



# We Are Still Calderdale

Data Pack 2021



# Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Enterprising and Talented](#)
- [Kindness and Resilience](#)
- [Distinctiveness](#)

## We are still Calderdale

### 2024 is an important year for Calderdale

It's the year that marks our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be a time to celebrate and reflect on what's been achieved over the last half century. But where do we want to be by 2024? How will the Calderdale of then, be different from the place it is now? What ambitions do we share?

Our vision for Calderdale in 2024 is for a place where you can realise your potential whoever you are, whether your voice has been heard or unheard in the past. We aspire to be a place where **talent and enterprise** can thrive. A place defined by our innate **kindness and resilience**, and by how our people care for each other, are able to recover from setbacks and are full of hope. Calderdale will stand out, be known, and be **distinctive**. We want Calderdale to be a great place to visit, but most importantly, a place to live a larger life.

To understand and measure our progress against this vision, visit [dataworks.calderdale.gov.uk](https://dataworks.calderdale.gov.uk) and select **Vision 2024** on the performance dashboard. This shows indicators on business start-up and survival, school readiness, educational attainment and workforce skills, the value of our tourist economy, plus data on air quality and physical activity. You can see our progress over time, and benchmark against other northern boroughs and comparator groups.

Not everything can be measured in numbers, and our citizen's perception of our place, and our progress towards this shared vision is equally important. A resident survey has taken place, and will be repeated annually, to help us understand if we are achieving our **Vision 2024**.

This data pack is asset based, and has been prepared to pull together key areas of strength in Calderdale, whilst still acknowledging areas where we would like to improve.

For more information please contact

**Gail Edge**

**Performance and Business Intelligence Manager**

Calderdale MBC | Chief Executive's Office | Transformation

Mobile: 07849 308738 | email: [gail.edge@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:gail.edge@calderdale.gov.uk)

Or the following shared mailbox [\\_performance.businessintelligence@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:_performance.businessintelligence@calderdale.gov.uk)

# ENTERPRISING AND TALENTED



## Enterprising and Talented

### Education and Inclusion

Parents and families in Calderdale should take a great deal of pride in the way that our schools and settings have supported their children – with their help and cooperation – throughout the past 15 months.

Clearly school life has not been ‘normal’ during the pandemic and statutory assessments and examinations have been cancelled or radically modified. Two assessments that did take place demonstrate that Calderdale pupils have adapted as well – or better – than most children in England. Our children and young people have faced periods of great uncertainty and many have experienced high levels of anxiety. Extensive support continues to be available through schools’ pastoral work and the comprehensive offer from the Open Minds Partnership. Schools have adapted their curricular models to enable lost learning to be addressed and to respond to the additional response for social, emotional and mental health needs.

The special Year 2 Phonics collection in Autumn of 2020 demonstrated that more pupils in Calderdale achieved the standard than was the case nationally. Though Calderdale’s results dropped compared to the Year 1 assessments in the previous ‘normal’ year, the national drop was 50% greater leaving Calderdale pupils as a whole – including disadvantaged pupils – with a higher average performance than was seen nationally.

### Year 2 Phonics Autumn 2020

Autumn 2020 Year 2 Phonics check – proportion of pupils working at the expected standard	2020 Year 2	2019 Year 1	Change
Calderdale	80.2%	82.6%	-2.4%
NCER National	78.3%	81.9%	-3.6%
DfE Region - Yorkshire and the Humber	77.7%	80.6%	-2.9%

Source: NCER Emerging early data

The other assessments which went ahead and produced results which can be quantified – albeit without the traditional examinations – were Key Stage 4 (GCSE) assessments. Calderdale pupils have performed better than their national counterparts for a number of years at GCSE and that remained the case in 2020.

### **Key Stage 4 Teacher Assessed results in 2019/20**

Measure - ALL	Calderdale 2020	Calderdale	National 2020	National
Average Attainment 8	52.3	49.2	50.2	46.8
% achieving 9-5 in Eng-	53.8	46.8	49.9	43.4
% achieving 9-4 in Eng-	74.8	68.0	71.2	64.9

*DfE Statistical First Releases*

Finally, we can also see that more pupils who had reached the end of statutory school age entered education, employment or training than was the case nationally which is a healthy indicator for their prospects in the wider world post-COVID.

The School Effectiveness Service is leading on the Calderdale Education Recovery Plan which includes strands on educational recovery, the wellbeing of children, young people and staff, workforce development and digital inclusion. No one should underestimate the challenges our children and young people – and the staff and leaders who support them in schools/settings – will continue to face as life starts to get back to normal, but we can be confident that the support will be available to them and the good work so far will be continued.

ENTERPRISING AND TALENTED

**45%**

BELIEVE CALDERDALE IS A PLACE THAT CAN REALISE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



ENTERPRISING AND TALENTED

**46%**

I BELIEVE THAT CALDERDALE IS A PLACE THAT WILL SUPPORT EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



ENTERPRISING AND TALENTED

**70.50%**

PERCENTAGE ACHIEVING A GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT (FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE)



ENTERPRISING AND TALENTED

**0.03**

PROGRESS 8 CALDERDALE PUPILS ABOVE AVERAGE AND ABOVE TARGET OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL CAREER



# KINDNESS & RESILIENCE



## **Resilience in Private Sector Housing**

### **Property Flood Resilience Assistance**

An estimated 800 homes were affected by the latest flood event in the Calder Valley in February 2020. In response, the Council secured funds from government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (defra) and the Combined Authority to provide 'first time' flood resilience £5,000 grants. This has enabled the provision of flood surveys and the undertaking of works that will make homes easier, cheaper and quicker to repair in the event future flooding.

To support and assist residents through the application process, a specialist independent flood resilience surveyor was appointed to carry out home flood assessments, recommending and prioritising works to help 'dry and waterproof' homes in the event of a future flood.

75 applications have been approved or are in the assessment process by the Council's Home Improvement Service with the funding for the works in place until May/2022.

### **Good quality housing is critical to the population's health.**

Living in a safe, warm home helps ensure a good start in life for young babies and children; supports their physical, cognitive and academic development through their early school years; reduces the risk of developing long term physical and mental ill health in later life; lowers the rate of absence from school and work due to cold related illness and also supports older people to live longer and independently in their own homes during later life.

Our work to make homes warmer, healthier and cheaper to heat has a range of benefits for residents and wider public services, especially improved health outcomes and reducing the estimated £1m costs per year associated with health conditions caused by living in a cold home (Calderdale Stock Condition report and Health Impact Assessment, 2016).

As well as health benefits, our work to make homes more sustainable will reduce carbon emissions and support the Council's target for Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2038.

Over £3.75m has been secured by the Council's Affordable Warmth team from the government's Local Authority Delivery Scheme to provide a range of specialist 'room in roof' insulation for low income homes that have cold, uninsulated attic rooms.

Other schemes are available to provide standard loft and cavity wall insulation, small boiler repairs, boiler replacements, 'warmth on prescription' for low income households with long term health conditions made worse by the cold along with energy efficiency advice and support to help people with their energy bills and fuel debt.

A study will be carried over the next six months to identify and map where the coldest homes are in the borough, identifying the type and scale of works needed, building the case for future public and private investment needed to bring 69,000 of the borough's 95,00 homes up to an energy rating of C (or above) over the next 17 years to support delivery of Calderdale's Net Zero carbon target

## **Reducing the number of Empty Homes**

Empty homes are a wasted resource, especially when there is a housing shortage. Homes empty for longer than six months can also start to have an adverse impact on adjoining properties and communities. Issues such as disrepair, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and decreased property values can result in area decline if unresolved.

As at March 2021 the total number of empty homes in Calderdale was 2,636, with 1,741 empty for more than 6 months and 895 empty for less than 6 months.

Reducing these numbers is a priority. As well as offering advice, practical and financial support to help empty home owners bring their properties back into use, the Council also has various enforcement powers it can use on properties that cause a nuisance, including carrying out work in default of a notice. Sale of property can be enforced if the resultant invoice for the work remains unpaid by the owner. In certain circumstances the property may be made the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order, although this is an option of last resort after all others have been exhausted.

<  **Tibetan Kitchen**  
26 April · 🌐

Hebden Bridge Update: On Monday 27th April( tomorrow) we are working in collaboration with OPWC to deliver free hot meals to those in need in the Hebden Bridge area. We are ALSO sharing the Tibetan Kitchen love and offering our regulars a complimentary veggie meal for collection between 2-4 pm! To find out more and book a collection time please email: tibetanfood@gmail.com or text 07799896642 #freefood #friendsoftibetankitchen #hebdenbridge.org #foodfantastic #tibetankitchenuk



 **Elland Cars**  
7 April · 🌐

❤️👤 We are here to help 👤❤️

During these difficult times, the team at Elland Cars wants to assure you that we are here for you.

As a local business we can play an important role in our community. We are pleased to announce that we have launched #ECsupport to strengthen bonds and show our support to the community.

This new scheme will involve working alongside local charities to offer our support by providing a free service for delivering medication, delivering food supplies and delivering essentials to those who need it the most. 🙏

We are proud to be working alongside HALIFAX COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT, who are doing a fantastic job in assisting the community. They are going over and beyond to provide their support.

Please note if you are in need of any support or know somebody who does in these challenging times please contact 07450482148 📞

You are not alone, we are here to help. ❤️👤

Elland Cars 🚗🔧🛠️📞

- Blackhorse inn at Clifton are a restaurant, bar and hotel, during pandemic they have been delivering fruit and veg from suppliers to local people and also used their kitchen to do restaurant meals at home for takeaway service.
- Craggies Mytholmroyd have adapted café and farming produce store to be a delivery service across Calderdale. They have enable their website to allow click and collect and online orders.
- Origano in Hebden Bridge has become so popular as a takeaway they have recruited drivers and other food apps to allow order and delivery locally. They have really thrived through the recent lockdowns and inability to trade as they typically would.
- Cottage Foods had to change their market from wholesale supplying businesses with staff facilities, cafes, bars and restaurants to home deliveries for the general public as well as helping food banks!
- Quickslide Windows have managed to manufacture their windows on 20% staffing levels by introducing a night shift.
- Hot House Beauty Ltd based in Brighouse switched production from beauty products to hand sanitizers and hand wash.
- Witt UK Group (Fan Systems) based in Shelf, Halifax switched production from large fans to hospital beds.

### **Inclusive Economy Strategy**

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/sites/default/files/inclusive-economy-strategy-v3.pdf>

## Community Safety

One of Calderdale Council's priorities is to create safer communities and there are a range of services and initiatives helping to achieve this.

You can find out more at [Calderdale: Crime prevention and community safety](#).

A number of different organisations have come together to form the [Calderdale Community Safety Partnership](#) with a shared vision of 'Everyone in Calderdale feeling safe and protected at all times'. In March 2019 the partnership were awarded **£30,000** to be used as an operational fund for frontline delivery, addressing the needs arising in the community.

**Operation Hawmill**, funded by Calderdale Council in 2019 and the Calderdale Community Safety Partnership from 2020, is the Calderdale Partnership road safety campaign tackling anti-social use of vehicles and offences on our road network. Priorities are set through the Road Safety Delivery Group focusing on the 'Fatal 4' offences:

- Being over the prescribed limit through drink or drug use
- Speeding
- Using a mobile phone while driving
- Not wearing a seatbelt

Following the relaunch of Operation Hawmill in August 2019 the scheme has:

- Issued 364 Traffic Offence Reports, including 131 for speeding and 123 for not wearing a seatbelt.
- Seized 48 vehicles.
- Made 25 arrests, including 20 for drug or drink driving.
- Issued 7 Section 59 Warnings for careless driving.
- Overall had 6152 positive road traffic outcomes.

## Flagship region

West Yorkshire Police held Calderdale as the flagship region and would like to see this approach replicated across the force.

[Community Safety Wardens](#) work across Calderdale to keep our communities safe. They work in partnership with other agencies, including the Police and the Fire Service.

Halifax was the first town in West Yorkshire to receive [Purple Flag award](#) purple flag award in 2010 and has retained it every year since. The award recognises towns and cities that offer an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.

## Reporting Crime

There is now more intelligence into the types of crimes that are being committed and we are able to manage resources and awareness campaigns more effectively. While the [Indices of Deprivation 2019 demonstrates the potential impact of crime in Calderdale](#), the most recently published local data shows real improvement. Compared to the number of crimes reported in December 2018 there were **9% fewer offences** in December 2019. There were noticeable falls in key areas including burglary (-47%) and anti social behaviour (-14%).

For information on crime data for Calderdale, including an interactive monthly tool from Trafford, providing crime data by ward and type, recorded crime and annual extracts from Police data, see [Calderdale Data Works: Crime](#).



## Move the Calderdale way challenge!

Voluntary and community organisations across Calderdale were given the opportunity to enter a team into the challenge. The goal was to move (i.e., walk, run, or cycle) the distance of the Calderdale Way (50 miles) in September 2020. In return, Active Calderdale pledged to invest £20 into each organisation for each participant that took part in the challenge.

The Move the Calderdale challenge managed to engage with diverse range of participants. There was a great mix of males and females, participants across all age groups, and those with and without long-term health conditions.

In total, 80 organisations took part, with **over 1900 individuals making up the teams!** On average, 54.1% of participants increased their physical active levels to 5+ days a week (an increase from 37.2%) and those who were active for 0-1 days reduced from 12% to just 5.8% by the end of the challenge. Apart from increases in activity levels, a huge number of participants who told us about the positive benefits to their mental wellbeing, particularly life satisfaction and happiness. It also helped bring team members closer together, which was especially important after the lockdown. The challenge had a positive impact on physical activity levels. The proportion of participants who were physically active for 5+ days in the last week increased from 37.2% to 54.1% as a result of the challenge. In addition, the proportion who were active for 0-1 days reduced from 12% to just 5.8% after the challenge. The challenge also supported increases in physical activity levels in two of Active Calderdale's target groups, women and those with long term health conditions.

When asked how taking part in the challenge benefited their organisation, the main theme to come out of participant responses was that the challenge helped bring team members closer together. When asked how taking part in the challenge benefited themselves as individuals, the main theme to come out of participant responses was that the challenge helped and encouraged them to walk and exercise more. Some of the biggest positives to come out of the challenge were the positive benefits that participants experienced in their mental wellbeing as a result of taking part in the challenge. Participants experienced increased levels of life satisfaction, happiness, and worth in the things that they do in life as a result of this challenge.



1VIGOR is a classed based fitness business based in West Vale. The business turned 4 in January this year. We continually re-invest in the experience, to ensure we stay relevant to our client base.

We have seen steady growth pretty much month on month from opening.

From October 2019 – March 2020 we witnessed huge growth. We boomed in January 2020. March saw an 120% increase in sales from March the previous year and it became our highest attendance Month. Then COVID-19 struck. We closed the doors of the Studio ahead of the Government Lockdown. We took the decision that whilst 1VIGOR is closed, client's payments would be frozen - that meant we immediately had no income. It forced us to adapt, quick.

We started 1VIGOR AT HOME, we charged a minimal amount for this service, but it was enough to cover the business expenditure (with no income). Alongside the Government Grant, we were okay. When the rules were relaxed, we immediately adapted, as soon as we could do 1-2-1 Outdoors, we did. The same for the rule of 6 Outdoors, we had 5 x clients to 1 x instructor. The issue for us was our Studio is small, even pre Covid when we were allowed to run at full capacity we had just 12 x clients per session. So when we re-opened after Lockdown 1.0 we were running with 9 x clients and then had to reduce further down to 6 x clients. This was pretty much impossible. I genuinely was close to closing down the business, and then maybe look to re-start if / when COVID-19 had settled down. A horrible time and I had stress that I'd not witnessed before. We knew we needed a bigger space. The restrictions and advice around COVID, were that Outdoors in the fresh air is a lot safer than indoors. So we designed and built an Outdoor Gym from shipping containers, and named it the 1VIGOR COMPOUND. The footprint is over 6 x larger than the studio. So even with 15 x clients on one session, we have loads of space. And it's in the fresh air!! This was funded by the Government BBL.

We have increased our capacity to a higher number than what we had even pre COVID. Alongside the Outdoor Gym, the previous space lends itself well to an indoor Cycling Studio – 1VIGOR RIDE. Indoor bikes require the least m3 of any gym equipment and clients stay static throughout the session – so the space is perfect for this. We now have 2 x Locations and 2 x Concepts. Clients can choose from the Full Body workout in the 1VIGOR COMPOUND, or an indoor bike session at 1VIGOR RIDE. December we opened the COMPOUND – we have seen from previous December's that it's the quietest month of the year... This December was our busiest month on record!! We are now set for re-opening and we are so excited for the future of 1VIGOR, it feels like it going to be a whole different level.

## **Community Growing – Woodlands Avenue (Denis’ Field)**

Community Growing is something that many people are interested in undertaking but lack the garden space or resources to undertake. Through the Community Growing Scheme, Council land that is not required for other purposes can be made available to local community groups to grow on.

Our initial task in the Neighbourhoods Team is to help signpost that there is Council land available suitable for growing, help the group to identify what they want to use it for and then help them to locate a suitable site. We inform them of the scheme, act as ongoing liaison between CAFM and Legal and help guide them through the process. We can also assist with forming community groups and with signposting grants to help them get started.

In 2020, during the pandemic, many individuals and groups of residents became interested in the scheme and pursuing community growing activities on land available within their communities. The Denis’ Field Friends and Growers group came out of a number of residents in the local area having the desire to grow on what is locally known as Denis’ Field. Many of the residents had already been actively involved in ‘Save Denis’ Field’ a group who had applied for the field to be nominated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). But the group wanted to do more on the site.

The Neighbourhoods Team built relationships with the group of residents, supported them to set their vision, aims and objectives and become formally constituted so in the long term they could benefit from grants which may be available to them. The team also supported them to build relationships with other Council departments, such as CAFM and the Green Spaces and Street Scene Team as well as helping them navigate through the more formal aspects of the license process including keeping the group regularly updated at every step. It was also important to advise on getting neighbours and other local groups involved, put them in touch with already established groups with similar aims across the Borough and help develop support networks for them. The result of this was that the group joined with another group of residents interested in doing a similar project, this led to resources and knowledge being shared.

The benefits of the scheme are immense. Ground that would otherwise be underutilised becomes a community hub, bringing people together to enjoy what they grow, building neighbourliness and breaking down isolation, it helps to make people aware of climate change and their duty to themselves and others to do what they can to offset the damage locally. Growing also encourages self-sufficiency, improved food security, improved dietary habits and education about food more generally, all of which contribute towards resilience. During the pandemic it can act as a way for people to work together and support each other even while maintaining social distancing.

The Denis’ Field Friends and Growers group recently obtained their community growing license and will be starting their project very soon!

## Resilient Green Spaces

Calderdale has a wide range of greenspaces, including parks, nature reserves, public footpaths, bridleways, and open spaces that are available to all. To achieve the vision of Calderdale being the most active Borough in the North by 2024, Calderdale Council are encouraging people to make more use of the parks, open spaces and countryside and consequently improve health and wellbeing.

Over the last year, the pandemic has really focussed people's minds on local greenspaces. Parks, woodlands, moorlands, and the Rights of Way network have all experienced a large increase in visitors trying to get their daily exercise and to benefit from the wellbeing benefits of the great outdoors.

The land management charity, the Land Trust, has recently published the results of a survey which shows how important green spaces have been for people throughout the pandemic.

Over 90% of people who completed the survey said they think that spending time in green spaces has had a positive effect on their mental and physical health throughout the pandemic. With people using green spaces for exercise, nature watching or spending time with their family, this has had a particular impact on people's mental health and people's resilience to the pandemic.

Given the increasing pressure on our local greenspaces, we are pleased to be able to illustrate how resilient our countryside and parks have proved to be during recent times, offering an important retreat to our residents, homes for local wildlife and land managed in such a way as to be beneficial to flood management and climate change.

Both Parks and Countryside teams are very lucky to have the support of a large group of volunteers. The 50+ volunteers who give time to support the Countryside and Woodlands Team are an integral part of the service and contribute greatly to caring for the natural landscape in Calderdale. The volunteers help maintain the Rights of Way network, create a variety of habitats for wildlife, help control invasive species, work in the visitor centre at Ogden Water (currently closed due to Covid), plant trees and much more. In addition to these registered volunteers, we also have a dedicated group of volunteers who attend the Calderdale Local Access Forum to work together to make improvements to accessing local countryside and a number of community day volunteers who carry out practical work on sites such as Ogden Water, Scarr Wood and Cromwell Bottom.

The volunteers in the parks, both individuals and groups have done an amazing job over an unprecedented year. They keep on top of the smaller jobs which staff may not have chance to do but also take responsibility for larger areas too. Without our volunteers the parks would not be what they are today. A lot of our volunteers have welcomed the opportunity to get out there and make a difference to their local community, something which previously they may have travelled further afield to do.

It has given people a purpose to leave their homes, with many volunteers vocalising that without these opportunities they would be in a very different place both mentally and physically. The resilience shown has been incredible and we hope this continues for many years to come. The plans that groups and individuals assist staff with implementing help to improve areas. The plans may not be finished at the current time, but they are certainly on the right path.

## **Education and Inclusion**

Early years settings, schools and post-16 settings in Calderdale have been remarkable during the pandemic. They have responded with incredible commitment and demonstrated high levels of resilience to each and every challenge that has emerged since March 2020. From the very earliest stages, settings and schools have striven to ensure that their children, families and staff are supported, safe and healthy in the midst of an unprecedented event. They were, by and large, able to meet the added demands placed on them to help parents remain in work in critical roles.

No amount of experience could prepare providers, headteachers and staff for the events that were unfolding and the community of schools and settings have been both mutually supportive and also worked with the Local Authority to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

In the face of almost nightly changes to official guidance, leaders were – with the support of LA officers and services – able to put in place remote learning options to educate children, keep children safe and deliver free school meals to those in greatest need of support. The Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC) responded with the Never Hungry Again campaign to ensure disadvantaged children across the borough have access to food during school holidays and families were further supported through direct payments from the Winter Grant scheme. The Healthy Holidays programme is in place to provide food and activities funded by the Department for Education.

The resilience of our Early Years providers has been evident throughout as they have responded to restrictions impacting on their financial income and to the way they can operate. The fact that we retain sufficient childcare and early education places and have increased the proportion of children accessing funded 2-year old places is testament to the joint work of providers and Council services. The system wide work to continue to improve outcomes for children in the early years has also continued.

Schools and settings adapted their provision to meet guidance and provide COVID-secure environments. The challenges continued when settings and schools were able to be fully open with staff working to provide high quality education and childcare to those children onsite in ‘bubbles’, whilst also responding to emerging cases and on-going bubble closures which continue to necessitate remote learning also being provided.

Services have worked together, for example with the Safeguarding Children Partnership working with the Early Years Childcare and Sufficiency Team and the School Effectiveness Service to ensure that all vulnerable children and young people were having regular welfare contact from the most appropriate service. This work ensured procedures to safeguard children were robust from the very earliest stages.

The people of Calderdale once again stepped up to help those most in need. This was demonstrated through the local fundraising campaign organised by the School Effectiveness Service with the support of the CFFC and the Valley Learning Partnership which enabled laptops and internet access to be provided for disadvantaged children. This supplemented the Government provision of some devices to provide an additional 158 laptops & licences and 199 dongles with 4 month SIMS.

Children Looked After also had IT devices provided and additional resources and tutoring kindly funded by the Together for Looked-after Children (TLC) charity.

Those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities faced particular challenges both in terms of increased risks for some through underlying health issues or in accessing remote learning and therapies when unable to attend their provision. The staff in our special schools worked hard to ensure they have been able to provide the very best education and care for their pupils whilst managing all the additional pressures and restrictions.

The work that paid staff and volunteers carry out in the service, is key to helping Calderdale become carbon neutral. Work to make the Borough more resilient to flooding and climate change is part of this story. A new project funded by The National Lottery has just started which will focus on growing Sphagnum Moss to assist with the restoration of Blanket Bog locally to enable degraded moorland to sequester carbon once again.

One thing to remember on resilient greenspaces – specifically the countryside and the habitats and species within it – is that this is a space for wildlife and that we need to respect these spaces that we share.

This includes keeping to footpaths (bridleways for mountain bikes) so as not to damage fragile habitats such as blanket bog and heathland as well as disturbing ground nesting birds. Also keeping dogs under control – particularly where there are sheep – our landscape is a working one for many residents – as well as during the nesting season ground nesting birds for which much of the upper valley landscape is designated a Special Protection Area.

Fires and bbq's are a huge risk and should be kept away from the wider countryside (PSPOs are in place in large areas of Calderdale) – Marsden Moor has already had fires this year devastating the rare habitats and species that were still trying to recover from the damage done last year by fires.

Increased usage over the pandemic period led to a huge increase in litter and rubbish – the wider countryside does not have litter picked in the same way as local parks – please take litter home and consider that it can often be fatal to wildlife e.g. the plastic loops around 4 pack cans can trap around small mammals.

## **Playgrounds – Safe Spaces and Street Scene Team**

There are currently 114 play areas throughout Calderdale with the range of facilities from traditional to new adventure play areas, multi-use games areas and skateparks. Each play area caters for a wide range of children of all ages and abilities.

The importance of play for children has become ever more apparent during the COVID 19 pandemic due to the limit on other activities that families with children have been able to undertake. Due to these areas being heavily used during this time it has been even more crucial for the independent routine operational inspections to be carried which identify and risk grade defects needing attention. Scheduled service and maintenance to ensure that areas are in the best condition for use as possible is undertaken and in addition any repairs completed to ensure that the sites meet the health and safety requirements for use.

Refurbishment plans are in place to upgrade 45 of the 114 play areas over the next 2 years which will focus on replacing safety surfacing and treating/re-painting the existing equipment, a small number of play areas will have equipment replaced that has reached its end of useful life or will benefit the play value to add another piece of play equipment.

Working alongside the Procurement and Legal teams the Invitation to Quote has been reviewed and updated to incorporate quality requirements covering the Vision 2024 priorities these are around environmentally and sustainable materials in the installation of the play area and make use of local/regional supply chains in order to complete the work required.

## **A resilient workforce**

One thing that has been very clear across both the Countryside and Woodlands Team and Safer, Cleaner, Greener during the pandemic is that all our staff are incredibly resilient and that no matter what is thrown at us, we rise to the challenge to deliver the best outcome we can for the local residents and for our greenspaces.

Staff have adapted to working from home, have continued to keep our streets clean, kept the grass cut in parks and have had to deal with an unprecedented amount of litter. All without complaining and often with a smile on our faces, quite an achievement given what has been happening.

KINDNESS AND RESILIENCE

**63.4%** OF ADULTS  
PHYSICALLY ACTIVE



KINDNESS AND RESILIENCE

**57%**  
BELIEVE THAT THEIR  
COMMUNITY IS WELL  
PREPARED TO RESPOND  
TO FLOODING



KINDNESS AND RESILIENCE

**70%**  
FEEL THAT PEOPLE IN THEIR  
COMMUNITY HAVE ACTED  
KINDLY DURING THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

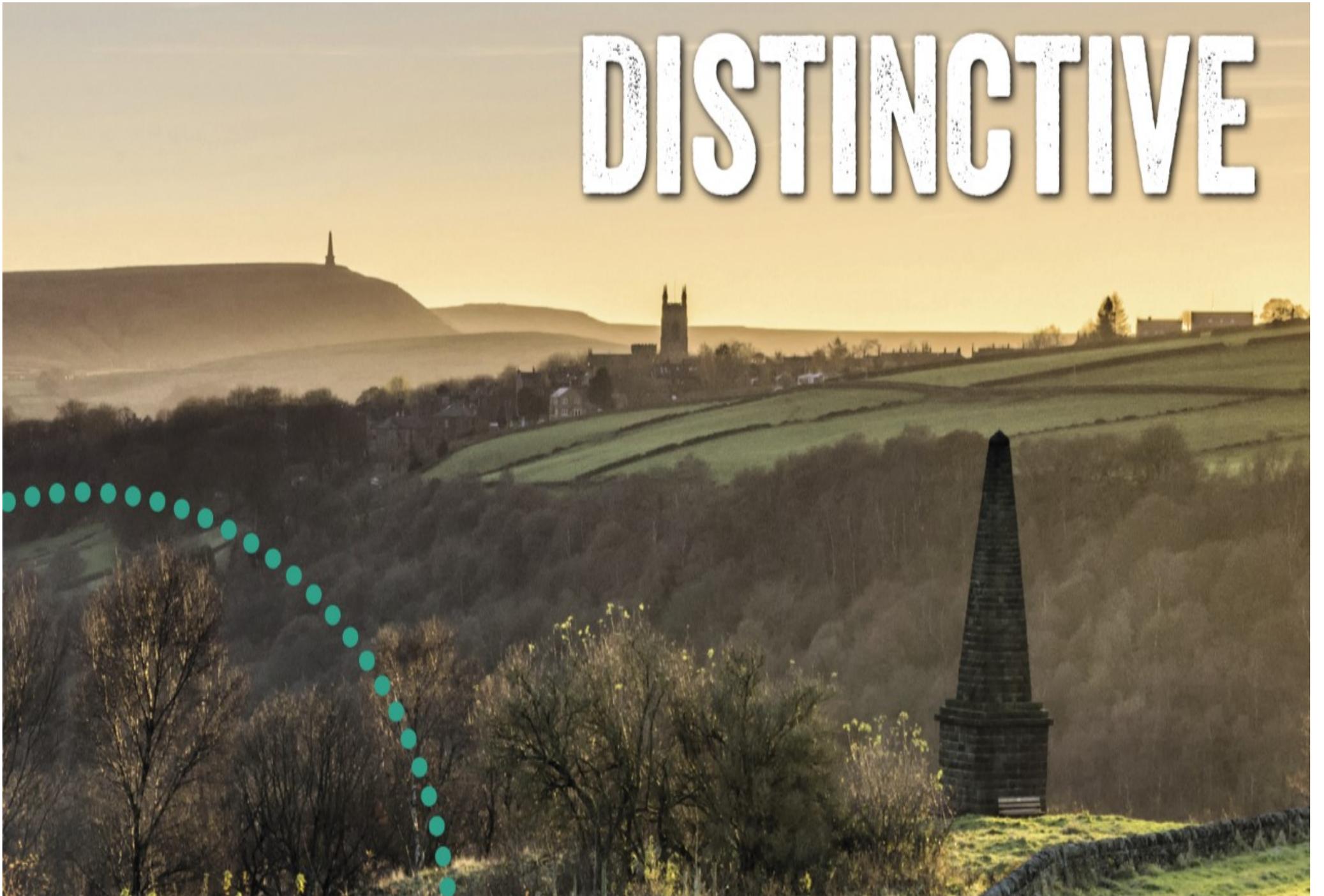


KINDNESS AND RESILIENCE

**67%**  
LOCAL SITES (BOTH GEOLOGICAL  
AND WILDLIFE) WHERE POSITIVE  
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT IS  
BEING OR HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED  
IN PREVIOUS 5 YEARS



# DISTINCTIVE





We have made a commitment in our Inclusive Recovery Plan to ensure that Calderdale continues to be a place people choose to live and have access to healthy, safe and affordable homes. This in turn will act as an economic driver during our economy. One example of this is through the place shaping work taking place with the community at Beech Hill in Halifax.

Beech Hill is a complex existing housing development abutted by the A629 road network, a primary school, mill development and now cleared site of the former 3 tower blocks and highways depot.

The Phase 1 £20m new build development of 105 family sized homes in Park Ward is the result of years of work across a number of partners and assembling a funding package from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA's) Growth Deal for £2.197m towards the cost of demolition. The 105 homes will complete in August 2023.

The success of Phase 1 has contributed to a Phase 2 which has secured £1.2m grant towards improving the energy efficiency and appearance of the existing homes. This is a fantastic example of a place shaping partnership project which has drawn in funding from WYCA and Homes England as well as funding from Together Housing Association and Calderdale Council. This model provides a template for future place shaping work within the partnership and this would be a key element of driving sustainable economic recovery in the borough.



Additionally, our Affordable Homes Programme continues to grow thanks to joint efforts between our Registered Provider partners (Housing Associations). There are currently over 490 affordable homes on site and being built across the borough. All are being built in sustainable locations, close to existing transport links and will be built to a good energy efficiency standard.

The Home Builders Federation (HBF) reported that in 2017/18 19,986 new homes were built in the West Yorkshire region - which were responsible for sustaining 61,957 jobs and delivered over £3.39bn worth of economic activity (Yorkshire and the Humber: Economic Footprint of Home Building 2019). This includes the generation of tax revenues (e.g. Stamp Duty, Council Tax) but also contributes financially to the delivery of affordable housing, new or improved schools and community spaces. Similarly, a report by Arcadis 'Building Homes, Making Places' estimates on national figures that the economic benefit of each home built to be approximately £316,000. This again considers job creation, tax revenues and supply chains. The construction industry, and house building in particular, is a key mechanism in ensuring Calderdale has a resilient economy.

#### Recently completed affordable housing scheme in Southowram by Mosscaire St Vincents

Before



After



## **Tourism and Visitor Economy**

The latest Visitor Economy figures show that 2019 was the best year ever for the borough's visitor economy. The record value of tourism to Calderdale just before COVID-19 brings real hope for the sector's recovery from the pandemic. In 2019, tourism was worth just under £400 million to Calderdale's economy - a massive 14% increase from £349 million in 2018. Around 8.2 million visitors made day and overnight trips to Calderdale in 2019 – 26% more than in 2018. The number of day trips alone increased by a whopping 27% to 7.9 million in 2019. About £295.8 million of the money tourists spent in the area directly benefited local businesses, from hotels and restaurants to cafés, shops and attractions. This income is estimated to have supported 7,930 jobs, up 14% from 2018.

Calderdale also hosts numerous events. These events of all sizes attract hundreds of thousands of people every year, including visitors from across the nation and overseas. They also support a network of over 3000 volunteers annually.

Calderdale's filming industry continues to grow along with Screen Tourism. Due to the borough's stunning scenery, mill-stone grit, moorland, crags, wooded valleys, rushing water, steep-sided valleys, Calderdale can seem remote and wild. This unique variety of stunning landscape and proximity of town and country, all within a stone's throw, are what lends Calderdale so well to new and returning TV and film.

## Covid case studies:

Many of Calderdale's food & drink and retail businesses have adapted to the pandemic by starting or expanding their online offer with new click n' collect or delivery options. A good example this is Engine Social & Dining in Sowerby Bridge who started to offer 'Engine at Home' luxury meal boxes for two people, which comprised starters, sides, amazing dessert and a bottle of premium pairing wine.

Pride & Provenance is a small café/bar /restaurant outside The Piece Hall. As the pandemic progressed they spotted an opportunity to sell locally sourced items to the people of Calderdale. Originally starting with wine and charcuterie platters available for home delivery, this has now progressed to deli style items sold at the door. They have also just announced that they have leased new basement space in the Piece Mill underneath their café and plan to launch a market experience retail space including a wine tasting room for intimate private events in May 2021.

A new Totally Locally Online Shop for HX7 postcode-based businesses launched, allowing users to browse and buy online from many different Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd businesses across the HX7 postcode area, all in one place.

Cargodale is the Calder Valley's low-impact delivery service for local businesses. It started a year ago at the beginning of the pandemic with the aim to deliver food to the residents of the valley. The electric cargo bikes can carry up to 200 lbs (80 kg) and deliver shopping, hot food and more to anywhere in Todmorden or Hebden Bridge, hills no obstacle. They have now expanded to deliver throughout Calderdale and work closely with local businesses to deliver their items. You can now get a Cargodale delivery from over 16 shops within Calderdale. In the beginning we at Visit Calderdale supported this venture with the loan of our e-bikes.

Even during the Pandemic, new businesses have appeared, albeit only able to open briefly as we have spent more than half of the last 12 months in lockdown - such as Duke's Bar in the Market Arcade, Halifax, an independent bar with a food & drink offer.

Read more about Calderdale's online hospitality offer here: <https://www.visitcalderdale.com/blog/click-and-collect-takeaway-deliveries-available-in-calderdale-during-lockdown>

DISTINCTIVE

62%

THINK CALDERDALE OFFERS  
A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ALL PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN  
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



DISTINCTIVE

84%

THINK CALDERDALE IS  
AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE  
FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT



DISTINCTIVE

56%

THINK CALDERDALE IS A  
CREATIVE PLACE WHERE  
PEOPLE ARE EASILY ABLE  
TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES  
TO TRY NEW THINGS



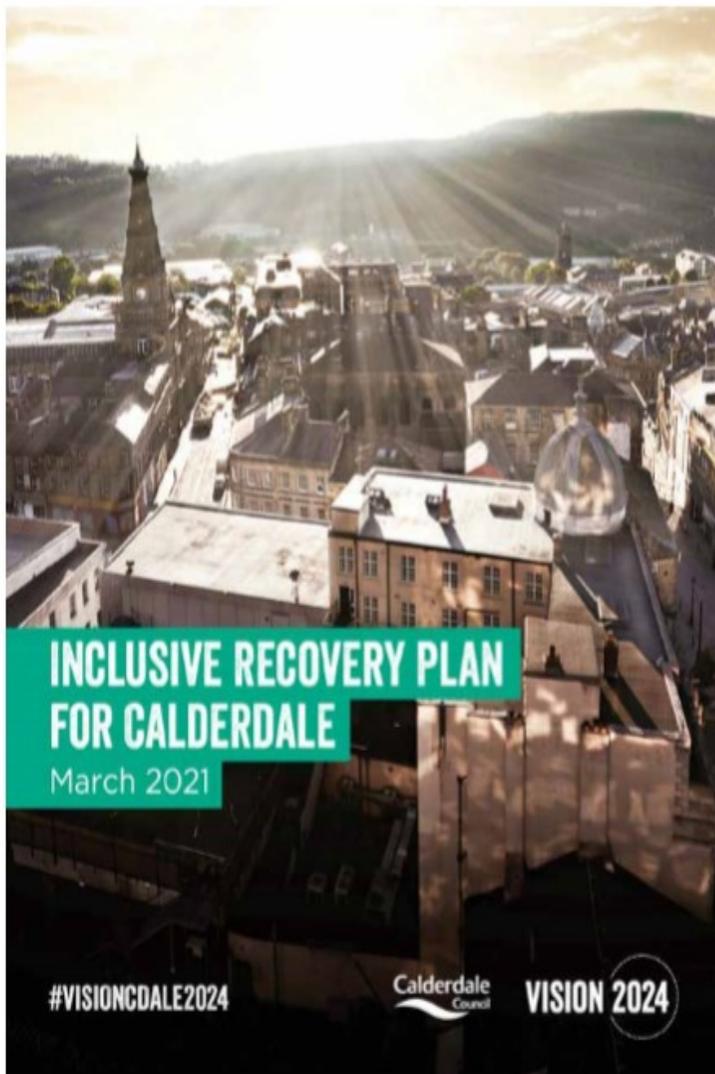
DISTINCTIVE

£396.7 M

THE VALUE OF  
VISTOR ECONOMY  
IN CADERDALE 2019



# Inclusive Recovery

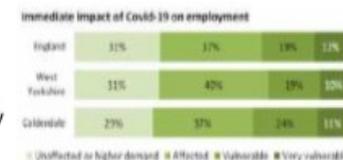


## Section 1 What has happened during the Covid-19 pandemic - the challenge and areas for action

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact globally on our health, wealth, and wellbeing. It has resulted in the loss of many lives, affected people's physical and mental wellbeing, and resulted in the greatest economic downturn in recent history. The pandemic has also hastened some pre-existing trends facing all economies, shone a light on, and widened inequality. In Calderdale we have mirrored many national trends in our local economy and wider society. In this section we set out some of the key challenges for Calderdale which must inform our recovery plans.

### Covid-19 and the Calderdale economy

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the deepest recession on record. The Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) forecast expects GDP to shrink by 11.3 per cent in 2020 – the largest contraction in the economy for over 300 years. We have already seen some key measurable impacts on the Calderdale economy:



**The pandemic has impacted across nearly all our business sectors** It has also accelerated some economic trends like shopping on-line, automation and working from home. Whether the impact has been negative or positive has depended on the sector – for example food retail has continued to thrive in many places as has the construction of new homes. However, early analysis by [Centre for Cities](#) identified Calderdale as an area where the economy was potentially more vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic due to high levels of employment in sectors which have been particularly affected by the pandemic such as retail, tourism, hospitality, and parts of manufacturing. By June 2020 businesses surveyed by WYCA were initially estimating losses of £36 million, with 59% temporarily or indefinitely closed. 2020 also saw fewer business start-ups, with a 43% reduction between January and October, compared with 2019. There was however an increase in sole trader start-ups which may be an area for future growth.

**Unemployment has risen sharply.** The impact on businesses has played out in employment figures and will continue to rise as businesses make redundancies as the Job Retention Scheme winds down. Compared to the pre-lockdown figures of March 2020, the number of unemployment benefit claimants has increased significantly from 3.6% in March peaking at 7% in August 2020. Calderdale has been 0.4% above the regional average since August 2020.

