge View and the New Director.

(iii) Children and Young People's Services

Councillor Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, submitted a written report on the work he had carried out since the last Council meeting. The report advised that the end of summer meant exam results arrived for thousands of young people in our borough. As an authority we were not given the results directly and were reliant on schools sending them to us. We therefore did not have a complete and verified set of results to be able to share data at this stage, however the snapshots of data we did have looked positive for both key stages 3 and 4 when compared to 2019 - the last year that exams were taken. Councillor Wilkinson extended congratulations to all of our young people who celebrated exam success, and shared information on how C&K Careers could support those who did not get the results they had expected.

The report identified and provided background information on Staffing Issues, National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Post 16 Transport Policy, Free School Southeast Calderdale, Alternative Provision and Permanent Exclusions, CASS (Social Workers IT System), Increasing Internal Residential Capacity, the Cost-of-Living Crisis and Family Hubs.

(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 Housing, 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. The report advised that one of Councillor Lynn's highlights over the past two months was the fantastic event held at the Shay recently which brought together over 220 people to learn from each other's frontline experience of supporting our residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Entitled "Fuel Your Knowledge", the morning included some great presentations about some of the brilliant work going on in relation to food support, tackling fuel poverty, digital exclusion, and debt.

The final hour included a chance to visit stalls from some great local community organisations and partners. The key message was that although we faced some really tough times ahead, if anywhere showed what kindness and community support could achieve by way of making a difference, it was Calderdale.

The report identified and provided background information on Community Protection, Bereavement Services, Parking Services, Transport Services, Waste and Recycling, Green Spaces and the Street Scene, Customer Access, Neighbourhoods and Cohesion, Sports Services, Cultural Services and the Welfare and Benefits Team.

(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, Corporate Asset and Facilities Management (CAFM), Markets, ICT Infrastructure, Digital Transformation and Strategy, Performance and Business Intelligence and Transformation, Finance, Legal and Democratic Services and Human Resources and Organisational Development.

(vii) Towns, Engagement and Public Health

Councillor Courtney, Cabinet Member for Towns, Engagement and Public Health, submitted a written report on the work she had carried out since the last meeting of Council. The report advised that the completion of the business cases for both Brighouse and Todmorden Town Deals represented a significant moment in the development of the programmes, and a scale of investment that would create positive change in both towns. Councillor Courtney looked forward to feedback from government over the autumn, in advance of moving into the next stages of project development and delivery.

The report identified and provided background information on Towns, Engagement and Public Health.

In addition to her report, Councillor Courtney announced the Calderdale Health and Equality Vaccine Service had been shortlisted for a General Practice Award for Vaccination Team of the Year, and that the Public Health Early Years Health Visitors' work on making Calderdale breastfeeding friendly had received the Gold Standard award from the unicef Baby Friendly Initiative.

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

- Councillor Blagbrough asked for an update and realistic timescale on upkeep and repair work required around Brighouse. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she would investigate the issue.
- Councillor Bellenger asked where the £30 million of investment coming to Elland and West Vale would be spent, and how much was earmarked for West Vale. In response, Councillor Courtney advised that the reference to West Vale mainly indicated the Corridor Improvement Programme.

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- Councillor Kingstone asked what Calderdale had planned for the International Day of Older Persons. In response, Councillor Courtney advised that a month of events was planned across the borough to celebrate older people and their valued contributions.
- Councillor Baker advised that people in Calderdale were not having their religious needs met in Adults Social Care and asked the Cabinet if they would commit to getting everyone in Adults Social Care appropriate meals. In response, Councillor Fenton-Glynn advised that the Director of Adults Services had met with a number of families; these incidents should not happen and were being investigated.
- Councillor Evans commented on the funding being made available through the Levelling Up Fund and suggested parks which were in need of improvements. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that the Levelling Up Fund would only be able to make a difference if it was concentrated in a small number of parks. She further advised that Officers were looking into areas with disadvantaged communities and limited access to green spaces, and that central government had to approve proposals.
- Councillor Foster asked for reassurance for schools affected by the cost of energy over winter. In response, Councillor Wilkinson advised that the Governors Association had already written a letter to the Department for Education (DfE) expressing concerns and requesting effective, urgent action.
- Councillor Whittaker asked for a review of the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Service to consider response times and ownership. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that Members and Officers could attend meetings of the Local Access Forum to discuss issues relating to rights of way and maintenance of footpaths, ginnels, and stiles.
- Councillor Hey advised that he had been approached by residents to request the 40mph stretch of the Halifax/Bradford Road passing through Northowram and Shelf be reduced to 30mph. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that speed limits were subject to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and had to be regulated across the country. She advised that she would contact Councillor Hey to begin the process of reviewing the criteria.
- Councillor Caffrey asked about the clean-up costs of public spaces and asked whether it was more cost effective to protect spaces from incursions than it was to clean up afterwards. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that work had been done to create a more integrated approach across the Council and its partners, that it could be more appropriate to prevent access to public spaces and work was ongoing to look at provision of appropriate stopping places.
- Councillor Thompson commented on markets being a vital social aspect of people's lives, particularly considering the cost-of-living crisis. He asked Cabinet if they were committed to markets as spaces to benefit the community. In response, Councillor Dacre advised that markets were vital to Calderdale's market towns; a big focus of the borough market

renovations was to create more public space, however markets had to be sustainable and profitable to vendors.

- Councillor Thornber asked how many deployable cameras were active across Calderdale, how many fly-tippers had been caught and how many had been prosecuted in the previous 4 months. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she did not have the figures, but Calderdale had a zero-tolerance policy for fly-tippers and encouraged use of the online reporting tool.
- Councillor Parsons-Hulse commented on accidents involving HGVs on Moor End Road and asked about the possibility of installing a 'No HGVs' sign. In response, Councillor Scullion advised that there was highways legislation around allowing road access. The road management in Calderdale was under constant investigation and the Council signposted main roads which could handle the traffic level.
- Councillor Dickenson commented that people who did not use direct debit to pay their council tax had not yet received their council tax energy rebate. He asked if Cabinet felt this was a failure of the service and asked Cabinet to commit to issuing the rebate to everyone by Christmas. In response, Councillor Dacre advised that this was not a failure of Council, the government had offloaded the responsibility of the council tax rebates into local authorities and the process had been enormously complicated. Councillor Dacre apologised to those who had suffered from the delay and advised that the Council was doing its best.
- Councillor Holdsworth asked when the new policy on memorial benches would be completed, as a family were waiting on a decision to place a memorial bench in Stainland recreational ground. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that she would investigate the issue.
- Councillor Leigh MBE advised that Calderdale was lacking swimming pools and asked for an update on the North Bridge Leisure Centre. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that the project was ongoing, and the priority was teaching swimming to school children; there may be a reduction in slots for leisure swimming to meet the needs of schools.
- Councillor Issott asked whether it only appeared that recycling and waste collections were more stable because people were unable to report missed collections due to issues with the online system. In response, Councillor Lynn advised that collections were considerably more stable, and that Suez were being held to account, staff were working to ensure any issues with missed collections were raised with the Council. Councillor Dacre added that Suez had cameras in their cabs and kept records of when collections were missed. The Council was not reliant on residents' reports to keep a record of missed collections.

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

RESOLVED that Councillors and others be appointed to serve as Members and Substitute Members of Scrutiny Boards, Panels and Committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Employment Relations Forum	Add Councillor Atkinson as a Member. Add Councillor Clarke as a Member.
Audit Committee	Delete Councillor Bellenger as a Member and replace with Councillor Prashad.

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

There were no appointments of Representatives made to serve on Outside Bodies.

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

(A) Question from Councillor Leigh MBE to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities:

“In the lead up to the demolition of the North Bridge Leisure Centre, the Cabinet had run the Halifax Swimming Baths into the ground due to poor facilities management and maintenance and have reduced sport and leisure facilities in the North Halifax area. Why did the Council not consider the total absence of leisure provision in Halifax, during the planning for this project, and does the Cabinet accept that it is failing to deliver on the priorities laid out by ‘Active Calderdale’?”

In response, Councillor Lynn advised:

“Halifax Pool is over 50 years old and has passed its economic life. Modern requirements for accessibility, energy consumption and running costs could not be achieved from the building without huge investment. Moreover, the building and plant have significant maintenance liabilities and replacement parts that are required are obsolete and no longer available. Following a heating failure during the Christmas 2020 period, extensive damage was caused to the fabric of the pool and the building, making the building unsafe. Significant investment was required to make the building safe and warm, but this would have remained a tired facility in need of much improvement. A range of further risks had been identified, particularly to the plant and the pool filtration systems, which could have failed at any time, causing further disruption and requiring further investment. Much of the plant is now obsolete and so it was likely that the pool would get to the point where it was beyond repair. It was therefore decided that the pool had reached the end of its economic life, and that the focus would be on delivering a new facility for the borough.

All school and out of school swimming lessons were transferred to our other three sites, which has worked well, albeit these sites are now very busy.

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Lots of work also took place to ensure that those members who previously used Halifax Pool and North Bridge Leisure Centre were signposted to our other facilities. Every effort was made to ensure that groups who had previously used our facilities found alternative suitable accommodation to enable them to continue to meet and keep active.”

(B) Question from Councillor Issott to Councillor Scullion, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy:

“Following the departure of the contractor McLaughlin & Harvey from the new Halifax Leisure Centre project, Cllr Scullion claimed that the new Halifax Leisure Centre project is ‘still on track’. Can the Cabinet confirm:

Why did McLaughlin & Harvey withdraw from the project? When is the expected deadline for the new tender process to complete? And please provide us with confirmation of when construction on the new Halifax Leisure Centre is expected to begin?”

In response, Councillor Scullion advised:

“Why did McLaughlin & Harvey withdraw from the project?

Under the UK leisure framework appointment, Alliance Leisure Services (ALS) undertake the duty of Development Manager as such they are the contracting party with the Contractor. This question has been asked by senior officers and Alliance Leisure representatives, but McL&H have simply advised that they no longer wished to work on the project.

When is the expected deadline for the new tender process to complete?

Contract conditions have been agreed with the alternative Contractor via ALS and the physical contracts are due to be executed in the coming weeks.

When is construction on the new Halifax Leisure Centre is expected to begin?

Construction activities including the site welfare and mobilisation is to commence in October. This phase will include ground works, demolition of the existing buildings around the Sports Hall and installation of the water attenuation tanks.”

(C) Question from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Scullion, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy:

“Since January, we have experienced rising inflation, and increasing costs of building materials. Please can the Cabinet confirm the up-to-date construction costs of the new Halifax Leisure Centre? Is the Cabinet considering any additional prudential borrowing to fund the scheme? And in the event that we were to lose the £12.2m Levelling-Up funding, would the Cabinet commit to funding the scheme entirely from prudential borrowing?”

In response, Councillor Scullion advised:

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“Following the recent change in construction contractor the project team expect an updated current market reflected construction cost plan shortly. The early works including the demolition are within the previous estimates.

Cognisant of the current volatile construction market, the Cabinet and Full Council reports in February reflected allowances for this and will be assessed once the revised cost plan is received.

Cabinet currently has no indication of loss of the £12.2m of Levelling-Up Funding, should this situation arise, it would be reviewed and assessed at that stage.”

(D) Question from Councillor Caffrey to Councillor Scullion, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy:

“Since the January report on the new Halifax Leisure Centre, we are facing high inflation and record high energy bills. Local authorities across the country are considering closing or reducing the opening hours of their leisure centres due to large operating costs caused by the increase in energy prices. Please can you confirm whether the operating costs of the project have been reviewed, and if so, please provide us with the up-to-date projected operating costs of the new Halifax Leisure Centre?”

In response, Councillor Scullion advised:

“The operating costs for the new Leisure Centre will be reviewed on an ongoing basis at suitable points in the construction and delivery process. This is currently being carried out based on the estimated utility costs in September 2022. CMBC officers are liaising with external Leisure Specialists, including Sport England to understand the impact at a local and national level.

The new Leisure Centre is due to be completed and operational in 2024, therefore an updated analysis at this stage would only provide a reflection on the current utility cost estimate not for the projected completion of the project, hence the ongoing analysis that is required throughout the delivery.”

(E) Question from Councillor Baker to Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing:

“Nur-e-Sabil is a recently-formed self-help group within the local Muslim community. They complain that the Council is institutionally racist in its approach to handling social care cases. They also complain that their attempts to raise issues with the authority have been shut down. Will this administration engage constructively with a scrutiny review to examine these alleged failings of the authority?”

In response, Councillor Fenton-Glynn advised:

“The Council’s response to the report is centred around three key steps:

- Listening to the experiences of individuals and families, investigating their concerns and taking action to address each concern. This is happening now and is ongoing.
- Learning lessons and looking in detail at what each Council service can do to respond to the report's recommendations – as a partnership of services within the Council and working with the local community.
- Gaining an independent view through the Council's Scrutiny system. The Chairs of the Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board have met to discuss setting up a joint working group to review the report and use the lessons learned to make improvements to service provision.

The administration will, of course, engage constructively and fully with the planned scrutiny review. The Chairs of the Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board have met to discuss setting up a joint working group to review the report and use the lessons learned to make improvements to service provision. Members of Adults Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board and Children and Young People Scrutiny Board have been asked if they wish to sit on the working party. The two Boards will be asked to agree to establish the working party at their meetings on 6 October (AHSC) and 12 October (CYP) and the working party will meet in the week beginning 17 October to plan their work."

(F) Question from Councillor Baker to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities:

"UK Active have warned that half of all public and private leisure facilities could be forced to close this winter due to rising energy costs. Can you give an assurance that none of the Council's gyms or pools will face reduced hours or closure this winter?

Can you also outline what help, if any, the Government is providing to local authorities that are providing these vital fitness facilities for their communities?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised:

"The Government has announced that energy bills for UK businesses will be cut by around half their predicted level this winter under a support package. The scheme will fix wholesale gas and electricity prices for six months from 1 October, shielding businesses from escalating costs. **Read more here.** The scheme will be available to all those on a non-domestic contract including public sector organisations.

At this point we are not proposing any reduction in our operating hours, however this will be reviewed as part of our medium-term financial strategy."

(G) Question from Councillor Baker to Councillor Lynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities:

"During the cost-of-living crisis many people prefer to use cash as a means of managing their weekly budget. In light of this will the Council's leisure facilities return to accepting cash payments?"

In response, Councillor Lynn advised:

“Our Leisure Centres have operated as cashless sites since the start of covid and have retained this since our facilities reopened. This provides a number of positives in terms of security, efficiency and minimising admin costs for the authority.

A significant number of our bookings are now made online and via our newly implemented App, meaning that cash payments aren’t an issue.

For the small number of customers who do not have access to bank accounts, we are able to provide cards that can be pre-loaded with an amount they are comfortable with spending.

These also work well for those who are budgeting. We will off course continue to listen to our customers and if this becomes an issue we will review our position.”

46 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14:

(A) COMMEMORATING THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

It was moved by Councillor Blagbrough,
Seconded by Councillor Leigh MBE,

This Council recognises:

The huge contribution made to this country, and this borough, during the long reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

This Council notes:

A major opportunity will soon be available to mark the legacy of the glorious reign of Her Majesty, upon the renovation of Halifax Borough Market.

This Council resolves:

To commemorate her legacy and glorious reign by renaming the renovated Halifax Borough Market in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

It was moved as an **AMENDMENT** by Councillor Fenton-Glynn,
Seconded by Councillor Kingstone,

This Council recognises:

The huge contribution made to this country, and this borough, during the long reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Delete from this point onwards and replace with:

This Council notes:

The possibility of marking the legacy of the glorious reign of Her Majesty within the borough of Calderdale.

This Council resolves:

To commence a process of consultation and investigation with regard to possible buildings and green spaces across the borough which might be deemed appropriate to mark that legacy, within the strict standards and criteria relating to the use of Royal titles.

The **AMENDMENT** with the replacement wording on being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED that:

This Council recognises:

The huge contribution made to this country, and this borough, during the long reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

This Council notes:

The possibility of marking the legacy of the glorious reign of Her Majesty within the borough of Calderdale.

This Council resolves:

To commence a process of consultation and investigation with regard to possible buildings and green spaces across the borough which might be deemed appropriate to mark that legacy, within the strict standards and criteria relating to the use of Royal titles.

Councillors Issott and Scullion commented on the Motion.

(B) Local Government Finance Settlement

Councillor Dacre advised that an Amendment had been circulated, and consent was sought to delete the original Motion and replace with the Amendment.

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

It was moved by Councillor Dacre,
Seconded by Councillor Barnes,

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.

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- 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.

RESOLVED that:

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.

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Councillors Baker, Cavanagh, Thompson, Fenton-Glynn, Wilkinson, Patient, Kingstone, Bellenger, Foster, Fazal, Courtney, Cairney and Scullion commented on the Motion.

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

There were no questions to the Chairs of Scrutiny Boards, Panels and Committees or comments from Members.