

## **Prepared Statement of Apology**

I have been asked to read this formal statement of apology on behalf of the Head of Highways and Transport and the Public Rights of Way Team from the Council.

A report, prepared for the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, was presented to this panel on 20 March 2019, titled Footpath Diversion – Hyde 32.

Unfortunately, the report was inaccurate. It wrongly quoted the Voluntary Inspector from the Peak and Northern Footpath Society and did not represent their views. In addition, the Council failed to inform the Society's representative that their comments may be included in a publically available report.

Although the report was withdrawn, for reasons other than the inaccuracies, the report cannot be removed from the public website and as result the Panel were not able, formally, to be made aware of the inaccuracies.

Because of this the Head of Highways and Transport wishes to make an unreserved formal apology to both the Peak and Northern Footpath Society and the inspector and for this apology to be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

The Public Rights of Way Team and the Peak and Northern Footpath Society have worked closely together over the years and enjoyed a fruitful relationship and we would all wish this to continue.

Thank you.