

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION UNDER RULE 13 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

Question from: **Councillor Kimber**

Question to: **Councillor Patient, Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member with responsibility for Climate Action and
Housing**

Given the recent announcement of a hosepipe ban by Yorkshire Water, what steps is the Council taking to hold water companies to account for their role in both drought resilience and flood risk management? Can the Council clarify how it is working with Yorkshire Water and regulators to ensure investment in infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and climate adaptation keeps pace with the increasing challenges of both water scarcity and flooding?

Council Response:

Calderdale Council are engaging with Yorkshire Water and relevant regulators to ensure robust investment in infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and climate adaptation—responding to both flood and drought risk.

The Council has consistently lobbied Yorkshire Water since the 2015 floods to adopt proactive reservoir management to slow valley flows and reduce flood risk. Most recently, the Council welcomed Yorkshire Water's pilot plan to jointly manage local reservoirs in Calderdale for flood mitigation.

The Council is deeply invested in nature-based flood solutions, including tree planting, leaky dams, pond restoration, and moorland rehabilitation. The council work is close collaboration with Yorkshire Water as a delivery partner and landowner in the progression of the successful NFM landowner grant screen that has implemented projects targeting invasive-species control, leaky dams, woodland expansion, habitat resilience, and landscape interventions.

Through the Landscapes for Water partnership, Yorkshire Water, in collaboration with the National Trust and other partners including the Council, have planted over 31,500 trees around Baitings and Ryburn reservoirs, with plans to scale towards 300,000 trees across the South Pennines in the coming years.

Yorkshire Water are a key landowner in the Councils Calder and Colne Landscape Links (CCaLL) project. CCaLL is a Defra Landscape Recovery funded project that proposes to plan,

design and implement a range of landscape recovery measures (e.g. peatland restoration; woodland and hedgerow creation; wetland creation) to create a rich, climate resilient mosaic of functionally connected habitats that link the valley towns with the moorland tops within the borough. By developing novel private finance access and new revenue for landowners, the project aims to enhance habitats to support species alongside local sustainable food production and provide climate resilience to communities from flood, drought and wildfire risk.

As part of the Calderdale Flood Recovery and Resilience Programme, Calderdale Council works alongside Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency through project boards overseeing themes including Resilient Infrastructure and Flood Risk Reduction. The quarterly Flood Recovery and Resilience Programme Board, chaired by Calderdale's Council Leader, oversees strategic delivery and funding—bringing together local councillors, MPs, Yorkshire Water and other partners.

The Council are working closely with Yorkshire Water's longer-term investment commitments that are now shaped by regulators through Ofwat's PR24 framework and the Environment Agency's Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). These frameworks includes environmental investment across the sector—covering nature restoration, pollution reduction, resilience enhancements, and infrastructure upgrades—with close monitoring of delivery and regulatory enforcement as needed. Within this current investment cycle know as AMP8, the Council will work collaborate with Yorkshire Water in the delivery of 19 Combined Sewer Overflow projects to ensure. where possible, multi benefit schemes are delivered across each organisation's capital works programmes.

In the short term during the drought period, the Councils Highway Operation and Network Management Teams are working at pace with Yorkshire Water colleagues to facilitate making urgent repairs to priority leaks on the water distribution networks.

NOTE: Questions under Rule 13 must be in writing and submitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon the Friday before the Council Meeting.