

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of roles and responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Scott Patient
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Climate Change and Resilience (including Housing and VCS)
DATE:	30th November 2022

HOUSING

Introduction

Lots happening across my Portfolio(s) since last time, so I'll put a few things here as a prelude to the main report.

Work continues across our major projects with the early stages of development of a new climate change design guide for future and upcoming major projects.

The Skircoat "Your Street Matters" Active travel consultation work with key partners and officers progresses well, 19 projects are being talked forward nationally thanks to DfT active travel UK funding – of these only 3 will be fully funded. We are confident our bid will be robust, bold and with lots of political support from myself and ward Councillors from all affected wards.

Members of planning committee & myself, plus officers from housing, CAFM and Environmental projects went to see Barratt homes "Z home" at the Salford University campus last month, an exemplar project to show how different decarbonisation and energy saving schemes can be implemented into new build modern homes. Nature enhancing & NFM schemes such as water harvesting, rain gardens and bird bricks were also on show outside. I know we all valued the tour and hopefully can begin to weave some of these ideas into our own new housing stock.

It was great to hear about Together Housings big decarbonisation and retro fit plans at our joint partnership. More on this next time.

Calder Valley Community Land Trust have hosted a number of well attended events focusing on various different housing related issues, including Air bnb and affordable homes, Decent Housing in Older Age and their last one which focused on retrofit. I know the last

one in particular had nearly 100 guests and the work they will be doing on Crown Street & Jerusalem Farm will help put some of these themes into action so well done to all involved.

Housing Strategy and Growth Team

Beech Hill Phase 1

Beech Hill won the Yorkshire Property Insider award for 'Residential Development of the Year'. This is a great achievement for all partners involved and was represented on the night by colleagues from the Council, Together Housing and Esh Construction. Representatives for WYCA's Get Britain Building Fund attended a site visit for Phase 1 and 2 in October which was well received and gave them the opportunity to see first-hand what a challenge both programmes have been, looking inside some of the nearly completed new homes and seeing how the whole site interacts as one with its other uses such as the school.

North Halifax Transformation Programme

I was proud to present the North Halifax Transformation Programme contract which was endorsed at September's Cabinet, this has enabled Officers to be executing the contracts with the preferred developer which should be concluded during November and the successful developer will be announced publicly. Work has begun in the background such as working with Homes England and WYCA to identify how additional grant support can be levered in to ensure that any new homes and the extra care scheme are of the highest quality and efficiency within the financial constraints. It will remain a challenge developing contaminated sites in an area where sales prices and rents are lower than some other areas. Discussions have already begun with Planning and Active Calderdale to understand the requirements needed for any Planning application and how other Council priorities can be reflected in designs. It is expected that public consultation will take place early in the new year with the planning application following shortly after.

Unlocking Homes

Progress continues to be made in unlocking sites for new homes. The Council owned site at Cock Hill Lane, Shelf is being marketed by Cushman & Wakefield. This is a proposed Local Plan site and any sale contract will be contingent on the adoption of the Local Plan - it is a great example of the Council directly contributing to increasing sustainable housing delivery and working to meet the identified needs of households in Calderdale. The public consultation has now closed on another key Council owned site, Cow Green in Halifax, where the Council is working with Placefirst and WYCA to bring forward 120 new high quality rented apartments. I presented a report to Cabinet earlier in November which was endorsed meaning Placefirst will submit the planning application anytime now. Subject to planning permission being secured, the site will contribute to the overall vision, regeneration and improvements taking place across the town centre.

Private Sector Housing Team

Flood Grants

The 2020 flood programme closed in October 2022. In this latest grant programme of first time flood grants, we have supported 156 owners carry out works to make their properties more resilient against future flood risk. The total grant covered by funding from the government's Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs was £733,400. When combined with the 2015 flood grant programme, in total we have assisted 1,594 home owners carry out flood resilience works attracting £6,848,000 of government funding into the borough.

Now the 2020 flood grant programme has come to a close, additional capacity is available to start supporting more lower income home owners with affordable warmth works, essential repairs to their homes, and associated financial support.

Housing Energy – Climate Emergency and Affordable Warmth

Rising energy bills and the wider cost of living crisis are now having a significant impact on demand for support, with approximately 200 enquiries currently coming in per month, and likely to rise further as temperatures drop during winter.

Through external Green Homes Grant Phase 3 funding secured by the Housing Energy team, over 500 qualifying low-income households will benefit from 'room in roof', loft, cavity wall and underfloor insulation by March 2023. We have £50k of funding remaining to provide other affordable warmth works such as heating repairs and insulation for other households that don't meet the Green Homes Grant criteria.

Work is continuing with the Combined Authority on the procurement of the Better Homes Yorkshire Hub and Better Homes Yorkshire Phase 2. The Hub will provide technical support and guidance on energy efficiency retrofit for all home owners with funding for a street-based pilot with a combination of grant and low-cost loan funding that will help all owners to be able to participate. Better Homes Yorkshire Phase 2 will provide a four-year contractor framework for energy retrofit schemes through a combination of government funding, Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 subsidy and private investment from owners. The framework will be in place in early 2023-24 with more suppliers and ECO funders, ready for us to run mini-competitions to select the best provider(s) for schemes.

Beech Hill Phase 2

All new roofing work will be completed by the end of December, along with the solar panel installations on suitable privately owned and Together Housing properties. However, the contractor is requesting additional time and budget to carry out the boundary wall treatments and provide new fencing. Alternative options, sources of funding and costs are being explored for consideration by the Beech Hill project board.

Homelessness Service

Winter Shelter Update

The Winter Shelter has been open for just over one month and has supported 19 people so far with an offer of short-term accommodation in the shelter. Nine of those residents have successfully moved on into more suitable longer-term accommodation. The shelter has been full on most nights since its opening and continues to offer eight units of accommodation with support on site. Partners have come together to strengthen the support with health services, providing access to a wound clinic. Recovery Services drop ins are supporting residents with access to support and access to medical scripts. In addition, housing partners are providing Move On plans for each resident. Happy Days and Christians Together have provided a more structured Winter Shelter this year and we continue to work together supporting some of the most vulnerable residents of Calderdale.

Homes for Ukraine

The majority of Homes for Ukraine placements are going well, with many hosts wanting to continue past the initial six months. The cost of living and energy prices continue to be a struggle for hosts, and it is hoped an announcement regarding the scheme will be made shortly. Guests have reported the lack of heating has been challenging, due to access to heating in Ukraine being generous and they generally have heating on throughout the day in winter months. The team are continuing to support both the guest and the hosts with understanding the current position in the UK. New Support Workers who speak Ukrainian and Russian languages have helped with communication with guests and most report it makes them feel welcomed in Calderdale, as we have provided someone who can really listen to them.

GREEN ECONOMY

Climate Action Plan & Climate Partnership

The Calderdale Draft Climate Action Plan consultation closed on 20 November after many events to promote it. We received well over 400 individual submissions with around 40 organisational responses. The Action Plan has been positively received, with good initial feedback from a range of parties on the clarity of language and readability of the document. A range of comments and suggestions for improvement have been submitted by both discussion groups and individuals. Communications supporting the Consultation have included adverts at bus stops and rail stations, targeted social media ads on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and work and briefings with local print media. Officers have undertaken focused group work with individuals from under-represented communities, including young people, people with disabilities, and to ensure that business voice is heard. Work to target BAME groups, geographies with lower engagement, and a trial of TikTok live to reach more younger people has also been progressed in association with Calderdale College. Each Town Board has had a presentation on the plan, and we have cascaded information through our strategic health and social care networks. Thanks to members who shared it and completed.

A summary and analysis report on the consultation will be prepared and presented to the new Climate Partnership in early 2023. We will then move to redraft the plan and adopt / endorse a final version. Alongside the consultation we have been asking people interested

in joining the Climate Action Partnership to step forward. The Climate Partnership will be seeking to fill vacancies for Community and Business representatives before its meetings in 2023 and the Climate Partnership will also look at establishing new thematic delivery groups in 2023.

Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC) / Calderdale Climate Emergency Fund

Awards have now been made for the fund's second round of awards and plans are in place for a third and final round of funding in the first half of 2023. It is proposed that this round will focus on themes from the Climate Action Plan which have not yet received funding – Land & Nature; and a continued focus on Community Climate Action. Discussions are underway with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to see if the Better Neighbourhoods funding (part of ring-fenced Climate Gainshare monies) could be used to enable a successor project to our local £1m community fund; again, in partnership with CFFC. CFFC have demonstrated their willingness and ability to grow Climate funding and deliver for local communities. CFFC continue to integrate Climate into their wider organisational objectives and to think about how we can grow climate funding to support the Borough's transition to net zero.

Capital Work & Projects

We have released an Invitation to Tender for a Consultant to create a Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) for Calderdale. This important project is a West Yorkshire Pilot; with the Yorkshire & North East Energy Hub providing co-funding. This project will bring together disparate data sets to help us understand geographic and technical opportunities and pinch points in the zero carbon transition, and support Calderdale to identify priority projects. Stakeholder engagement is a key part of the project and we will be holding a series of workshops in mid-2023 to enable local people to shape and steer the plan. The climate team are continuing to support CAFM on phase 3 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund works where they are progressing in Todmorden including the heat pumps being raised onto the leisure centre roof. A high-profile visit to Manor Heath took place on 4 November with BEIS member Lord Callinan, officers & other guests to showcase and celebrate decarbonisation works undertaken at that site. He was obviously "very impressed with our work" he and his aides noted.

Environmental Management & Policy

Work to maintain the Council's long standing environmental management system is ongoing, with our biannual recertification audit due to take place in the next 8 weeks. Internal audits and conversations continue to take place to ensure our sites and services remain focussed on environmental duties and best practice. The Council's Environmental Policy has been updated to align with our Net Zero commitment and was approved at Cabinet earlier this month.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Climate Gainshare

West Yorkshire Combined Authority are coordinating a range of task and finish groups; which are shaping details for how a ring-fenced allocation of £40m of Climate Gainshare will

be spent. Priority projects from the West Yorkshire Climate, Energy and Environment Plan have been identified and it is expected that projects will start to deliver in the next financial year. Officers from a range of departments at Calderdale have been attending task and finish groups to endeavour to shape and influence plans to ensure these deliver for Calderdale with support from Calderdale's lead officers on Climate and our representatives at the Climate, Energy & Environment Committee.

Calder Greening

Procurement for the wetland works at Brearley Fields is being finalised, with a view to work finally commencing early in the new year. Depending on the bids received, and inflation/wholesale price rises, the focus will be on the delivery of earthworks (ponds, scrape, bunds, embankment removal) & paths. Habitat improvement works (tree planting, floodplain meadow creation) will be completed over the winter in cooperation with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, community groups, schools & volunteers.

The remaining six projects: Cromwell Bottom, the Milner Royd/Copley Valley Nature Reserve, Invasive Non-native Species, Mid-Calder & Tributaries and Mytholmroyd public green spaces have been completed.

NFM

The latest round of the Natural Flood Management Landowner grant scheme has had a brilliant response with over 35 applicants, so far over 25 new NFM projects will be delivered next year.

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Tackling Poverty

The team continues to support the Anti-Poverty Steering Group and thematic groups including the Food Poverty Forum, Affordable Warmth Forum and Money & Debt Forum.

The [Money and Wellbeing in Calderdale web pages](#) are frequently updated with the latest support and information available across a range of services. A new section has been published on digital support. This page will be further developed as new schemes and initiatives are announced. This content will be used to develop the next short factsheet for frontline workers.

The **Money Worries leaflets and posters** as well as an online interactive version are now available and have been widely distributed. The Money & Debt Forum has agreed to take forward [Money Guiders](#) and [Money Counts](#) is due to take place in November.

Distribution of the **Household Support Fund** (round 3) is well underway. The payment schedule for October 2022 to April 2023 can be found [here](#) and VCS organisations have been invited to apply for grant funding.

Cost of Living Support

On 22 September the Anti-Poverty Partnership hosted a **Fuel Your Knowledge: Cost of Living Support event** at the Shay Stadium to launch the #fuelyourknowledge campaign and increase financial resilience and inclusion. Around 200 people from approximately 60 organisations attended this event. Presentations covered food, fuel, digital inclusion and money/debt and an extensive marketplace was set up with activity zones on food, fuel and money/digital access. Event resources and presentations have been distributed to all attendees. From the event, the partnership is looking to create a cost of living mailing list. The Anti-Poverty Partnership recently submitted a case study for the event to the Local Government Association for inclusion in the cost of living hub, which can be found [here](#).

The Affordable Warmth Forum has produced a flyer '**Understanding and explaining energy bills**' which has been widely distributed and is available on the Intranet.

The **communications campaign** is going strong, and September promotion has focused on #fuelyourknowledge and the Healthy Start Scheme. Plans for the next few months will focus on Carers and Talk Money.

The **cost of living tracker** is nearly completed and captures what partner organisations and partnerships are doing to respond to the crisis. By doing this, the Council and its partners can more effectively co-ordinate the response and reduce the potential for duplication of effort.

Cabinet received a report on the impact of the Cost of living on Calderdale - residents, communities and businesses and our response on 14 November. [Report on Cost of Living Crisis – Calderdale response](#). Place Leaders and Cabinet Briefing continue to receive regular updates on the Cost of Living. Staff are also continuing to input into regional meetings including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Y&H Chief Executives meeting.

Other work with the VCSE

I was pleased to be present at the meeting of the **VCS Assembly** on 17 November. The team is supporting the Assembly working alongside the VSI Alliance. On the agenda are updates on changes to community health delivery (Calderdale Cares), UK Shared Prosperity Fund, cost of living and climate partnership work with Newground Together.

The Voluntary sector team fund a number of programmes including our [Supporting Stronger Neighbourhoods](#) which are performing well. A request to extend for a further 12 months with an update on each of the six projects has been submitted. [Smartmove](#) report that funding from our grant supported volunteering and donations valued at £53,000 last quarter which is almost a tenfold return on investment.

Healthy Holidays Calderdale Update

The Healthy Holidays Calderdale Winter Programme is due to take place during the December school holidays. 24 providers will be delivering the Winter programme across 30 venues in Calderdale, beginning on Monday 19 December.

Places are now available to book through the central booking system, to allow families time to book a place over the next month:

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/community-and-living/healthy-holidays-calderdale>

The Healthy Holidays Calderdale Programme is able to fund the provision of a tasty, fresh locally sourced 'veg-bag' from Pennine Cropshare, for young people attending the Healthy Holidays Winter Programme to take home to their families. The bag will contain a variety of locally produced fruit and vegetables and recipe suggestions for using them, which can be sent home with each young person (one per family) during the Winter programme delivery. 1100 veg-bags will be distributed to families accessing the programme this Winter.

The programme is also able to offer free pantomime tickets to the Winter providers delivering the programme. Working with Victoria Theatre, Healthy Holidays have subsidised the cost of the tickets for providers to plan a trip to the Theatre for the young people accessing the provision this Winter.

All of the providers delivering the Programme this Winter will be receiving an additional payment to support the organisations with the cost of living. The additional funding is to support the organisation delivering the programme, and the families that each are working with through the *Healthy Holidays Calderdale Programme*.

Awards

I'd like to congratulate [Calderdale Healthwatch](#) who have recently gained a Quality Award and accreditation of their volunteer offer:

"The panel were particularly impressed with your personalised and inclusive approach to supporting volunteers. Volunteers are offered flexible and rewarding volunteer roles which are sensitive to their individual circumstances such as health needs and caring responsibilities. All the Volunteers were full of praise for the support and encouragement they receive in their volunteer role and the opportunity to feed into the work of Healthwatch."

[The Community Spirit Awards](#) hosted by Community Foundation for Calderdale also took place this month. The awards are always a great opportunity to celebrate the incredible diversity, richness and impact of the volunteers, charitable and community organisations across the Borough. They are also really important way of recognising outstanding achievements by the sector each year.