

# Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 8 January 2019

Dear Member

**The Council will meet on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 5.30 pm at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield.**

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

The following matters will be debated:

**Pages**

**1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

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**2: Apologies for absence**

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

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**3: Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To agree and authorise the Mayor to sign the Minutes of Council held on 12 December 2018.

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1 - 8

**4: Declaration of Interests**

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items of the Agenda in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of them items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interests.

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9 - 10

**5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

To receive any Petitions from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

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**6: Public Question Time**

The Committee will hear any questions from the general public.

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**7: Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

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**8: Council Petition Debate**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a, Council will discuss the subject matter of the previously submitted petitions relating to (i) the serving of non-stunned halal meat in Kirklees Schools and (ii) the impact of introducing car parking charges within Cleckheaton Town Centre.

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**9: West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

11 - 22

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 11 October 2018.

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**10: Council Tax - Empty Property Premium (Reference from Cabinet)**

23 - 28

To consider the report.

Contact: Julian Hobson, Policy Officer

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**11: Calculation of Council Taxbase 2019/2020 (Reference from Cabinet)** 29 - 40

To consider the report.

Contact: Mark Stanley, Corporate Strategy and Public Health

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**12: Healthy Weight Declaration (Reference from Cabinet)** 41 - 50

To consider the report.

Contact: Carl Mackie, Public Health Manager

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**13: Scrutiny Update**

To receive an update on recent work within Overview and Scrutiny.

Contact: Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager

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**14: Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

To receive written questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12/12(1).

The schedule of written questions will be tabled at the meeting.

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**15: Key Discussion - Council Waste Strategy**

Council will receive a presentation from the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, prior to the Key Discussion debate.

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 5(5), the Key Discussion shall commence no later than 7.00pm. Council Procedure Rule 18 (23) permits a maximum of 60 minutes for this item).

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## **16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Universal Credit**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Uppal, A U Pinnock, Homewood, Ullah, Murgatroyd, Griffiths, Kaushik, Richards, Walker, Loonat, Hill, McBride, Mather, Khan and Pandor.

“This Council notes the Universal Credit (UC) policy and its roll out is flawed, causing unnecessary hardship to local families and people across the country whilst failing to meet its original aims.

This Council further notes, that in Kirklees, following the roll out of UC Full Service in November 2017, over 12,730 people are now in receipt of UC support, which has led to problems with rent arrears, and general indebtedness particularly from the 5 week minimum wait for an initial payment; as a result, there has been an increased use of local welfare service provision and foodbanks. From 1/11/17 to 31/3/18 there was 2,177 referrals from the local welfare provision team to four Kirklees foodbanks, up 27% from the same period in the previous year. Recent figures from The Welcome Centre Foodbank in Huddersfield show that between May to July 2018 referrals due to Universal Credit stood at 611; in the first four months of 2018 the centre received 469 referrals.

Official figures show hundreds of thousands of UC payments made nationally are being subject to deductions used to pay back arrears in rent, council tax and utility bills, pushing families into a downward spiral of debt and poverty. Similarly, the local welfare provision team in Kirklees are taking more calls from residents who have not been able to make their UC payment last due to budgeting issues or deductions taken from their payments due to advances, arrears payments or tax credit overpayments. Between 1 April to 24 August 2018, 64% of referrals from the local welfare provision team to local foodbanks and/or fuel vouchers were due to UC claimants struggling with budgeting or low income. This compares to 33% for the period 1/11/17 to 31/3/18.

In addition, for people on UC who are in work, but are paid weekly or fortnightly, the monthly UC payment is causing additional budgeting problems; self-employed workers on UC are significantly worse off than under legacy benefits and compared with employees; and disabled people are being pushed into poverty with the abolition of disability premiums when transitioning on to UC. Furthermore UC payments currently go to one named member of a household. With the present policy there is a real danger that if the whole payment goes to one named individual there is no guarantee that the money will be distributed fairly within the household.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, making these points, demanding that the Government addresses these issues, and stops the roll out and transition of people on to Universal Credit.”

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**17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Giving People a say on the Final Brexit Deal**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Lawson, A Pinnock, K Pinnock, Iredale, Burke, Eastwood, Wilson, Munro, Cooper, Stewart-Turner and Allison.

“This Council notes:

- The growing concern at the prospect of the UK leaving the European Union (EU) with either a bad deal or no deal at all.
- The growing support for people to have a say on the final Brexit deal, including support from organisations such as the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing, GMB, Prospect, TSSA, business leaders and student unions representing over 980,000 students at 60 universities and colleges.

This Council believes that:

- By voting to leave the EU in June 2016, the UK voted for departure but not the destination. There has never been a consensus about how to leave and about our future relationship with the EU post-Brexit, but the years since the referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU has shown the complexity of the task and how challenging Brexit is to deliver.
- Since the referendum, there has been meaningful debate about our EU membership; there is now greater public awareness about the nature and impact of Brexit on the UK and there is ongoing movement in public opinion.
- The future direction of the country post-Brexit should not be decided by a small number of parliamentarians in Westminster. This is too big an issue and will affect all of us for generations to come; sovereignty rests with the people.
- The decision to leave the EU and subsequent negotiations has created political, social and economic uncertainty in the UK. Brexit is likely to have a major impact on local authorities, including Kirklees Council, potentially reducing funding for local and regional investment and development projects, affecting governance and legal frameworks and impacting on the progress of devolution deals.
- There are implications for Kirklees as a result of Brexit and there is consternation from some of our residents, including non-UK EU nationals, about what Brexit may mean for them. For instance, leaving may have an impact on our local health services, with recent NHS data revealing that 31 nurses and health visitors from EU member states left Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust between March 2017 and March 2018. Brexit is already having an impact on our local manufacturing industry, while some businesses in our region are reconsidering investment plans in new production and new jobs while they await the Brexit deal. Furthermore, Brexit

may limit the educational opportunities for our young people. It may cause damage to our local economy and public services and result in a squeeze in living standards.

- As a country, we are not close to resolving the big issues about which people care about; parliament is deadlocked and the impasse will cause insurmountable damage to the UK. A public vote is the only way to move forward.
- The British people deserve the right to have a final say on what direction the country should take on Brexit and must have a vote on the UK's final deal with the European Union.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- Request that Cabinet updates and maintains the Council's Risk Register, ensuring that the Register includes an up-to-date and robust account of the risks associated with Brexit;
- Be proactive in planning, outlining the issues and risks associated with different Brexit scenarios, assessing the possible impact on the Council and local area and implementing recommend measures as soon as possible;
- Support people to have a say on any final Brexit deal through a vote;
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister expressing the Council's support for people to have a final say on the Brexit deal."

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## **18: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Period Dignity**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Zaman, Stewart-Turner, Dad, Griffiths, Hill, Hughes, Kaushik, Kendrick, Khan, Loonat, Lowe, Mather, O'Neill, Pattison, Pervaiz, A U Pinnock, Richards, Scott, Uppal, Greaves, Iredale, Munro, K Pinnock, Wilson, Allison, Pandor, Lawson, Cooper, Ahmed, Akhtar, Asif, E Firth, S Hall, Holroyd-Doveton, Homewood, Hussain, Kane, McBride, Murgatroyd, O'Donovan, Sarwar, Sheard, Simpson, Sokhal, Turner, Ullah, Walker, Burke, Eastwood, A Pinnock, and Lyons;

"This Council:

Notes that women and girls find themselves in a position where they either can't access sanitary products or can't afford sanitary products.

Notes that, low wages and zero-hour contracts are just some of the reasons that women are forced to make difficult decisions about whether to purchase sanitary products.

Is concerned that women and girls are resorting to using items such as socks and tissues in place of sanitary products, putting their health at significant risk and more than one in ten girls have had to improvise sanitary wear due to affordability issues.

Is further concerned that women and girls are missing work or school each month because they can't afford sanitary products.

Believes that women and girls should be able to experience their periods with dignity.

The District of Kirklees is no exception to this national issue and its effects on women's health, who are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression or in school bullying; the consequence of which can have a negative impact on the local economy and educational attainment.

This Council resolves:

To call on the Government to carry out research into the impact that inadequate sanitary protection can have on women and girls so that it has a better understanding of the true impact of period poverty.

To call on the Government and CBI to carry out research into the impact that inadequate sanitary protection has on the economy including factors such as lost working days compared to the cost of business providing sanitary products at no charge to employees.

To further call on the Government to make sanitary products available for women and girls from low income households who are struggling to afford these essential items, including making sanitary products available in schools and colleges at no charge.

To ask Cabinet to work with schools and colleges to seek to provide sanitary products at no charge in toilet facilities until a time when the Government changes policy.

To ask Cabinet to conduct a feasibility study to assess the financial impact on the Council should it resolve in the future to provide sanitary products in its toilet facilities."

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**19: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Adopt Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members** 51 - 54

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillor Mather, Pandor, McBride, Ahmed, Sheard, Khan, Scott, Kendrick, Turner and O'Donovan;

"This Council notes:

- That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of Councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of Councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by

the Fawcett Society;

- That the role of a Councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become Councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing Councillors who may want to start a family to remain as Councillors;
- That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

This Council agrees:

- to the principle of adopting a suitable parental leave policy to give all Councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting, based on the policy attached to this Motion, to ensure that Councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;

and therefore RESOLVES to;

- refer this to the Council's Members Allowances Panel and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to consider further"

(Please note that the Policy is attached at Agenda Item 19)

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## **20: Motion Submitted in Accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to A Climate Emergency in Kirklees**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors R Murgatroyd, S Pandor, D Sheard, N Mather, P McBride, M Sokhal, J Lawson, A Cooper and C Greaves;

"This Council notes;

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5c. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis. This will detrimentally impact on the well-being of the people of Kirklees and billions of people around the world.

At the Global Climate Talks in Poland last December the UK along with over 200 nations agreed action on Climate Change with a much greater role strongly implied for Local and Regional Authorities like Kirklees in assisting Governments achieve their carbon emission savings.



In the words of Sir David Attenborough:

"Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years. Climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon. The world's people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out.'

We therefore resolve to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency and publicise this to the people of Kirklees to raise awareness, and support the public to take effective action.
  2. Request Cabinet initiate a full Environmental Audit of Kirklees Council to measure its carbon footprint, identify hotspots and work toward being carbon neutral in line with the latest targets set and agreed by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; with Cabinet to report to the first meeting of the working party, referred to at 4 below on the scope of the environmental audit
  3. Significantly improve our recycling rate to reach the target of 55% by 2025, and ask that the Cabinet implement a range of short term measures to improve recycling rates, in advance of a full review of the waste collection and disposal service.
  4. To set up a Councillor Working Party including the appropriate Cabinet Lead with a remit to:
    - a) Commission and oversee the Environmental Audit
    - b) Consult expert opinion in the field, as appropriate
    - c) Identify practical measures to reduce emissions and the Council's carbon footprint
    - d) encourage action in the wider community, businesses and other key organisations e.g. NHS and Educational Institutions
    - e) Report to Full Council within six months with an action plan to address the Emergency and incorporating proposals on the investment implications of this proposed activity
  5. The Council to consider Environmental Impact as part of any new policy
  6. The Council to seek to collaborate with other Local and Regional Authorities on emission reduction projects as appropriate. The Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry requesting that national policy is urgently developed to reflect the seriousness of the current emergency and to release funds to local authorities that would allow them to take the necessary measures at local level."
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**21: Responses to Motions - Child Sexual Exploitation/  
Modern Slavery**

55 - 60

To receive responses to the Motions approved at Council on 7 November 2018 as to (i) Child Sexual Exploitation and (ii) Modern Slavery, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5(n).

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By Order of the Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Geelman".

Chief Executive