

# Kindness and Resilience

## ▪ Flooding

Storm Ciara brought devastating flooding across Calderdale on Sunday 9 February 2020, the third major flood in just eight years, and affecting 1200 residential and business properties. Local residents, flood wardens, teams from Calderdale Council and its partner organisations, and volunteers showed their amazing community spirit, braving the bad weather and working around the clock to help those affected. Community hubs opened across Calderdale, offering cleaning equipment, general help and emotional support in Brighouse, Elland, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden.

The Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) created a £2 million recovery fund for eligible businesses, many of whom were small to medium sized firms specialising in retail, leisure and tourism and who were unable to insure their businesses following the Boxing Day floods in 2015. Emergency grants of up to £2,500 were allocated to help businesses cover short term costs such as replacing critical equipment, dehumidifying their premises and carrying out urgent repairs so they could get back on their feet quickly. For businesses which were harder hit, larger grants were made available to help refurbish damaged premises and replace larger equipment such as machinery. Around 60% of businesses in Calderdale already qualify for small business rate relief, meaning they don't pay business rates, and they will continue to get this support.

Just days after Storm Ciara, Storm Dennis brought further fear, but fortunately it passed without significant further flooding and support from UK Armed Forces personnel from the 4th Infantry Brigade ('The Black Rats'), the Yorkshire Regiment and the 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland ('The Highlanders') gave a real boost to the Calder Valley.

Responding to lobbying from the Council, the Government confirmed on the 19th February that funding to help support residents and businesses affected by Storm Ciara will be granted::

- up to £500 in financial hardship payments for flood-hit households;
- 100% Council Tax and business rates relief for at least three months for households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding;
- up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant for small-to-medium sized businesses which have suffered severe, uninsurable losses and
- up to £5,000 for flood-hit homes and businesses to help make them more resilient to future flooding.

# Financial Resilience

## ▪ Tackling Poverty

We recognise the imperative to do all we can to reduce poverty and raise aspiration. Our first Annual report which detailed the local position and the impact of our [Anti-Poverty Action Plan](#) was approved by Calderdale Council Cabinet in November 2019. The report highlighted how our partnership approach to tackling the impact of poverty demonstrates the innate kindness and resilience of our citizens in challenging circumstances.

The action plan continues to focus on three key areas:

- Prevention: Identifying necessary work to be done to support residents and protect them from falling into poverty;
- Intervention: Providing immediate support for those residents who may be in poverty;
- Resilience: Providing support and the means for residents to stay out of poverty.

Particular focus is given to reducing child, fuel and food poverty which have been identified as key areas of need. These areas help the Council deliver the Vision for Calderdale in 2024, building on the borough's kindness and resilience.

Calderdale Council has shown determination in seeking to sustain services which many others have not. This includes: our work on early intervention with both children and adults at risk and needing support to reduce demand when in crisis; and our efforts, in partnership with housing providers, voluntary and community sector, to sustain crisis support and advice to those receiving benefits and experiencing poverty both in and out of work. It is also signalled by our identification of additional funding despite the pressures, to tackle destitution, building upon our work with those at risk of homelessness.

In the next twelve months, we will continue to focus on the areas detailed in the Action Plan, but will also include an additional area of focus around health and the serious impact of poverty on the physical and mental health of local people.

The action plan is very much a working document, and officers will continue to review the content with partners to ensure that new projects, new challenges and changes in welfare legislation are reflected. It looks to complement the Council's work to build an inclusive economy, where everyone can access jobs, skills and opportunities. It also incorporates elements of the [Cohesive Communities Strategy](#), which looks at how the Council can address inequalities.

## ▪ **Inclusive Economy**

At the heart of our approach and the [Inclusive Economy Strategy](#) is our strong belief that business, public sector organisations, the voluntary and community sector and local people must work together if we are to create growth that benefits everyone. The combined efforts of all parts of our local society will be powerful and maximise our chances of success, bringing together everyone's talents for the benefit of all.

The Inclusive Economy Strategy focusses on 6 key objectives (Growth and Investment, Social Value and Anchors, Access to Good Work, Young People and Lifelong Learning, People and Places and Targeting our Efforts) which will help us to achieve our vision of being a more inclusive economy from which everyone benefits. The Strategy sets the broad aims from which detailed actions have now being developed.

The Park and Warley Inclusive Economy Project, which is funded by the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool, is a key contributor to those detailed actions. The project brings into practical reality our commitment to delivering an inclusive economy by using a new approach and creating a different sort of model to traditional economic development.

It is testing and delivering locally co-produced solutions within some of our most deprived communities to increase economic activity in the wards of Park and east Warley. It uses engagement, employment and social value as its guiding themes to bring about evidence of what a change in approach can mean for peoples daily economic lives.

## ▪ English Indices of Deprivation 2019

Latest results from the English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2019 provide evidence of different types and levels of deprivation in neighbourhoods in Calderdale compared with England.

The IoD is a set of relative measures of deprivation grouped into seven domains:

- Income deprivation;
- Employment deprivation;
- Education, skills and training deprivation;
- Health deprivation and disability;
- Crime;
- Barriers to housing and services;
- Living environment deprivation.

The Index of multiple deprivation (IMD) combines information from the seven domains. IMD is the Government's official measure of relative deprivation at neighbourhood level.

The IoD include two supplementary indices – Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) and Income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOP1).

### Key messages

- Calderdale's relative deprivation compared with other local authorities in England has increased. In 2019 its IMD rank was 66<sup>th</sup> compared to 89th in 2015, with a lower number indicating greater deprivation.
- This increase reflects similar changes in West Yorkshire and the Leeds City region compared with other parts of England.
- The proportion of Calderdale's neighbourhoods ranked in the top 30% most deprived nationally increased from 36% (46 neighbourhoods) in IMD 2015 to 40% (52 neighbourhoods) in IMD 2019.
- The proportion of Calderdale's neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally increased from 14.8% (19 neighbourhoods) to 15.6% (20 neighbourhoods). The majority of these neighbourhoods are in central, west and north Halifax, with one in Brighouse.
- Thirty thousand of Calderdale's residents live in neighbourhoods ranked by IMD 2019 as being within the 10% most deprived in England. This includes 7,400 children aged 0-15 and 5,200 older people aged 60+.
- For five of the individual domains there was a drop in relative ranking and with two there was an improvement. The most significant change was within the Crime domain indicating an increase in crime rates relative to other English local authorities.

Calderdale's IoD results can be viewed on the Calderdale Dataworks website. See [English Indices of Deprivation \(IoD\): Calderdale online map dashboards](#) and [Calderdale IMD 2019 results: open data and factsheets](#).

## ▪ 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 Saftey 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, 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:

1. Being over the prescribed limit through drink or drug use
2. Speeding
3. Using a mobile phone while driving
4. Not wearing a seatbelt

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

- Issued 167 Traffic Offence Reports, including 48 for speeding and 42 for not wearing a seatbelt.
- Seized 37 vehicles.
- Made 12 arrests, including 8 for drug or drink driving.
- Issued 4 Section 59 Warnings for careless driving.
- Recovered a stolen sports car valued at £45k.
- Recovered an abandoned vehicle
- Overall had 262 positive road traffic outcomes.

A tiered approach to speeding has also been implemented, as well as purchasing speed indication devices for each of the Safer Cleaner Greener areas.

#### **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](#).

# Health and Wellbeing

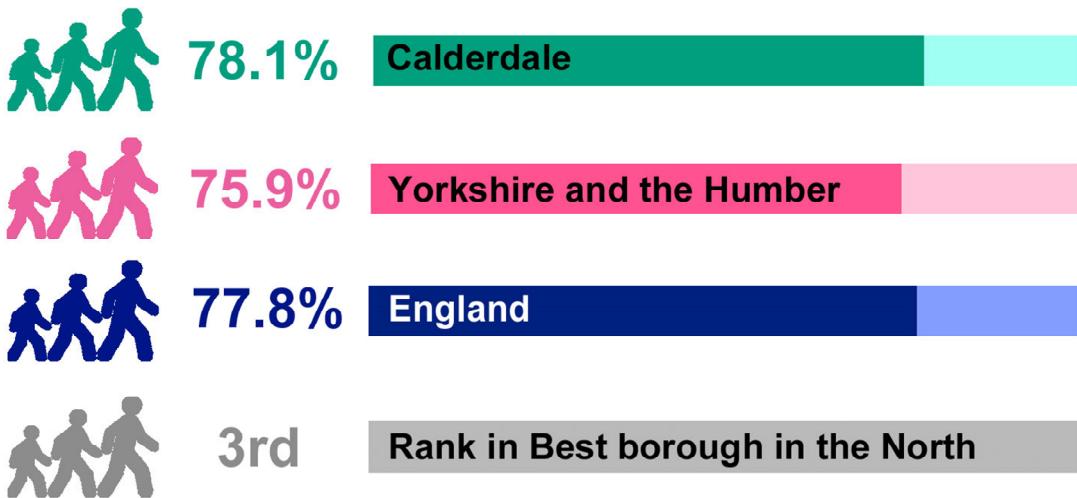
## ▪ Active Calderdale

Kindness and resilience are at the very forefront of what we're aiming to achieve with the [Active Calderdale project](#). Our mission is to be the most Active Borough in the North by 2024.

We want to ensure that everyone in Calderdale is able to live a larger life, for longer through Physical Activity. This means that we will have a more physically and mentally resilient population, with fewer people suffering from depression and dementia, people remaining independent for longer, and less people waiting in GP surgeries and hospitals due to more people being able to manage certain medical conditions. It will mean a more cohesive community, with increased volunteering, a reduction in social isolation, and a greater sense of pride in the borough.

The Chief Medical Officers guidelines state that someone is physically active if they are active for more than 150 minutes per week; someone is classed as inactive if they're active for fewer than 30 minutes per week, and fairly active for anything in between. We'd like to ensure that we're getting as many people as possible above the 30 minute threshold, here's how we rank at the moment:

## Percentage of residents active for over 30 minutes per week



It is important that we focus on tackling inactivity, as to do so would contribute to tackling longstanding health inequalities that are prevalent not just across Calderdale but across the whole country. Helping individuals who are currently inactive to be more active is where we can have the biggest impact on the health and resilience of our population.

How do we make sure that we increase physical activity and decrease inactivity in Calderdale? Our strategy has three main areas of focus:

**Embedding physical activity into health and social care systems:** We are utilising the reach and influence of the health and social care system on the inactive population in Calderdale. We will work to embed physical activity as a standard working practice into all primary, secondary and community health and social care pathways.

**Creating Active Communities:** We are working with the community, to make sure that all of the brilliant assets that we have in Calderdale are being utilised to promote physical activity for everyone.

**Creative Active Environments:** we are working with everyone who helps to shape Calderdale as a place, to create spaces and places that inspire, influence and enable residents to be active.

Our role is to ensure that everyone in Calderdale recognises the part they can play in creating the conditions that enable people to be physically active. We can all work together to come up with ways to embed physical activity across the borough – for the benefit of everyone who lives here.

## ▪ **Supporting the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector**

Regionally, we know that supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector makes sound economic sense. Findings from the Third Sector Trends Study in Yorkshire and the Humber (Joseph Rowntree, 2017) showed that:

- there were 85,000 full time equivalent employees in the VCSE sector, making up 3-4% of the entire workforce of the region;
- the economic value, by salaries, of these employees is estimated to be £1.8 billion; and
- work of the VCSE sector was supported by a dedicated network of more than 340,000 volunteers who donated time estimated to be worth £200-£300 million.

In 2017, Community Foundation for Calderdale and the Council commissioned research to complete the local picture. Initial findings are: Calderdale has 457 incorporated organisations aiming to serve our community;

- the sector pay cheque may be in the region of £140,000,000 per annum;
- the value of volunteering in Calderdale may be in the region of £960,000; and
- the sector in Calderdale is dominated by small organisations (ie, with less than £100,000 per annum turnover or micro organisations).

Calderdale Council has demonstrated its continued commitment to working in partnership with the VCSE sector, sustaining funding and support during austerity as it recognises the key role the sector play in building kinder, more resilient communities.

In 2015, Calderdale Council became the only Council to approve a Community Anchor Policy which established the idea of parity of esteem for the sector in its relationship with the Council. This fits well with the ideas set out by Julia Unwin in the Civil Society Futures Commission where power, accountability, connections and trust are central to how, together with our partners, the Council can solve society's challenges. We are continuing to work with community anchor organisations. These are strong, enterprising local organisations that are well placed to deliver services in their communities, give communities resilience and can act as a catalyst for regeneration and an inclusive economy. A number of community anchors are involved in a range of strategic programmes including Staying Well, Active Calderdale, Children's Centres and emergency flood resilience.

In 2017, the Council and Calderdale Commissioning Group (CCG) co-commissioned the Voluntary Sector Infrastructure (VSI) Alliance to offer tailored support to Calderdale's VCSE sector to help achieve the aim for voluntary sector partners to be an equal partner working to deliver our Vision for Calderdale in 2024. The VSI Alliance is an award winning innovative collaborative partnership where both commissioners and our providers - Voluntary Action Calderdale (VAC), Forum, Locality and West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Services (WYCAS) - are jointly responsible for delivery. This developed from Calderdale Council's participation in the "Keep It Local" national pilot led by Locality. We have recently signed up to the "Keep it Local" principles, being the tenth Council to do so nationally. This work is continuing to inform our developing approach to Social Value and our Inclusive Economy Strategy, and how we continue to develop a strong relationship with our VCSE sector. We are currently in the process of refreshing the Calderdale Compact to reflect our continued partnership with the Sector.

## Volunteering

In Calderdale the rugged landscape and extreme weather pulls people together in times of need. We have a great history of people, streets, whole communities coming together to do things differently and make their place better. This active community spirit is reflected in Calderdale Council's appetite to support [volunteering](#) with ourselves and with the hundreds of community and charity groups in our area. We commission our partners in the [Voluntary Sector Infrastructure \(VSI\) Alliance](#) too so they can empower more people in Calderdale to take social action and become involved in volunteering and support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to develop their volunteering opportunities.

Making a difference could be caring for the countryside, mentoring a disadvantaged child or driving a minibus - or it could be popping in on a neighbour who lives alone. Something we can enjoy at any stage of life.

Volunteering isn't all about giving either. As a volunteer you meet new people, share stories and become more connected with the people and places around you. Our [cases studies](#) show just what a difference volunteering makes, for you and those around you. We have a huge number of volunteers within the Council. We have worked out that in 2019 volunteers gave up just under **30,000 hours of their time to support Council services**; if every one of these hours was paid the Living Wage this would be the equivalent of £250,000! These are people helping us care for the countryside, curate our museum collections and support readers in libraries, provide mentoring for our children and young people driving, and lots more besides.

In the Vision 2024 perception survey 38% of Calderdale respondents reported that they had taken part in unpaid formal volunteering during the last year. Results from the Community Life Survey (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2019) state that in Yorkshire and Humber 30% of adults take part in formal volunteering each year.

## Formal volunteering



**Calderdale**



**Yorkshire and the Humber**



The Vision 2024 survey also found that 50% of Calderdale respondents think that people in their neighbourhood pull together to improve their local area. This compares with the national average of 58% from the Community Life Survey.

## ■ Community Cohesion

Addressing inequality and building a cohesive and resilient community underpins our vision for Calderdale. Across the borough there are hundreds of individuals, community, voluntary and faith groups, social enterprises, businesses and others creating opportunities, enabling community connections and promoting a kinder place. The [Cohesive Communities Strategy for Calderdale 2018-2023](#) sets out a number of key priorities to develop integrated and cohesive communities in Calderdale:

1. Establish common values and a sense of belonging
2. Address inequality, particularly in employment and skills
3. Promote volunteering and taking part in community life
4. Increase mixing and integration across school communities
5. Tackle extremism in all its forms
6. Promote English language learning and use
7. Promote inclusive and integrated active lifestyles
8. Empower marginalised women
9. Promote activities, events and places that enable people to make new friends and build good relations with others in the borough, particularly for young people
10. Improve the environment in which people live, ensuring people feel safe and proud of their neighbourhood with increased housing choices.

Over the last year people have come together in our towns and villages to celebrate local identity and build a sense of belonging, activities have included the Jo Cox Great Get Together in Skircoat, the Community Iftar (breaking the fast during Ramadan) in Todmorden and shared cooking sessions held in Park, Illingworth and Mixenden.

Ward based grants have been allocated to over 133 small community groups over the year, the lifeblood of local neighbourhoods – enabling local people to identify their own solutions to local issues. Working in partnership with [Calderdale Community Foundation](#) and voluntary sector partners we continue to focus our efforts on the integration of, and support to, new arrivals within our communities, in particular Asylum Seekers and Refugees. This is evidenced through our work with the Valley of Sanctuary and programmes of activity including the Vulnerable People's Resettlement Programme and the Refugee Integration Scheme.

Our communities continue to respond, reshape and build resilience in their local neighbourhoods, the Growing Together Action Group supports community clean up actions across the Park ward and has joined up with St Hilda's Church, Madni Mosque Youth Movement and the King's Centre Church in arranging and carrying out monthly clean ups. These events have provided a great opportunity for residents from different ethnic backgrounds and different faiths or no faith to work together in improving their own neighbourhoods and build a sense of place. The clean-up events have encouraged people to go outside, got them active and enabled them to talk to each other and discuss ways that they can improve their local neighbourhood.

As a borough we are feeling more connected, in the second quarter of the West Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioners Survey, 58.5% of respondents reported that they felt that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. This result was better than the West Yorkshire average (54.7%) and the second best in West Yorkshire, with Leeds being slightly higher at 60.7%.

The Vision 2024 survey found that 50% of Calderdale respondents think that people from different backgrounds get on well. This compares with 43% in 2019.

For relevant data, see [Calderdale Council Corporate Performance Dashboard](#).

## ▪ Climate Emergency

Having [declared a climate emergency](#) at the start of 2019, we know how vital it is to protect Calderdale's distinctive environment. The declaration has heralded a step change in how we are responding to the challenge of tackling climate change. Failure to act will see:

- Significant impacts on our health and wellbeing;
- Extreme changes to weather patterns with flooding and moorland wild fires occurring more often with more severe crop failures;
- Extinctions of plant, insect and animal species
- Disruption to our local infrastructure and economy affecting the viability of Calderdale towns and villages.

By the end of 2020, the Borough of Calderdale as well the Council's own operations will have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 40% compared to 2005 levels. In the latest national estimates, Calderdale's per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are below comparator averages and decreasing annually, in line with local targets. However much of this is due to national electricity grid changes and other factors beyond our remit, and much more still needs to be done.

Other local issues to tackle include:

- Air quality
- Wildlife habitats at risk
- Waste reduction, reuse and recycling
- Large amounts of plastic blighting our beautiful countryside

Total waste production in Calderdale is fairly static and this is a key marker for us of human environmental impact.

Calderdale Council is committed to taking the lead locally. This is to play our full part in reducing the impacts of climate change and to become more resilient to its impact. We have set up a Cabinet Working Party that meets in public and is widely represented. Its recommendation of a Borough and Council operations Carbon Dioxide net zero target date of 2038, with substantial progress to be made by 2030, has now been ratified by Cabinet. Reaching this target will require major shifts in how we do things in the borough, including in high-impact areas like transport and domestic heating.

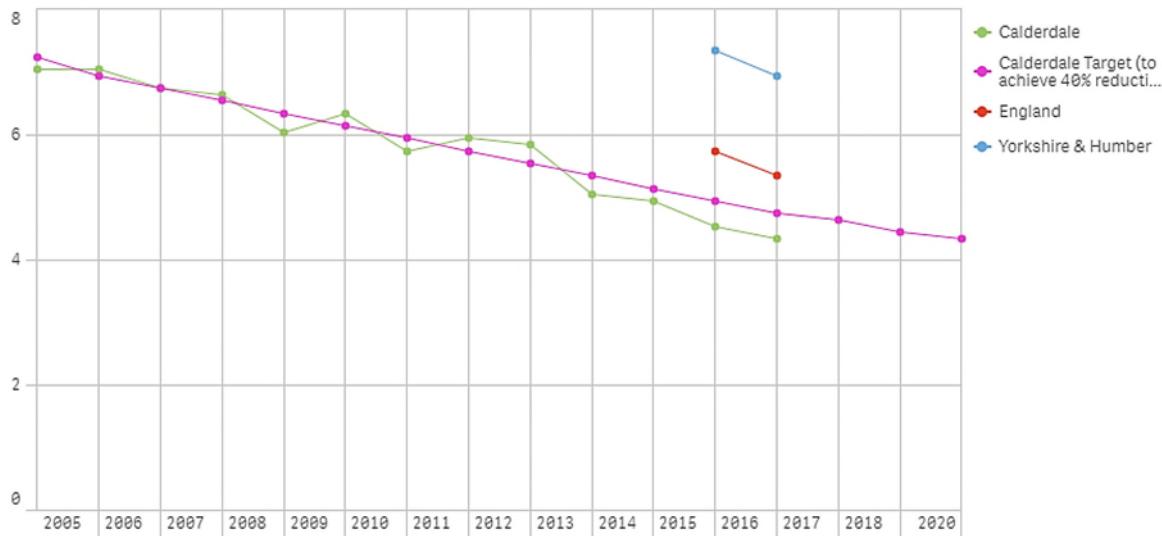
The Working Party is now developing an action plan for Calderdale to respond to the climate emergency and is calling on key Calderdale organisations and businesses to align with the Borough target and work on their own action plan towards becoming carbon neutral by 2038.

The Council organisation's own net carbon footprint has reduced steeply in recent years but, as with the wider district measure, this is largely due to one-off national infrastructure changes, and we don't yet know how we'll find similar scale reductions to meet future targets.

We urge all residents and businesses to join us on the mission to tackle climate change. We can all do our bit. Protecting the local environment supports our Vision 2024's key themes of kindness and resilience. This helps to make sure that Calderdale stays an outstanding place for generations to come.

### Per capita CO2 emissions in the area (estimate, tCO2)

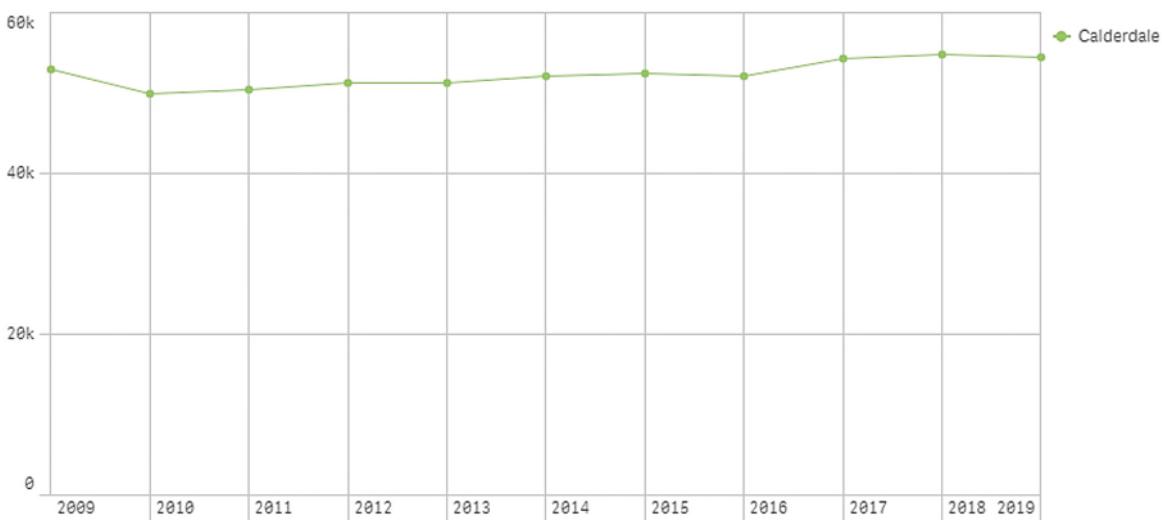
These government estimates, published two years in arrears, are currently the most useful gauge we have of our likely CO2 emissions per resident.



*Estimates produced by central government two years in arrears*

### Total waste from households

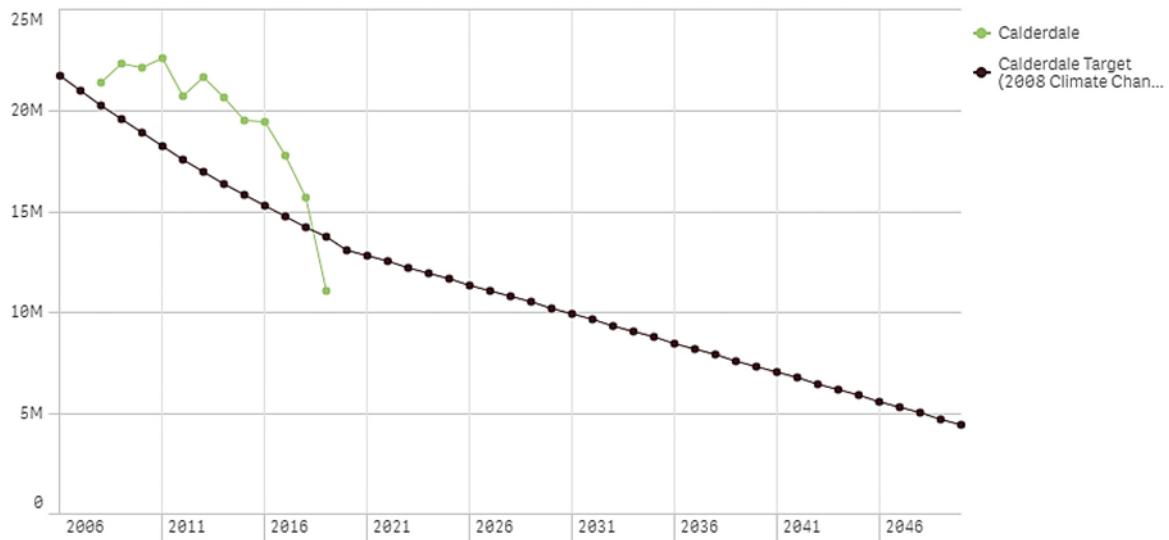
Using less, and producing less waste, is a crucial response to the climate emergency - it addresses head-on all the fossil fuel use which goes into the goods we purchase. We also track proportions of waste which are recycled, but the total waste produced is the key measure in relation to climate change.



*Taken from data provided by our waste collection contractors*

### Council's corporate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>)

We need to take personal responsibility for our environmental impact; for the council, this starts with leading by example and reducing our own impact.



*Composite measure calculated by council; excludes schools*

### Links

Calderdale Climate Emergency Declaration web pages <https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/council/our-vision/climate-emergency>

Performance and Business Intelligence Team  
Calderdale Council  
February 2020  
Performance.businessintelligence@calderdale.gov.uk