

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 13 January 2025

Question from: Philip Cole

Question to:

Considering frontline Council services continue to deteriorate despite increased central Government funding and the annual Council Tax increases, does the Cabinet have confidence that the CEO and the Council Leader are capable and have the ability to improve local services and create communities that local people want to live in? And does the Cabinet feel that local residents get value for money in the delivery of public services?

Response

Thank you for your question. I think my answer regarding capability and value for money has to be the judgment of others. The performance of this Council across a whole range of services, particularly when compared with similar other councils across the country is good. Calderdale Council is seen to be a high performing public sector organisation. The data and the external inspection results are all available in the public domain, see below.

The Council's External Auditors have had no concerns whatsoever about value for money and both they and the Local Government Association regard this Council as a well-led financial organisation.

The External Auditor in their annual report ([Independent Auditor's Report](#)) found no significant shortcomings after interrogating the Council's general performance reports and that included a judgement which indicated good value for money.

I should also mention that there is quite a numerous and sometimes onerous inspection regime of Calderdale Council throughout the year. We have just had an announcement that the CQC (Care Quality Commission) Inspection Services for Adult Social Care intend to do an inspection within the next 6 months. We have just finished an Ofsted report (result, Good) and had a peer challenge from the Local Government Association. There are also numerous and really quite intensive and regular external specialist inspections of this Council, as well as that from the External Auditor.

I am pleased to say that at each inspection they have given this Council and therefore its leadership, a clean bill of health. I should note that any council, or any large organization like this is not dependent on one person. It is a team, and it is the many people who work here every day and turn out every day to do their best. The evidence to support that statement, that it is a well-run Council, even in these challenging times, is all in the public domain on the Council's website ([Council Performance | Calderdale Data Works](#) or [Priorities and performance | Calderdale Council](#)).