



Marketing | Branding | Research

Calderdale Council LDF Workshop Report 10

# Calderdale Area Report

June 2011

# 1 Context

The Development Strategy Team for Planning at Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council has commissioned this report to capture the last of ten creative consultations in Calderdale designed to explore the needs, aspirations and concerns of residents in relation to planning. This report concerns the existing and desired quality of life of residents from across the Calderdale area.

The written results from this consultation are thematic<sup>1</sup> and indicative of resident's experiences and aspirations in this area relating to planning. The report constitutes one element of a broad evidence base with which to inform the LDF Core Strategy.

# 2 Methodology

The workshop drew on Creative Problem Solving and Productive Thinking frameworks to promote active involvement and group decision-making from participants.

The workshop was framed within a 'quality of life' paradigm to encourage participants to reflect not just on planning issues but also on the real impacts of these issues on their lives and communities. The aim in doing so was to produce insights that have genuine relevance to both participants and the Planning Team.

The workshop was divided into three key areas of investigation:

- the perceived benefits of living in Calderdale,
- aspirations for Calderdale 2031 as participants move into their next life stage,
- specific positive actions the Planning Department could take to realise these aspirations.

Participants were encouraged to explore quality of life benefits, aspirations and positive actions within the context of the Calderdale area and external to it, regionally and nationally. The aim was to gauge to what degree their focus relates to the Calderdale area itself or to external benefits that living in the area connects them with.

# 3 Participation

A total of 24 residents from across Calderdale took part in the workshop.

The age breakdown was: <25 = 2; 25 to 39 = 2; 40 to 59 = 10; 60+ = 10.

By far the majority of participants were aged 40 and above. Young people had agreed to take part but did not attend on the night. This needs to be born in mind when reading the findings.

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<sup>1</sup> Some highly specific suggestions were made during the workshop and are outlined in detail in the appendix of this report.

## 4 Overview

Participants derive much pleasure from living in Calderdale. They particularly value its unique environment and character, created by the people, landscape, history, architectural heritage, rural atmosphere and abundant opportunities for local leisure, culture and recreation. The impact on their quality of life is a sense of well-being, place, identity, community, pride, rooted-ness, connection and belonging. Participants feel privileged to have all this on their doorstep; it gives them *'a good life'* and a sense of *'proper Yorkshire'*.

Calderdale's location provides participants with the freedom and convenience to access education, employment, retail and leisure in cities and places of natural beauty in the North East and North West should they choose to. It is clear however that when it comes to issues around planning, their focus is primarily on preserving and improving their experience of Calderdale rather than improving access to benefits elsewhere. Participants are mentally 'in' Calderdale. They hold strong views and are passionate about its future direction in relation to planning because they believe everything they value about the area - what it brings to their quality of life - is under threat.

Three key aspirations emerged from the workshop in relation to their planning aspirations for Calderdale: preserving what they value, retaining the population at all stages of life and making improvements.

Participants want the Council to take active custodianship of the Calderdale 'character'; its distinct towns, villages and settlements, local independent retail ecology, rural atmosphere, Rights of Way and architectural heritage. They want to ensure that the local population is well provided for through social housing and affordable, appropriate and proportionate new builds aimed at all stages of life. Improvements centre on tackling the movement of people and goods through the area to alleviate congestion and pollution, embracing green energy and revitalising the local economy through developing Calderdale's tourism offer.

Key to the schedule of positive action points created during the workshop is the need for the Council to recognise and articulate a clear understanding of Calderdale's identity. Only then do participants believe the Council will be equipped to successfully navigate the many tensions it faces in relation to planning, such as the tensions between industry and scenic beauty, local need and national priorities.

Participants want the Council to preserve, develop and champion the best of Calderdale and recognise the unique quality of life it provides for its residents through sympathetic, innovative and strategic planning initiatives. The areas they believe need looking at are Calderdale's:

- manufacturing base and enterprising, alternative spirit which could be championed more to put Calderdale on the map and attract more inward investment,
- niche tourism potential which is currently under developed,
- scenic beauty and rural atmosphere which are under threat,
- distinctive settlements, towns and villages at risk of ribbon development,
- 'Totally local' ethos which supports the local community and local pride,
- heritage which is at risk of being diluted through unsympathetic development.

Specific, tangible action points include a refocusing of priorities in relation to housing development and provision for/retention of the local population, the creation of a strategic, integrated transport plan, increased investment in the preservation and management of the countryside and access to it, and a more proactive stance in relation to green energy.

The processes by which all this happens is as important to participants as the action points they put forward. They want a process that is transparent, accountable, openly consultative and responsive to the findings of consultation such as this to ensure local views are properly taken into account at a time when – in their view – Calderdale is under threat from poor planning decision which will erode its character and quality-of-life offer by 2031.

## 5 Key Findings

### 5:1 The perceived 'intrinsic' benefits of living in Calderdale

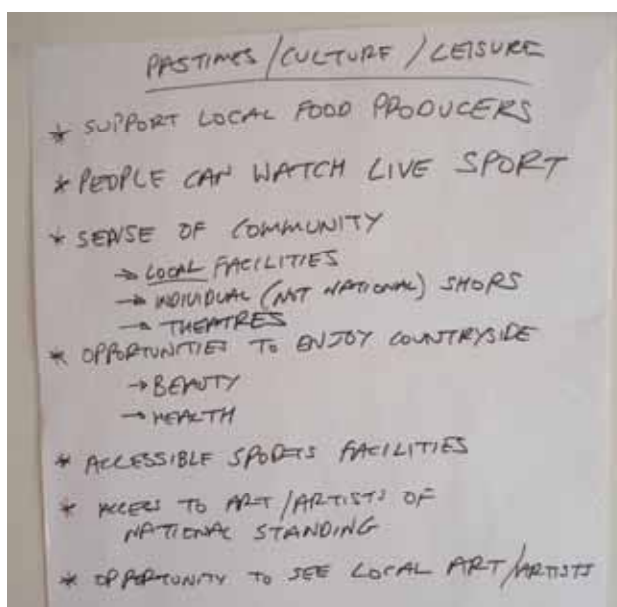
The main themes participants identified in relation to the intrinsic benefits of living in Calderdale are past times, culture and leisure, countryside and agriculture, environment, transport and commerce.

- **Past times, culture and leisure**

Many comments were made about the wealth of arts and cultural provision in Calderdale with artists of local and national significance presenting and performing their work here. The independent cinemas in Hebden Bridge and Elland were considered important as was the amateur arts scene which present opportunities for people to get involved, from good choral societies to amateur photography.

Participants also valued the abundance and diversity of leisure

opportunities: the libraries, recreation (cycling on the cycle tracks, horse riding, walking, gyms and parks/children's play areas), sport (Rugby League and Shay Stadium), and local shopping for local produce/goods in a friendly environment (attributed to the individual shops, local markets and familiar faces).



- **Countryside and agriculture**

Described as '*proper Yorkshire*', Calderdale's rural beauty and diversity of landscapes is a key benefit for participants. Their proximity and access to the surrounding countryside is highly prized because of what it brings to their quality of life - opportunities for peace and tranquillity, recreation and an overall sense of well-being. The verbatim below indicate the strength of feeling participants have about the countryside:

**"Countryside, agriculture, the beautiful dales."**

**"Green and pleasant land"**

**"It's accessible; you're basically in it ... it's proper Yorkshire. It's a good place to live and it makes you feel alive."**

**"It's proper Yorkshire because it's not just fields - you've got your mills, hills and this is where Jerusalem was built."**

**"I'd like to reinforce the scenic value of the area which is so marvellous."**

"It takes people out of the daily grind and they can relax."



- **Environment**

The word 'environment' here means the overall context for Calderdale living; the combination of landscape, architectural legacy and unique heritage. For participants, experiencing this 'Calderdale environment' creates a deep sense of rooted-ness and connection with the area. It is a special place and their relationship with it appears to run deep, touching on their sense of personal and community identity.

**"The large variety and the diversity of the environment. Good architecture, historical buildings, good quality of life."**

**"It gives a sense of where you come from and where you are, like the countryside and the commerce and the history of the buildings which goes back hundreds of years which root you and ground you."**

**“It’s about belonging.”**

**“I’d like to reinforce the sense of belonging and the sense of community. I think that’s very important.”**

- **Commerce**

Participants like the fact that there is ‘shopping variety’ in Calderdale – from the national chains in Halifax to a more local and personalised shopping experience in the other towns and villages. They are keen to support local independent retailers and markets as a way of investing in Calderdale’s local economy.

**“We like the variety among what’s left ... we still have diverse industry and commerce, good markets, loads of local shops.”**

**“It’s a sense of belonging – you’re eating the things that you’re looking at, not shipping them from miles away. You’re supporting each other. You’re supporting agriculture and the local economy.”**

**“Supporting local food producers ... there’s a sense of community, local facilities, individual not national shops.”**

- **Transport**

Calderdale offers good communication links within and outside its area through a variety of transport methods: a good bus and rail service and road links.

**“Good public transport and private access to all areas, variety and quality.”**

**“There’s lots of variety.”**

**“We’re easily accessible to lots of areas within and without.”**

## **5:2 The ‘connective’ benefits of living in Calderdale**

The geographical location of Calderdale between two major regions - West Yorkshire and Lancashire - together with road and rail links via the M62 and cross Pennine rail services, are considered important benefits of living in Calderdale.

In essence, what they give participants is the variety, choice, freedom and convenience of accessing places like Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool and London for work, arts and culture, shopping, employment, higher education and international travel (Manchester airport). It amplifies the offer for Calderdale residents should they wish to take advantage of it.

**“We’re generally happy with transport links and access outside Calderdale for employment, culture and shopping.”**

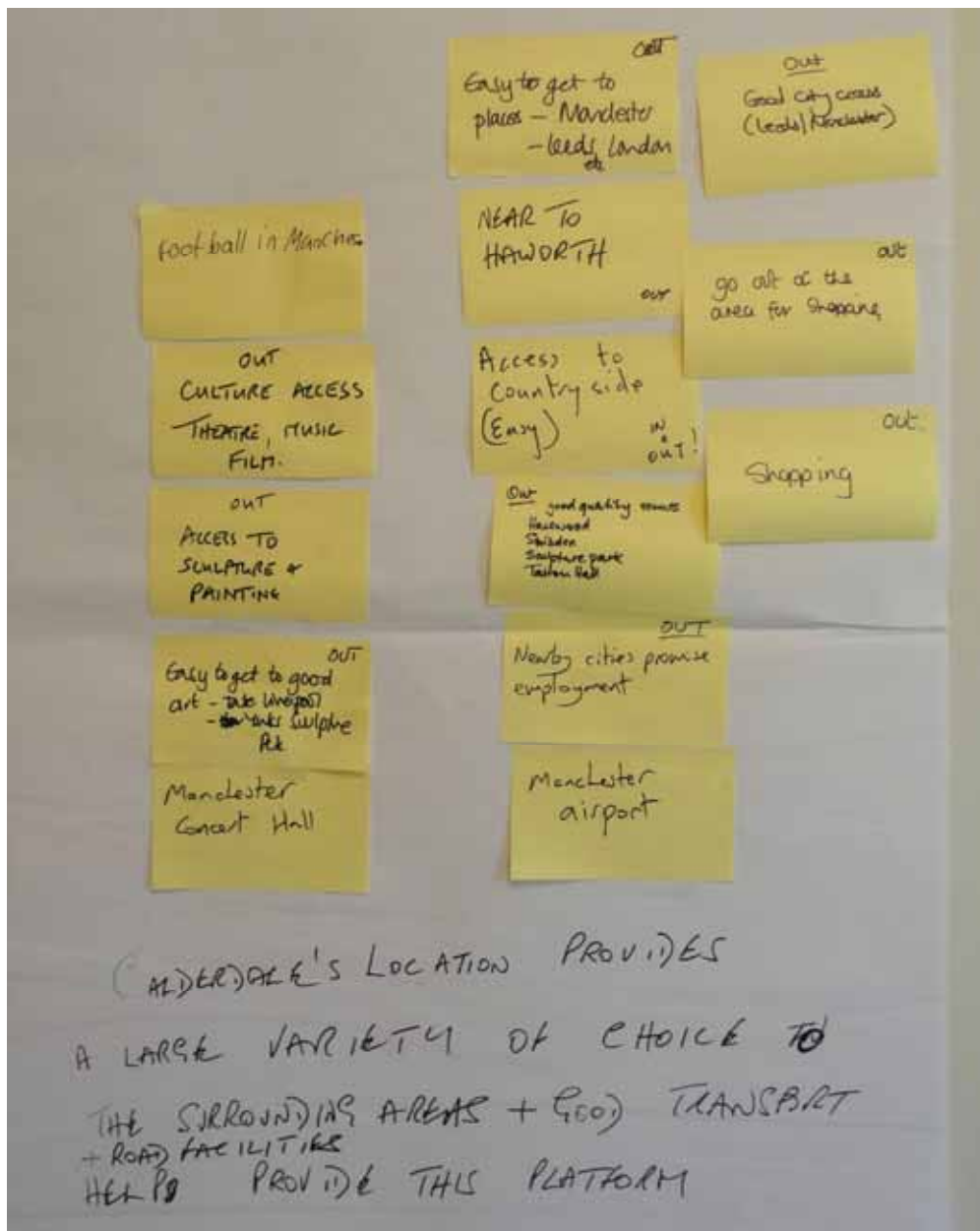
**“Calderdale’s location provides a large variety of choice. The surrounding areas and good transport help provide this platform.”**

**“The vital thing that’s coming out if it is if you take Calderdale as being a wide whole – we’ve been very happy with what’s on the surrounds of it in every direction. It doesn’t matter which way you go, there is something there. There is diversity and tremendous variety. I can’t think of anything you’d want to go to that you couldn’t get to.”**

**“You’ve got tremendous choice of things to do and go to, then throw in the added benefit that we’ve got good transport arrangement ... it’s beginning to sound like heaven this place.”**

“Don’t change it and don’t let too many people get in easy.”

“There is something about where we’re placed, between Leeds and Manchester.”



### 5:3 Aspirations for Calderdale 2031

Residents themed their key aspirations into 14 core headings. When invited to vote on which they believed were the most important to their quality of life the results, in descending order, were:

- green space,
- housing development,
- more jobs,



which would price locals out of the markets and reduce Calderdale to a series of dormitory towns. The underlying fears here are the dilution of their sense of community, increased road congestion, the negative impact on local trade a continued influx of commuters would bring, and ultimately, the threat to the way and quality of life they chose by living in/moving to the area.

Participants passionately believe Calderdale's green spaces, scenic views, rural atmosphere and the separateness of its villages should remain intact for the benefit of residents and visitors. Rather than continue to build and encroach on green spaces they want the Council to look after its old buildings, put used buildings to better use and develop on idle and derelict sites.

**"We all love Calderdale and we love the rural areas and the green surroundings and it's clear that we're starting to feel the strains on housing. Now all this is leading to Council decisions on building thousands of houses. This is what we're concerned about – the roads are horrendous and we need to be cautious. We're currently in a recession and its given us a bit of a breathing space from all the housing building we've had in the past and we need to be really careful about what we decide to do next because the Council are deciding to build for 'local needs' – they call it – now, where I am in Stainland, when they build it tends to be really big houses that locals can't afford ..."**

**"I don't think we're being careful enough in how we're going about development and it's going to affect the way of life we've picked, an area that's rural and a way of life that's a conscious choice and all that is under threat."**

**"It's not just numbers of houses; it's the type of houses. Is it houses people actually want to buy?"**

- **Green space**

As already mentioned above, participants want their green spaces protected, including its Rights of Way, so that current and future generations can enjoy an area that will remain rural.

- **Transport**

In their vision of Calderdale 2031, traffic volume and congestion through the area are much reduced, attributed in part to improvements in public transport and traffic management. Buses will connect outlying villages to the towns; train stations will connect towns and villages to each other (including the opening of Elland and Luddendenfoot stations). Improved parking at all train stations will encourage more rail users.

These aspirations are born out of real tensions and frustrations they currently experience on roads in the area. In their view, the road system is at capacity, towns and villages along the Ryburn valley feel the brunt of cars diverted from the M62 due to accidents or poor weather and increased development is further aggravating the problem. Participants acknowledge that there is no quick fix however and that the road situation presents Calderdale Council with a genuine problem.

**"I live in Norland and I think Sowerby Bridge is an absolute nightmare to get through any time of the day so I think it needs looking at desperately. Any time of the day it's an absolute bottleneck... I would not like think though that they were going to have a bypass on all the green sites."**

"To pick up on that I would say there are road problems throughout the Upper Calder Valley but they are insoluble because we're a valley, because we've got housing right up to the road, because we have aging infrastructure so the roads constantly have to be dug up so there are traffic lights along them and delays. What bothers me is that the Council does not see to recognise that. They say 'the Upper Calder Valley has excellent communications with other centres' and therefore they think they can put more and more and more there which isn't true. What was excellent communications 40 years ago is no longer so. Lots of our businesses in Todmorden, once they get beyond a certain size, say 'I've got to go to get better communication with the motorways'. It seems to me that a planners a perpetuating this myth that we've got good communications."

"It can take you as long to get from the Upper Calder Valley to the motorway as it does to get from there (M62) to the Midlands."

"The Government has said that the pollution problem on the main street of Sowerby Bridge has to be solved. I have seen no policy as to how it is going to be solved and personally I see no alternative to taking most of the traffic out of the centre of Sowerby Bridge with the by-pass that was proposed 20 years ago and was withdrawn about 5 years ago."

"Along the Ryburn Valley we experience the motorway being closed quite regularly."

"I know there's a problem with cost (in relation to a bypass) but because we do so often have to cater for the motorway which is at its highest point and most vulnerable in the winter, I think the idea of eventually the Ministry of Transport funding a bypass would be a strong case."

"I think it's the traffic management that needs looking at, not just new roads."

"When traffic lights go out traffic flows better. The lights slow traffic down."

When asked to think about their aspirations in relation to how Calderdale could better connect them to benefits external to the area (such as shopping, culture, employment), their key aspiration was that Calderdale Council adopted



a co-ordinated approach to the movement/transport of people and goods (by road, rail and canal) in order to reduce pressure on the roads: for example by liaising with Manchester City Council on extending the new Metro link into Calderdale.

**“We were talking about the need for a better strategic view of transport altogether. Part of it was thinking about how you would reduce the number of cars on the roads and how would you get more people to walk more easily to where they want to go, using the trains possibly and we said that the Council needs to take stock of what the different movements are in cars and other means of transport. Why people are moving? How far are they moving? Whether it’s possible to improve it with more integrated planning of employment, housing, schools and education and transport so people don’t need to travel so far.”**

- **Community services**

Participants envision a Calderdale where there are more and improved local libraries, better services and employment opportunities for young and old, continued support for arts and culture and a redeveloped Piece Hall.

- **Vibrant shops**

Participants want Calderdale to be a place where they can buy locally produced goods at independent retailers and local markets. They want town centre shops thanks to a *‘progressive rental regime’* for small shops and businesses.

- **Green energy**

Participants would like to see Calderdale produce and use more renewable energy through the building of *‘eco homes’* and the introduction of hydro power together with more careful consideration of wind power and its impact on the landscape.

- **Selling Calderdale**

Participants believe that given proper investment in marketing and infrastructure (waterways, Rights of Way etc) Calderdale could be a thriving tourist destination in 2031.

## **5:4 Planning for the Future**

Specific plans for the future to achieve their ideal Calderdale 2031 centred on issues to do with planning, green spaces and green energy, transport and traffic. However, in the course of the discussions, two significant themes emerged which, whilst they do not directly impact on Calderdale Council’s planning decisions per se, do provide *‘food for thought’* in terms of the context within which the Council makes its decisions. These themes are Calderdale Identity and Transparent Processes.

- **Calderdale Identity**

Participants believe the Council needs to understand what Calderdale is and what it stands for, what its identity is before it can properly develop and prioritise long term planning decisions.

**“We need to understand what Calderdale is. Who are we? We’re not The Dales, we’re not the Lake District, we’re not a national park therefore we compromise between industry and scenic beauty.”**

**Until we understand who we are ... then we can decide where our energy, our resources, our compromises are made because we're clear about who we are."**

Some interesting 'paradoxes' were voiced which represent the main tensions that have come out of their discussions. These are:

- tourist destination / new industrial area,
- leisure / commerce,
- history / future,
- space / development,
- local need / national priorities.

Whilst participants weren't suggesting an 'either/or' scenario, what they were clear about was the need to agree, articulate, develop and capitalise on Calderdale's unique identity.

In their view Calderdale is unique because of its heritage, its landscape, its communities, towns and villages, its manufacturing and its ability to innovate and be 'alternative'. They want Calderdale to be given this identity, to be recognised for what it is, and for the Council to make imaginative decisions to support this for the good for those living in the area and for visitors. They even suggested everyone should include 'Calderdale' as an address line and as a 'manufacturing stamp' to raise awareness of it as a place.

**"Tourism is potentially a very good employer and that's something Calderdale could do a lot more of."**

**"One thing the Council could do is bring these together and create a 'Made in Halifax' or 'Made in Calderdale', or the towns, because I think we should be proud of the towns in Calderdale."**

**"Calderdale has got to be a place for people to live and work."**

**"We're very good at creating new, innovative stuff and this goes back to the industrial revolution. Tourism and manufacturing are important. There are foundries - we make things in Calderdale."**

- **Transparent processes**

A sense of disillusionment with and scepticism about the Council's consultation processes permeated the whole session and came to a head at the end-of-workshop discussion. Participants are concerned that the Council does not want to listen to the views of residents, evidenced by their experience of not feeling well informed about plans, consultation exercises or how to access information about planning:

**"There is this background feeling I have that these consultation exercises are formulaic and that consultation has been very very imperfect. When I've spoken to people in my town they've said 'Oh, I didn't know that's what the Council wanted to do.'"**

Some were sceptical that this consultation exercise would have any real impact and that it was simply a case of going through the motions. They asked whether the reports would be made public, whether they would receive a copy, and how the Council was planning to respond to the findings:

**“Is this a real exercise? That’s what I want to know. If we get some feedback (from the Council) that will re-assure us that it was a real exercise.”**

**“We would welcome a general policy statement from the Council that states ‘ We’ve decided that we are going to ask the community to contribute to what they think should happen, then the least we could do is tell you what is going to happen once we’ve looked at what you’ve proposed.”**

Ultimately, participants want more transparency, real feedback and assurances that their views will be taken into account.

- **Building and housing**

Participants made specific recommendations about building and housing development in Calderdale.

They want the Council to focus on local need, not national priorities and targets. This means more social housing, a reduction in the volume of new housing development and ensuring new housing is affordable and appropriate for local residents at different stages of their life.

Other specifics included limiting new housing development and offsetting this by utilising existing unused shops and buildings. They want planners to avoid building on the green belt and ensure the villages and settlements remain distinct. In their view there should be no building in areas that are prone to flooding or that have no supportive infrastructure. All development needs to be sympathetic to the area and embrace green energy.

- **Countryside and green spaces**

Participants want green spaces and conservation areas preserved, protected and well maintained, and the Council to invest further in countryside maintenance to ensure Calderdale remains rural and attractive.

There was an acknowledgement in the discussions that the Council currently relies on volunteers for a lot of the maintenance work, and that it may be unrealistic to expect significant increased investment in the current economic climate. In order to address this, and within the context of political initiatives such as The Big Society, they suggested the Council – in addition to increased expenditure in this area - work with communities and education providers to develop a sense of ‘*custodianship and stewardship*’ towards their natural heritage to ensure the countryside is protected and preserved for future generations.

**“We’ve all said that one of the benefits of living in Calderdale is the countryside and the easy access to the countryside. I know how much work goes into the countryside – the footpaths, the stiles, the fences, the cutting back of things to provide easy access. The countryside services in Calderdale are being drastically cut. They rely on volunteers. They are stopping a lot of initiatives. They need to increase countryside services to preserve what is the big attraction of this area.”**

**“If we don’t get that community support right, nothing on earth is going to deliver it to us.”**

**“I think a lot of this comes down to education of society and communities – on agriculture and the countryside.”**

**“More local education and local history. Where you come from. It doesn’t matter what colour you are or where your grandparents came from, this is where you are and this is part of what you’ve got and they need to be educated in the land that’s around them and what it can be used for by them.”**

- **Green energy**

Participants believe the Council should prioritise green energy such as solar and hydro electricity, ensuring it features in all new developments, as well as providing electric points to increase usage of electric cars. There was a view that the Council should resist Government pressure to build more wind turbines.

- **Transport and Traffic**

The main suggestion here was that the Council develops an integrated transport plan to enable people and goods to move quickly up and down the valley, and in and out of Calderdale. In their view, this could be achieved through an empirical study which would factor in the future impact of housing development on car usage, and find ways of encouraging alternative modes of travel/transport i.e. good on trains and canals, people using public transport and walking, and perhaps even creating an extra lane on the M62 through Calderdale.

# APPENDIX: RAW DATA

## 1 Intrinsic benefits of living in Calderdale

Pastimes, Culture, Leisure	Countryside / Agriculture	Environment
Lots of local art, artists, musicians	Locally produced food	Superb heritage throughout
Sport – Rugby league	Wildlife – sheep, birds, bees	Hebden Bridge
Shay Stadium	flowers	Friendly people
Local shows	Good access to all areas – public and private	Plenty of industrial history – attracts tourists
Access to art/artists of national standing	Beautiful countryside	(Potentially) good, solid buildings
Opportunity to see local art/artists	Close to countryside	Lovely historic buildings
Shopping with friends	Easy access to countryside	Town Hall – lovely building
Agriculture and agricultural shows	Countryside and heritage	Piece Hall
Good cycle tracks	Green open space	Industrial heritage
Good riding facilities	Safe countryside	Historic buildings
Happily retired	Quiet places	Good roots
Rugby heritage	Proximity to countryside good for health	Conservation areas
Good local markets, friendly staff	Countryside/rural atmosphere	Aesthetic appeal of conservation areas – good spiritually
Cinema in Hebden Bridge	Scenic area	Lovely old buildings in towns and villages
Leisure – gym, sport, exercise	Great countryside	Amazing architecture
Rex Cinema	Wonderful footpath network	General good quality of life here
Cinema at Hebden Bridge	Lovely dale	Halifax has great industrial architecture
The Victoria Theatre	On t' tops	Strong local identity and pride in being a member of Yorkshire/Calderdale community
Dean Clough	Good countryside to appreciate	Green between towns
Square Chapel	Lovely scenery but this could be destroyed by excessive building development	Feel safe and secure
The theatres	Good footpaths	Good amenities e.g. hospitals
Opportunities for being involved in different arts	Scenery	Where I live I don't need to go very far
Micro breweries	Health benefits of walking in Upper Calder Valley	Low Council tax
Good choral societies	Aesthetic appeal of being able to see green hills	(Relatively) cheap housing
Access to theatres and concerts	Area for recreation, hiking, running etc and excellent footpath network	Good health support/resources
Rights of Way in rural areas	Variety of types of walking – both level e.g. canals and hills	Great place to get away from people and find plenty of them
Interesting heritage/architecture	Diversity of areas within Calderdale (unique towns)	
One of the 'hot-beds' of English traditional music (expert exponents of)	The Calderdale Way	
Great for photographic opportunities – both urban architecture and rural scenes	Green and pleasant and accessible land	
Good libraries	Proper Yorkshire	
Near to neighbouring shopping centres	Makes you feel alive	
Good shopping in central Halifax	Can 'get away from it all' to a large extent along its canals i.e. away from urbanisation	
Good brass bands		
Parks and children's play areas		
History – industrial arts and poetry		
Reflects modern British cultural mix		
Good organisations		
Sense of community: local facilities, individual (not national) shops, theatres		

<b>Commerce</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<p>International foods</p> <p>Supermarkets</p> <p>Local food sold in local shops</p> <p>Different supermarkets</p> <p>Variety</p> <p>Varied culinary/catering experiences</p> <p>Locally produced food</p> <p>Local shops – you can buy just about anything in Hebden Bridge and Tod</p> <p>We like the variety of what’s left</p>	<p>Centrally placed for motorway network</p> <p>Easy access to motorway</p> <p>Pensioners can travel off-peak avoiding traffic jams</p> <p>Interesting small towns interconnected by good rail links</p> <p>Rail network</p> <p>Not far to travel to work</p> <p>Easy access to local cities</p> <p>Good public transport</p> <p>M62 runs through it</p> <p>Transport links very good. Bus services are excellent. Central rail line between main cities of Leeds and Manchester</p>

## 2 Non intrinsic benefits of living in Calderdale

<p><b>Calderdale’s location provides a large variety of choice to the surrounding areas and good transport and road facilities help provide this platform</b></p>	<p><b>We are generally happy with transport links and access outside Calderdale for employment, culture, shopping. Calderdale is a good central location. We value public transport more than the road and think it should be enhanced but recognise good access into and out of Calderdale is important to attract visitor and tourist. We think parking at stations is inadequate</b></p>
<p>Football in Manchester</p> <p>Culture access – theatre, music, film</p> <p>Access to sculpture and painting</p> <p>Manchester Concert Hall</p> <p>East to get to good art – Liverpool, Yorkshire Sculpture Park</p> <p>Easy to get to places – Manchester, Leeds, London, etc</p> <p>Near to Haworth</p> <p>Access to countryside (easy)</p> <p>Good quality venues – Harewood, Sculpture Park, Tatton Hall</p> <p>Nearby cities promise employment</p> <p>Good city access (Leeds, Manchester)</p> <p>Go out of the area for shopping</p> <p>Shopping</p> <p>Manchester airport</p>	<p><b>ROAD</b></p> <p>Central Pennines – easy access to National Parks – Lakes, North Wales, Dales, Peaks, North Yorks</p> <p>Preserve local conditions by ensuring good road/rail communications in and out of Calderdale</p> <p>Road links</p> <p>Access to other small towns (Skipton)</p> <p>Motorway access</p> <p>Good motorway system</p> <p><b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b></p> <p>Good access to canal system, airport, rail network, M62</p> <p>Train communication with Manchester, Leeds, London</p> <p>Train through to London</p> <p>Direct access to London from Halifax</p> <p>Good public transport</p> <p>Further education available on public transport network</p> <p>Good transport to large cities</p> <p>Good central location for travel to large cities outside of it</p> <p>Transport to take me to Huddersfield</p> <p>Rail access to Universities</p> <p>Access to employment</p> <p>Rail network</p> <p>Good transport to Leeds/Manchester</p>

### 3 Aspirations for Calderdale area

Housing development	Community services	Transport
<p>Building better homes</p> <p>Keep all the open spaces</p> <p>Old buildings looked after</p> <p>Use all the empty buildings</p> <p>All premises occupied and in use (not necessarily existing use)</p> <p>Building on sterile idle sites (old quarries)</p> <p>Good modern architecture</p> <p>More eco houses</p> <p>No building on green field sites</p> <p>Develop only brown field sites</p> <p>Wish Calderdale was not a 'dormitory' for nearby cities and towns</p> <p>No more unnecessary houses to be built - spoiling views, lying empty etc</p> <p>Strict control of becoming dormitory borough of local cities</p> <p>I wish that if pubs have to shut the buildings are retained</p> <p>Wish many landowners didn't see land as building land and a means of making profit</p> <p>New built housing to be affordable to locals - not just expensive 'high profit' large housing</p> <p>Calderdale Council should recognise that there is a limit to the new houses that can be built without harming its attractive 'rural' environment which is its main attraction</p>	<p><b>QUALITY OF LIBRARIES</b></p> <p>Improved libraries</p> <p>Retain libraries and trained librarians</p> <p>Lots of things to do - evening classes, library, reading groups</p> <p><b>YOUTH SERVICE</b></p> <p>Maintain facilities for young people</p> <p>Young people's services are well used</p> <p><b>PIECE HALL</b></p> <p>Develop Piece Hall to its full potential</p> <p>Piece Hall as a centre for cottage industries</p> <p>Greater use of Piece Hall and restore market stalls there (compare Skipton High St)</p> <p>Piece Hall potential realised</p> <p>Piece Hall developed</p> <p>The Piece Hall is returned to its former glory</p> <p><b>ARTS/CULTURE</b></p> <p>The cinema in Elland and Hebden are here</p> <p>The arts are supported</p> <p>To appreciate and support organisations putting on shows</p> <p>Re-open the Industrial Museum to provide info to our grandchildren and tourists</p> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>Price accessible leisure attractions (e.g. football premiership!!)</p> <p>The Shay finished</p> <p>Free public toilets</p> <p>Local community facilities to be provided and preserved</p> <p>Good local health care service - don't have to go far</p> <p>Public drinking water fountains</p> <p>Better broadband</p>	<p><b>BUS</b></p> <p>Improved local transport - integrate this</p> <p>Bus transport</p> <p>Attractive vehicles</p> <p>Improve rural bus service</p> <p>Easy regular bus service everywhere</p> <p>Better bus services, particularly to outlying communities</p> <p>Improved public transport to provide an alternative to the car</p> <p><b>RAIL</b></p> <p>Would like to see increased stopping trains in Sowerby Bridge and Mytholmroyd</p> <p>Better rail transport</p> <p>Very frequent rail service</p> <p>Reopen Elland rail station</p> <p><b>PARKING AT TRAIN STATIONS</b></p> <p>More parking at rail stations so people would use trains instead of cars</p> <p>Increase parking at railway stations</p> <p>Develop park and ride throughout</p> <p>Controlled parking at rail stations (non train users penalised)</p> <p><b>ROAD</b></p> <p>All the roads in Calderdale were not full of potholes</p> <p>Better parking in town centre</p> <p>More of disabled parking</p> <p>Traffic bottlenecks gone</p> <p>Flyovers not mini roundabouts</p> <p>I wish a plan for a Sowerby Bridge by-pass be resurrected in part to solve the serious town centre pollution problem</p> <p>No road development - improve public transport including on canal</p> <p>Revert to reasonable or no parking charges at hospitals</p>

Green Space	Green energy	Vibrant shops	Community issues
<p>The countryside is kept intact</p> <p>Reconcile better commercial development and protect countryside</p> <p>More land for 'growing'</p> <p>More money for the countryside services to maintain footpaths in good condition</p>	<p>Avoid being overrun by wind farms, robbing peat beds - our lungs!</p> <p>Calderdale's ability to provide green energy to be enhanced - hydro power and windmills</p> <p>Small incinerators supplying heat through steam for</p>	<p>That the independent shops are still here in Calderdale</p> <p>The markets are still here</p> <p>All shops full in town centres</p> <p>The shops opposite the bus station were occupied</p> <p>Progressive rental regime for small shops and businesses</p> <p>Sugden development finished in Brighouse</p>	<p>Having a University</p> <p>Cleaned up, maintained buildings</p> <p>Spend more on trees and bushes in town centres</p> <p>Make Elland more interesting - improve quality of retail shops, make more of a feature of Old Elland, give the</p>

<p>I would like to see Calderdale link the Peak District and Dales National Park</p> <p>More trees</p> <p>Resist proliferation of wind farms on our beautiful hills</p> <p>Green belt is retained</p> <p>Recognise value of agricultural land in future</p> <p>Resources for maintaining and sustaining the countryside and Rights of Way</p>	<p>home and work</p> <p>A series of lidos utilising excess energy from incinerators</p> <p>No more wind turbines to spoil the view. Use hydropower along the valley</p>	<p>Lots of local shops – buy anything locally produced</p> <p>Less empty shops</p> <p>Discourage supermarket takeover of our high streets</p> <p>Would like to see an appreciation of a better balance of trade issues in our towns e.g. proliferation of night time economy</p> <p>Continue to enhance charity shops' appearance</p> <p>Build new shopping centre in the 'centre' of Calderdale</p> <p>All local shops are accessible</p>	<p>town an identity</p> <p>I would like to feel more supported by my local Council in local issues</p> <p>Local towns and committees be involved in all matters involving them</p> <p>The streets at night belong to everybody</p> <p>I wish both Council officers and Council members would listen to residents and at least respond to communication</p> <p>For the community to be educated in its history</p>
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<b>Selling Calderdale</b>	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Caring for people</b>	<b>More jobs</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
<p>Better tourist facilities</p> <p>Link loads of volunteers with the tourist network for buddying lots more visitors</p> <p>Would like to see more appreciation of Calderdale's tourist assets and potential for investment by the Council</p> <p>The waterways (canals and rivers) are well maintained</p> <p>Waterways feature more centrally in Sowerby Bridge</p>	<p>All recycling containers to be the same dull colour – grey or brown</p> <p>Permit skip scavenging/recycling at tip</p>	<p>Eliminate rigid ethnic areas</p> <p>Integrate</p> <p>More support for homeless people (Shelter)</p> <p>Wish that young people work with older people on restoring buildings to help them learn a trade or skills</p>	<p>More employment in Calderdale</p> <p>Adequate employment/economy</p> <p>More employment in the area so people don't need to travel as far to work</p> <p>More apprenticeships to help specialised industries</p> <p>Better local employment</p>	<p>Parks are maintained</p> <p>Real fruit trees lining the roads, not just blossom trees</p> <p>Encourage local farmers to actually farm</p> <p>Agriculture to be prioritised and supply plenty of local produce</p>

#### 4 Aspirations beyond Calderdale area

<p><b>We want a co-ordinated approach to private and goods transport using trains and canals to reduce pressure on the roads</b></p>	<p>Very frequent train service to Leeds, Manchester, Huddersfield, Lancs. etc</p> <p>Better train links to Leeds from Brighouse</p> <p>Better rail transport to Manchester and London</p> <p>Put far more goods transport back on the trains or even the canal</p> <p>Better integration with other local authorities e.g. Manchester</p> <p>Extra lane on M62 through Calderdale</p>
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#### 5 Planning for the future (intrinsic)

<p><b>Building and housing</b></p>	<p>Really listen to local residents' views on preserving their amenity</p> <p>Housing should not be built where flooding (including flash flooding) could occur</p> <p>Housing development should be driven by need of those who live there</p> <p>Stop building ugly concrete jungles</p>
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	<p>Build houses only where possibility of employment</p> <p>Small housing development</p> <p>Empty buildings to be utilised</p> <p>Housing must only be developed where the road infrastructure is suitable</p> <p>Only allow the type (and quality) of houses to be built that is shown people want to buy</p> <p>Groups to develop own housing projects</p> <p>Housing to be aimed at meeting local needs and not to be used as a 'dormitory' for nearby towns</p> <p>Build more social housing</p> <p>Housing should not be target driven</p> <p>Prevent joining of housing zones by protecting green corridors</p> <p>Housing development not in greenbelt, near jobs/school, near transport, proper streets and gardens, reuse empty houses</p> <p>New builds to be sympathetic to the existing – matched stone and scoped roofs</p> <p>Bring empty buildings back into use instead of building new ones</p> <p>Bring people back into town by converting empty shops into houses</p> <p>Knock down old buildings and build affordable houses</p> <p>Force unwanted shops and other buildings to be converted into usable housing</p> <p>Offer grants to improve buildings</p> <p>Housing development should be related only to perceived local needs and not Government expectations</p> <p>Brown field sites for new building, NOT green field</p>
<b>Identity</b>	<p>Agree what Calderdale is in the national context i.e. is it a tourist destination or a new industrial area</p> <p>Ensure that our unique identity in terms of heritage and history is not obliterated</p> <p>Agree the 'character' of Calderdale: commerce v leisure, history v future, development v spaces</p> <p>Give Elland an identity by giving it back its station and developing Old Elland – what's left of it. This applies to other towns and villages</p> <p>Encourage retention of facades on interesting buildings – redevelop behind them</p>
<b>Countryside &amp; green areas</b>	<p>Preserving conservation areas and protecting from excessive buildings</p> <p>No more building on green belt sites</p> <p>Do not build on green sites</p> <p>Please protect the green belt - no new green field development</p> <p>Don't build on the green fields – leave our hills and views intact</p> <p>Green belt to be protected and brown field land to be utilised first</p> <p>Increase the countryside services to maintain green spaces, footpaths, nature, reserves and work with land owners</p> <p>Preserve rural areas and the attractiveness of Calderdale</p>
<b>Green energy</b>	<p>Use River Calder to provide hydroelectric power</p> <p>Homes to have solar panels and other eco-facilities</p> <p>Green energy to be prioritised</p> <p>More hydro power</p> <p>Please resist Government pressure to build wind turbines everywhere</p> <p>All new developments to incorporate solar/renewable energy</p>
<b>Transport &amp; traffic</b>	<p>Improved public transport</p> <p>Less reliance on the car</p> <p>Realise the days of road transport are outnumbered</p> <p>Brighouse – construct 'Malinson' canal bridge to ease traffic flow</p> <p>Study the reasons for people travelling within/across Calderdale and goods</p>

	<p>movements, then integrate transport plan to encourage people to use public transport and walking</p> <p>Ensure more electric points for electric cars</p> <p>Recognise the impact on the roads from more housing</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p>To reconcile the importance of agriculture and provide local food</p> <p>More parking at rail stations</p> <p>Share new plans so that community knows what to expect from the Council</p> <p>Improve atmosphere in town centres by introducing vegetation, trees, bushes, flowers</p> <p>Provide adequate parking or park and ride to hospital's</p> <p>Develop libraries as hubs and social meeting points</p> <p>Too Hebden centric. Put resources into other towns in the valley</p>