

Public Document Pack

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.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 8

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

4: Declaration of Interests

9 - 10

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.

5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)

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

6: Public Question Time

The Committee will hear any questions from the general public.

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.

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.

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.

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

23 - 28

To consider the report.

Contact: Julian Hobson, Policy Officer

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

To consider the report.

Contact: Mark Stanley, Corporate Strategy and Public Health

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

To consider the report.

Contact: Carl Mackie, Public Health Manager

13: Scrutiny Update

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

Contact: Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager

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.

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).

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.”

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."

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."

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)

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).

By Order of the Council

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

Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 12 December 2018**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Gwen Lowe) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Gulfam Asif	Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Richard Eastwood	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Donald Firth	Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Steve Hall	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Erin Hill	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Judith Hughes	Councillor Mumtaz Hussain
Councillor Christine Iredale	Councillor Paul Kane
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Terry Lyons
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Bernard McGuin	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Councillor Nigel Patrick
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Kath Pinnock	Councillor Hilary Richards
Councillor Mohammad Sarwar	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor David Sheard	Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Ken Sims	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Rob Walker
Councillor Michael Watson	Councillor Gemma Wilson
Councillor Habiban Zaman	Councillor Nell Griffiths
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Richard Murgatroyd
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Harpreet Uppal

94 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor informed Council of the death of former Labour Councillor Austin Calvert, who had represented Birstall and Birkenshaw Ward for three periods of Office between 1979 and 2000, and conveyed the Council's condolences to his family.

The Mayor invited an announcement from Councillor Turner, who informed Council of the success of Carol Stump, Chief Librarian, who had been appointed President Elect of Libraries Connected and would take up the role of President in June.

The Mayor invited an announcement from Councillor Ahmed, who presented an award which had been received by the Council in recognition of its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and provision of support to the Armed Forces Community.

95 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bolt, Cooper, Holroyd-Doveton, Loonat, Ullah and K Taylor.

96 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of Council held on 7 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

97 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

98 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were received.

99 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council received a deputation from Mr Aleks Lukic in regards to the serving of non-stunned meat in Kirklees Schools.

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Aspiration, Councillor Ahmed, responded to the deputation.

No petitions were received.

100 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

101 Inclusion & Diversity Annual Report and revised Strategy Action Plan (Reference from Cabinet)

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor Sheard, and

RESOLVED - That the Annual Inclusion and Diversity report, and the progress made in Year One of the 2017-2021 of the Strategy be noted, and that the priorities as set out in the Year 2 Action Plan be supported.

- 102 **Treasury Management - Half Yearly Monitoring (Reference from Cabinet/Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**
It was moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Pandor, and

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the half yearly treasury management performance in 2018-2019, as set out within the considered report, be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to amending the Council's current investment strategy to include the Local Authority Property Fund as a potential investment source.
- (3) That, pursuant to (2) above, the proposal for Officers to further explore an investment opportunity of between £5m and £10m in the Fund be endorsed, and that subject to further Government clarification on the statutory override, and other risk considerations, any such proposals into the forthcoming 2019/20 annual treasury management strategy and annual budget be formalised for consideration.

- 103 **Gambling Policy (Reference from Licensing and Safety Committee)**
It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Allison, and

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the responses to the consultation on the revised Statement of Principles, as set out within the Appendix of the considered report, be noted.
- (2) That the revised Gambling Policy – Statement of Principles be approved, with effect from 31 January 2019 for a period of three years.

- 104 **Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**
Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12, Council received the following written questions:

- (1) **Question by Councillor Smith to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride**

“What has Kirklees done this year or planning to do next year to help retailers in our Town Centres?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

- (2) **Question by Councillor Smith to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride**

“Can you update Council on plans for the North Kirklees Orbital Route, including timescales please?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(3) Question by Councillor Smith to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride

“What is your view on the impact of the Cooper Bridge scheme on the B6118 to Grange Moor and Barnsley Road through Flockton?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(4) Question by Councillor J Taylor to The Spokesperson for WYCA Transport Committee - Councillor Kaushik

“Can the Member tell me what work is/has been done to promote, improve and enhance passenger access and uptake to the stations in the Kirkburton ward on the Penistone Line, given that this is Kirklees sole rail access to the key South Yorkshire connections at Barnsley & Sheffield & in preparation for HS2?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(5) Question by Councillor A Pinnock to The Leader of the Council - Councillor Pandor

‘How will a Brexit deal, or no deal, impact on the Council and local people?’

The Leader of the Council responded thereto.

(6) Question by Councillor A Pinnock to The Leader of the Council - Councillor Pandor

‘Is the Leader of the Council satisfied that Kirklees will retain good rail connectivity with the rest of the country, given that proposed infrastructure projects have been either cancelled or cut back?’

The Leader of the Council responded thereto.

(7) Question by Councillor A Pinnock to The Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment - Councillor Mather

‘Does the Council’s waste disposal contractor ship recycled waste materials to other countries; what are they and to which countries?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Council - 12 December 2018

(At this stage of the Meeting, it was moved by Councillor K Pinnock, seconded by Councillor D Hall, and resolved, that Council Procedure Rule 12(7) be suspended in order to allow the remainder of written questions to be put)

(8) Question by Councillor Armer to The Leader of the Council – Councillor S Pandor

‘Previous practice regarding written questions which have not been responded to in Council due to time constraints has been to email a response to the questioner, copied to all Councillors, shortly after the relevant meeting. Why has this practice been abandoned without prior notice?’

The Leader of the Council responded thereto.

(9) Question by Councillor Bellamy to the Spokesperson for WYCA Transport Committee - Councillor M Kaushik

‘Given the continuing problems for public transport users in Kirklees but the Colne Valley in particular will you call a meeting of the Kirklees District Consultation Sub Committee (DCSC) to discuss these matters and ensure that in order to have a full and frank discussion all partners are invited?’

The Spokesperson responded thereto.

(10) Question by Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride

‘Would Cllr Mc Bride like to join me in welcoming the Government's support for the High St with the reduction in Business Rates by one third for Retail Properties for two years?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(11) Question by Councillor J Taylor to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride

‘Market stallholders, like Retail shop owners, are finding times tough. Could Cllr McBride update the Council on its plans for markets and when the details regarding the consultant led assessment of Dewsbury Market will be made available to members?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(12) Question by Councillor Watson to The Cabinet Member for Children - Councillor Kendrick

'Fostering children is a vocation which can be both rewarding and challenging and it is understandable that it may not be for everyone. I have seen reports that suggest that Kirklees was struggling to fill a hole in foster care provision and is spending increasing amounts on agency carers because of the inability to recruit carers. How many Kirklees Children are currently placed in foster care and of those how many are placed with Kirklees Council Foster carers and how many are out of area or with agency carers?'

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(13) Question by Councillor Watson to The Cabinet Member for Children - Councillor Kendrick

'What is the weekly cost of a Kirklees foster child placed with a Kirklees Council foster carer and the cost of placing a child with an agency or out of area carer?'

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(14) Question by Councillor Watson to The Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment - Councillor Mather

'Have recently purchased a small trailer off eBay which means I can take rubbish to Bromley Farm tip and avoid messing up the car. I am told I can only use it 12 times per year. Why is this?'

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(15) Question by Councillor Watson to The Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment – Councillor Mather

'Concerns have been raised with me by a resident of Upper Cumberworth as to the provision of refuse service over the Christmas period in the following terms:

"I write to you in astonishment regarding the appalling lack of service over the Christmas period. After receiving an email alert yesterday, I checked the council website and discovered that there would be no black bin collection after 11th December until 4th January – an extra ten days on top of the usual two-week period. This is at a time when the majority of people, I would imagine, produce more waste than usual.

Council - 12 December 2018

Contrast this to Leeds, where we used to live, where collections are either only one day earlier or later, with collections occurring on the Sundays to keep up during the holiday period.

In Leeds of course, there is a weekly food waste collection, regardless of whether it is green or black bin week. As I have previously raised a far greater variety of items can be placed in green bins and brown bin garden waste collections occur over the Spring to Autumn period.

Neighbouring Barnsley and Calderdale also seem to have a much more up to date service.

- i) Why is the Kirklees waste collection service, and I use the term loosely, so backward?
- ii) Please can you advise what we should do with an extra 10 day's worth of potentially very smelly food waste which is likely to attract unwanted attention from cats, foxes mice and rats?
- iii) Will extra bags left with the bin be collected?
- iv) Are there any plans to improve and modernise the service, and if not – why not?

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(16) Question by Councillor Iredale to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride

“What are the long-term plans for Huddersfield and Dewsbury markets?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(17) Question by Councillor Eastwood to The Cabinet Member for Economy - Councillor McBride

‘Why is the free parking on Saturdays in Huddersfield in the lead up to Xmas restricted to after 2pm?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(18) Question by Councillor Eastwood to The Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment - Councillor Mather

‘What is the Council doing to promote domestic recycling efficiency?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(19) Question by Councillor Burke to The Leader of the Council - Councillor Pandor

‘Could you provide an update on the Council’s £5m Regeneration Masterplan for Huddersfield Town Centre?’

The Leader of the Council responded thereto.

(20) Question by Councillor Burke to The Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care - Councillor Khan

‘How are our plans for a new hospital in Kirklees affected by the recent announcement that the Health Secretary has made a decision on Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and that Calderdale and Huddersfield trust would be given £197m to go ahead with their Plan B?’

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

105 Minutes of Cabinet

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meetings of Cabinet held on 18 September, 2 October and 16 October 2018, and Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 2 August 2018 be received and noted.

106 Holding the Executive to Account

Council received Cabinet Member Portfolio Updates from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Democracy, Councillor Scott, and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor Turner.

(Questions were not received due to time constraints).

107 Minutes of Other Committees

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

108 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

109 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Universal Credit

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

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

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

111 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Period Dignity

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

KIRKLEES COUNCIL			
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC			
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS			
Council			
Name of Councillor			
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2018 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe (Chair)	Bradford Council
Councillor Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Councillor Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council
Councillor Barry Collins (Substitute)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
Councillor David Hall	Kirklees Council
Roger Marsh OBE	Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council
Councillor John Pennington	Bradford Council
Councillor Andrew Waller	City of York Council

In attendance:

Councillor Robert Light	Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Richard Thorpe	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (minute 54 only)
Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Pearson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Allen	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Heather Waddington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority (minute 54 only)
Jacqui Warren	West Yorkshire Combined Authority (minute 54 only)
Seamus McDonnell	West Yorkshire Combined Authority (minute 54 only)
Ruth Chaplin	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

42. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Swift.

43. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared by members at the meeting.

44. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

- (a) That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the appendices to Agenda Items 11 and 13 on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information and for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- (b) That in accordance with paragraph 5 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of Appendices 1 & 2 to Agenda Item 12 on the grounds that they contain legally privileged information and if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information. It is considered that the public interests in maintaining the content of the appendices as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication could prejudice legal proceedings.

45. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 2 August 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 2 August 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair.

46. Capital Spending and Project Approvals

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Delivery on the progression and funding for the following schemes through the Combined Authority's assurance process:

- Warm Homes Fund round 2a
- Calderdale multi-modal transport model
- Superfast Broadband West Yorkshire and York – Contract 3
- Corridor Improvement Programme Phase 1 – A62 Smart Corridor
- Glasshoughton southern link road

Details of the five schemes were provided in the submitted report and it was noted that these had been considered and recommended for approval by the Investment Committee.

Members also considered expenditure approvals for the Business Growth Programme and Resources Efficiency Fund which were detailed in the submitted report.

Resolved:

(a) In respect of Warm Homes Fund round 2a -

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the Warm Homes Fund phase 2a proceeds through decision point 2 and work commences on activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs):
- (ii) That an indicative approval is given to the total project value of £4.688 million and the Combined Authority funding contribution of £3.451 million with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs). The remainder will be funded by local authority partners, social housing providers and with private sector match funding on a case by case basis.
- (iii) That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report including at decision point 5 through a delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by the Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

(b) In respect of Calderdale multi-modal transport model -

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the Calderdale Multi-Modal Model project proceeds through decision point 2 (case paper) and work commences on activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (ii) That an indicative approval is given to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's contribution of £389,000 (which will be funded through £64,000 from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund and £325,000 from the other Transport Fund projects which are already approved) is given with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs). The total project value is £629,000.
- (iii) That future approvals are made in accordance with the approval pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report including at decision point 5 through a delegation to

West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

- (c) In respect of Superfast Broadband West Yorkshire and York – Contract 3 -

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the superfast broadband contract 3 project proceeds through decision point 2 (case paper) and work commences on activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (ii) That an indicative approval is given to the total project value of £16.428 million from the funding sources outlined in the submitted report for which the Combined Authority is the accountable body, with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (iii) That approval is given to reallocate all or part of the BET Refund funding from Contract 2 to Contract 3 as actioned at decision point 5 full business case with costs.
- (iv) That development costs of £120,000 are approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (v) That the Combined Authority enter into a Service Level Agreement/Funding Agreement if required with Leeds City Council for expenditure up to £120,000 development funding.
- (vi) That future approvals are made in accordance with the approval pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report including at decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs) through a delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by the Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

- (d) In respect of the Corridor Improvement Programme – A62 Smart Corridor -

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the A62 Smart Corridor Phase 1 project proceeds through decision point 3 and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).
 - (ii) That an indicative approval is given to the total project value of £8.756 million and the Combined Authority contribution (from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund) of £7.906 million (£406,000 increase from approved expression of interest scheme total) with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs). The remainder will be funded by £850,000 of ESIF funding yet to be confirmed.
 - (iii) That development costs of £605,000 are approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs), and that the Combined Authority issue an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £605,000 from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund taking the total approval to £855,000.
 - (iv) That future approvals are made in accordance with the approval pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report including at decision point 5 through a delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by the Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the submitted report.
- (e) In respect of Glasshoughton Southern Link Road -

That following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the Combined Authority approves:

- (i) That the Glasshoughton Southern Link Road project proceeds through decision point 4 and work commences on activity 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (ii) That an indicative approval to the total project value of £7.320 million is given from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund with full approval to spend being granted once the scheme has progressed through the assurance process to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs).
- (iii) That development costs of £245,000 are approved in order to progress the scheme to decision point 5 (full business case with finalised costs), taking the total project approval to £978,000.
- (iv) That the Combined Authority enters into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Wakefield Council for additional expenditure of up to £245,000 from the West

Yorkshire plus Transport Fund. This takes the total funding agreement amount to £978,000.

- (v) That future approvals are made in accordance with the approval pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report including at decision point 5 through a delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by the Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team.

- (f) In respect of the Business Growth Fund -

That the Combined Authority approves additional expenditure of £4 million for the Business Growth Programme funded through the Local Growth Fund taking the total approval to £27 million.

- (g) In respect of the Resource Efficiency Fund -

That the Combined Authority confirms approval of the total scheme costs of £1.984 million for the Resource Efficiency fund comprising £840,000 Local Growth Fund (LGF) and £1.144 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

47. Budget Planning 2019/20

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources which provided a further update on the business planning process and revenue budget planning for 2019/20.

The ongoing work in respect of the draft 2019/20 budget and progressing the business planning process was noted. The timetable and issues to be addressed in updating the draft budget were outlined in the submitted report and Members were advised that further work is being undertaken to review and clarify the figures. A detailed budget proposal will be brought to the next meeting and public engagement on the budget will take place over the Autumn.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

48. Leeds City Region Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Assessment

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Interim Director of Policy and Strategy on Leeds City Region Brexit resilience and opportunities assessment.

Members noted the progress on the work being undertaken to prepare and support the City Region's business and communities ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. They discussed the need to support local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly in respect of training to fill the skills gaps and the new employment opportunities which will arise.

The report also outlined a range of additional policy and funding issues post Brexit and Members discussed the key policy themes and potential future resource opportunities including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Roger Marsh, who had been appointed Chair of the newly recently created Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11), advised the meeting that NP11 was helping businesses to prepare and face the challenges ahead. It was hoped that they would be able to work with Government on future funding opportunities to ensure a smooth transition from European funding.

A progress report would be prepared for a future meeting.

Resolved: That the work and progress to date in supporting the City Region's businesses and communities ahead of the UK's departure from the EU be noted and endorsed.

49. Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Managing Director which provided an update on the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership's (the LEP's) response to the Government's 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report.

It was reported that at their meeting on 20 September 2018, the LEP Board had resolved that in order to submit a 'compliant' response to Government, to propose that a new LEP be created by combining the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP, except for the East Riding, and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, except for Barnsley. A copy of the LEP Board's response, which was submitted by the LEP Chair on 28 September 2018, was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Members discussed the next steps and the LEP's position in relation to the Government's requirements on LEP leadership, capacity, accountability and performance and a summary was provided at Appendix 2. It was recognised that the Leeds City Region had good working relationships with its neighbouring areas and joint discussions would continue with partners in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP. Collaboration would also be strengthened across all neighbouring LEPs, via the NP11 and with Yorkshire Leaders.

Further reports would be brought to future meetings about the implementation implications for the Combined Authority once Government has responded to the geography proposal.

Resolved:

- (a) That the proposal from the LEP for a new merged LEP to cover the whole of West and North Yorkshire and York, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted and endorsed.
- (b) That the Combined Authority notes how the LEP and Combined Authority are positioned in respect of Government's

recommendations on leaderships, capacity, accountability and performance as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

- (c) That further reports be brought to future meetings on the detail of relevant legal changes when known.

50. Rail Performance and Governance Update

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Transport Services which:

- Provided an update on the performance of local rail services following discussion at the last meeting which was attended by Network Rail and train operators Northern and TransPennine Express.
- Advised Members of progress with the reviews into rail performance and governance following the issues emerging in May 2018.
- Advised Member of arrangements proposed to improve engagement between the Combined Authority and the rail industry.

Members were extremely concerned that services were still failing to operate at an acceptable level and passengers and the local economy continued to be severely affected. It was reported that over-crowding on “short formed” services (ie. with fewer carriages than required) was also having a massive impact on passengers and the effect on consumer confidence was highlighted. Members were disappointed that although there was a compensation scheme for passengers, not enough people were making claims and considered that the rail operators should do more to publicise the scheme. The poor performance was also impacting on businesses and it was understood that work was being undertaken to develop business compensation packages.

Members discussed the temporary Government appointment of Richard George who would be working closely with TfN, the Rail North Partnership, Network Rail and train operators and it was suggested that he be invited to meet with the Combined Authority.

As the Combined Authority’s representative, Councillor Blake agreed to raise the Combined Authority’s serious concerns at the Transport for the North Rail North Committee. She assured Members that the voice of the City Region would be strongly and firmly heard at both the TfN Rail North Committee and nationally. Members suggested that representatives of the rail industry be invited to the February meeting of the Combined Authority.

In respect of rail governance reviews, it was reported that the Combined Authority’s response to the Rail North (Blake Johnson) Review had been submitted and the Review was expected to report its findings in December 2018. Members were also advised that the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) had published its interim findings into the national timetable disruption and the Secretary of State has launched a major review of the UK rail industry and Roger Marsh is to be part of the report panel for this review. A summary of the preliminary findings was outlined in the submitted report.

It was reported that the Chair of the Transport Committee is to establish a joint forum to enable the Combined Authority Members, train operators, Network Rail, Transport for the North and other key bodies to discuss plans and issues affecting local rail services. In welcoming the establishment of the Rail Forum, Members discussed the Terms of Reference which were attached at Appendix 1 and their comments and suggestions in respect of membership would be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Transport Committee.

Resolved:

- (a) That the update on the impact on passengers of the May 2018 rail timetable change be noted.
- (b) That Councillor Blake, as the Combined Authority's representative on the Transport for the North Rail North Committee, raises the concerns about the impact of prolonged rail disruption and urges further action to restore rail performance to the level required by the respective franchises.
- (c) That the establishment of a West Yorkshire Combined Authority Rail Forum be endorsed and the comments regarding membership be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Transport Committee.

51. Corporate Planning & Performance

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources in respect of corporate planning and performance.

Members discussed corporate performance, including progress against priorities, risk management and budget position. Appendix 1 set out the current status of the 14 key Corporate Plan priorities and an update on the key strategic risks.

A summary of the 2018/19 current spend to budget was attached at Appendix 2 and it was noted that there were currently no areas of concern to report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

52. Channel 4

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Executive Head of Economic Services which provided an update and sought approval of the Combined Authority's bid to attract the Channel 4 national HQ to Leeds City Region.

It was reported that Channel 4 had been holding advanced discussions with the shortlisted regions to clarify and confirm the details within the submitted proposals. Members noted those made by Leeds City Region partners which were set out in the exempt Appendix 1. It was noted that the proposals had been appraised in line with the Combined Authority's

assurance process and a final decision by Channel 4 is expected in the Autumn.

Members welcomed and supported the bid which, if successful, would provide benefits and opportunities for all districts in the City Region. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to all partners across the region who, working with the Combined Authority, had made valuable contributions in preparing the bid.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Combined Authority continues to support the Leeds City Region bid to attract the Channel 4 National HQ.
- (b) That, if successful, approval is given to the recommendations set out in exempt Appendix 1, including the proposal to proceed through the relevant stages of the Combined Authority's assurance process.
- (c) That approval is given to the forecast value of these proposals as set out in the exempt Appendix 1.
- (d) That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the exempt Appendix 1, including at decision point 5 (full business case) of the assurance process through a delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director following a recommendation by the Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the exempt Appendix 1.

53. Corporate Update on Treasury Management

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources which provided an update on the legal claim issued against Barclays Bank PLC (Barclays) in respect of loans held by the Combined Authority and the 2006 regulatory findings made against Barclays on the manipulation of LIBOR.

It was reported that Hausfeld LLP had been engaged to provide legal representation to the Combined Authority. Detailed legal advice on the merits of the Combined Authority's claim was expected by 26 October 2018 which was the same date as the claim form that has been issued must be served on Barclays. A decision on whether or not to proceed with the claim would therefore have to be made before the next meeting of the Combined Authority. The legal costs associated with the claim were set out in exempt Appendices 1 and 2.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority's Managing Director be authorised:

- (a) To make a decision following consideration of legal advice and in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority and Head of Legal and Governance Services on whether or not to proceed with service of the claim form.

- (b) To take all necessary steps in relation to the proceedings.
- (c) To take such action as is necessary to protect the interests of the Combined Authority.

54. European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) - Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Resources on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – Sustainable Urban Development (SUD).

It was reported that the Investment Committee had considered the outline assessments forms (attached at exempt Appendices 2-9) and the prioritisation list for SUD (attached at exempt Appendix 1).

In its role as the Intermediate Body (IB), the Combined Authority considered the advice and respective conditions included in the outline assessment forms for each of the eight projects which had been received following the Call. They approved the advice, the selection decision and the prioritisation list and noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will finalise its assessment and make its decision. It was agreed that in order to progress applications to avoid delays, the final selection of projects, following the reconciliation to budget, be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority as required.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Combined Authority, in its role as the Intermediate Body for the SUD part of the ESIF programme, approves the advice included in the outline assessment forms at Part 3 of each exempt Appendix 2-9, the decision and any respective conditions outlined in Part 5a, and the prioritisation list for SUD included in exempt Appendix 1.
- (b) That the agreement of the final selection of projects, once the Managing Authority has reconciled the budget, be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority, as required, to ensure no further delays in progressing applications under the European programme occur.

55. Minutes for Information

- (a) **Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2018**

Resolved: That the minute of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2018 be noted.

- (b) **Draft Minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 30 July 2018**

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 30 July 2018 be noted.

(c) **Draft Minutes of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 5 September 2018**

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee held on 5 September 2018 be noted.

(d) **Draft Minutes of the Employment & Skills Panel held on 11 September 2018**

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Employment & Skills Panel held on 11 September 2018 be noted.

Name of meeting: Council (Reference from Cabinet – 18/12/18)

Date: 16th January 2019

Title of report: Council Tax - Empty Property Premium

Purpose of report

To make a determination under s11B of The Local Government Finance act 1992 to increase the premium for long term empty properties from 50% to 100% meaning that owners of those properties will pay 100% extra in council tax from 1st April 2019.

To make a make further determination that In these cases, the 100% premium rate would apply for a further 3 years; on the 5th anniversary of the empty status a 200% premium rate could be applied (earliest effective date 1st April 2020) and then 300% premium rate after 10 years (earliest effective date 1st April 2021).

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes If yes give the reason why – All Wards affected and the value may exceed £250K
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes If yes also give date it was registered 26/10/2018
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No Decision reserved for Council
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Rachel Spencer- Henshall Strategic Director- Corporate Strategy and Public Health 9th December 2018 Eamonn Croston Service Director of Financial, IT and Transactional Services 3rd December 2018 Julie Muscroft Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning 4th December 2018
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR? Yes

1. Summary

The current Council tax empty rate premium for Kirklees is 50% - agreed at full Council on 16th Jan 2013 (Council Tax Technical Changes report effective from 1st April 2013) and reconfirmed by full Council on the 18th Feb 2015.

The change to s11B is made under the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 which received Royal assent on 01st November 2018

A determination under s11B can only be discharged by authority (full council) under s67(2) of the Act.

There is an expectation that the premium will incentivise owners to bring property back into use so increasing the supply of homes for sale or rent. We are awaiting departmental guidance upon the circumstances where the authority is expected to exercise discretion in cases of hardship or where genuine attempts to bring property back into use are being made.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Council needs to consider how to best incentivise the bringing of property back into use to effect the behavioural change behind the policy intention and to encourage where possible economic growth in the Corporate Plan. Colleagues with strategic housing responsibility are exploring whether any additional revenue might be targeted at particular strategies. This is an emerging picture but does not of itself prevent the council from relying upon the behavioural change expected by the premium to kick start change.

- 2.1 The premium is expected to reduce the overall number of long term empty homes, however it should also create additional revenue. We currently charge a premium of 50% by way of a determination made on 15th Jan 2013 as outlined above.

The table below shows the impact of a determination to increase the premium to 100% based upon actual Long Term Empty properties in each band.

Council Tax Band	Long Term Empty Properties	50% premium (now)	100% premium	Additional Revenue
A	401	£587,773.77	£783,698.36	£195,924.59
B	138	£235,986.21	£314,648.28	£78,662.07
C	71	£138,758.85	£185,011.80	£46,252.95
D	27	£59,363.69	£79,151.58	£19,787.90
E	17	£45,683.25	£60,911.00	£15,227.75
F	17	£54,001.86	£72,002.48	£18,000.62
G	6	£21,986.55	£29,315.40	£7,328.85
H	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	677	£1,143,554.18	£1,524,738.90	£381,184.73

- 2.2 If the behavioural effect were to reduce the number of long term empty properties then the additional revenue would reduce accordingly but the number in occupation would increase. In the table below we have assumed that 30% of owners bring their properties back into use as a behavioural response.

Because we are already charging a 50% premium it would only take a 30% change in behaviour to extinguish any revenue effect. In this example revenue of £76,236.95 is foregone in comparison to the current position. This is illustrated in the table below:-

Council Tax Band	If 30% brought back into use	100% premium	Revenue Effect	Revenue Foregone
A	280.7	£548,588.85	235,109.51	-£39,184.92
B	96.6	£220,253.80	94,394.48	-£15,732.41
C	49.7	£129,508.26	55,503.54	-£9,250.59
D	18.9	£55,406.11	23,745.47	-£3,957.58
E	11.9	£42,637.70	18,273.30	-£3,045.55
F	11.9	£50,401.74	21,600.74	-£3,600.12
G	4.2	£20,520.78	8,794.62	-£1,465.77
H	0	£0.00	0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	473.9	£1,067,317.23	457,421.67	-£76,236.95

- 2.3 The effect of the policy change is unknown at this stage, which means that it is difficult to calculate the effect of the increase to 200% for properties empty for more than 5 years as at April 2020 and more than 10 years at April 2021.

The figures in the table below are illustrative only and will be subject to change once we better understand the behavioural changes.

		Calculation only	Property long term empty 5 years + at 1st April 2020		Calculation only	Property long term empty 10 years + at 1st April 2021
Council Tax Band	Estimated Empty Properties 5yrs+	100% premium for 5yrs + properties only	200% premium	Estimated Empty Properties 10yrs+ (75% less)	100% premium for 10yrs + properties only	300% premium
A	117	£228,660.12	£342,990.18	29.25	£85,747.55	£114,330.06
B	44	£100,322.64	£150,483.96	11.00	£37,620.99	£50,161.32
C	16	£41,692.80	£62,539.20	4.00	£15,634.80	£20,846.40
D	3	£8,794.62	£13,191.93	0.75	£3,297.98	£4,397.31
E	7	£25,081.00	£37,621.50	1.75	£9,405.38	£12,540.50
F	3	£12,706.32	£19,059.48	0.75	£4,764.87	£6,353.16
G	1	£4,885.90	£7,328.85	0.25	£1,832.21	£2,442.95
H	0	£0.00	£0.00	0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	191	£422,143.40	£633,215.10	47.75	£158,303.78	£211,071.70
		Indicative	£211,071.70		Indicative	£52,767.93

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The empty property premium is about bringing properties into use so increasing housing supply. Increased Housing Supply reduces pressure on people seeking accommodation meaning that more people have a place that they can call home.

3.2 Working with Partners

There will be no Impact

3.3 Place Based Working

There will be no impact

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

Children in households positively affected by increased housing supply will have better outcomes.

3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

There will be no impact other than as set out in the body of the report. The accompanying 2019-20 Council Tax base report factors in the assumed £381k additional income impact as set out in the first table in this report. This assumption will be reviewed for subsequent budget rounds in light of actual experience.

4. Consultees and their opinions

N/A

5. Next steps and timelines

Cabinet – 18th December 2018

Council – 16th January 2019

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council make the determination agreed by Cabinet on the 18th December set out in 6.1 and 6.2 below:

6.1

“This council determines that in accordance with section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 it will set a premium that applies the maximum afforded by the Act under sections 11B(1A) (1B) and (1C) with effect from the dates set out in those sections:

(1A) For the financial year beginning on 1 April 2019 the “relevant maximum” is 100.

(1B) For the financial year beginning on 1 April 2020 the “relevant maximum” is—

(a) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is less than 5 years, 100;

(b) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 5 years, 200.

(1C) For financial years beginning on or after 1 April 2021 the “relevant maximum” is—

(a) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is less than 5 years, 100;

(b) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 5 years but less than 10 years, 200;

(c) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 10 years, 300. “

- 6.2** That work commence integrating this into the incentivising of bringing empty property back into use to increase Housing supply.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

To agree the recommendations as set out in 6.1 and 6.2 above. The portfolio holder welcomes this new legislation, and its implementation by the Council.

Property that lies empty for a significant period of time, for no justifiable reason, when there is a national shortage of housing is unacceptable. The Council must use every power it has to encourage empty properties back onto the market.

The lack of housing has a huge impact on our residents and communities, and anything that can be done to address this problem, must be a positive step forward. Not only for our residents and communities, but at a time of unprecedented pressure on Council services this can also help reduce demand on under pressure services.

Empty property can also blight an area (i.e. anti-social behaviour), so whilst recognising there is a risk to the Council's finances, it is hoped that by adopting this new legislation we can encourage the property owners to bring empty homes back in the housing market. Which will help address, in a small way the current shortage of accommodation in Kirklees and will allow more people to have a place to call home.

8. Contact officer

Julian Hobson Senior Manager Revenues and Benefits

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Local Government Finance Act 1992

Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

Previous Decision in relation to s11B to apply a premium of 50% was made by Council on the 16th January 2013.

10. Service Director responsible

Eamonn Croston Service Director of Financial, IT and Transactional Services

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Name of meeting: Council – 16th January 2019 (Reference from Cabinet)

Title of report: Calculation of Council Tax Base 2019/20

Purpose of report: To seek approval of the Council for the various tax bases, this will apply to the Kirklees area for the financial year 2019/20 in connection with the Council Tax. There are no proposed changes to the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2019/20.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes: The calculation of the Council Tax base affects all wards in the Kirklees area.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</u>	Yes 8th Oct 2018
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No – Full Council decision
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Rachel Spencer-Henshall , Strategic Director, Corporate Strategy and Public Health – 30 November 2018 Eamonn Croston Service Director, Finance – 6 December 2018 Julie Muscroft , Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning – 4 December 2018
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR: Yes - there is no personal data within the Council Tax base report or calculation.

1. Summary

Section 67(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that the tax base for Council Tax should be approved by the Authority (i.e. the Council).

The regulations covering setting the tax base are covered and updated under Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

1.1 Members should be aware of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which applies to members where –

- (a) they are present at a meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or a Committee and at the time of the meeting an amount of Council Tax is payable by them and has remained unpaid for at least two months, and
- (b) any budget or Council Tax calculation, or recommendation or decision which might affect the making of any such calculation, is the subject of consideration at the meeting.

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact that Section 106 applies to them and shall not vote on any question concerning the matter in (b) above. It should be noted that such members are not debarred from speaking on these matters.

Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a criminal offence, unless any such members can prove they did not know that Section 106 applied to them at the time of the meeting or that the matter in question was the subject of consideration at the meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

In determining the level of local taxation, each local authority calculates a tax base annually so that, once the level of expenditure has been approved, the determinations of the level of local taxation becomes an arithmetical exercise.

The Council Tax base for an authority is the amount of income which would be received by levying a Council Tax of £1.00 on band D properties and taking into account the differential rates which would be applied to properties in the other bands.

In view of the fact that there are Parish and Town precepts, it is necessary to calculate a tax base for:

- a) the whole of Kirklees; and
- b) each parish and town council area

The valuation listing received from the Inland Revenue (valuation office) places each domestic property in Kirklees into one of eight valuation bands.

In order to calculate the tax base, the following factors must be taken into account and applied to the valuation bandings:

- a) Fixed ratios between valuation banding;
- b) Number of exempt properties;
- c) Number of properties eligible for a discount

- d) Properties subject to an Empty Homes premium (long term empty properties, empty over 2 years) subject to premium charge(s). (see separate report on proposed changes to Empty Homes Premium Charges)
- e) Number of appeals against bandings which will be successful;
- f) Number of new properties which will be added to the list during the year; and
- g) Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR) – continuing the local scheme as in 2018/19 at 20%.
- h) An allowance for losses on collection.

For the purpose of calculating the tax bases, it should be noted that a collective adjustment has been made to the current tax base as at 30th November 2018. The current tax base figure based on 30th November 2018 figures is 120,486.87. Allowing for the factors above the overall collective adjustment for 2019/20 has been calculated at 1.47594% to take into account the above factors and adjustments in the tax base. The Council Tax base as set out in the report will be used to inform the demand on the collection fund amount to be considered at full budget Council on 16th January 2019.

There will be no additional percentage increase for Adult Social Care (ASC) precept for 2019-20. Councils were able to apply an ASC precept uplift of no more than 6% over the 2017-20 period. Kirklees applied 3% uplifts in 2017-18 and 2018-19, and are now at the 6% limit. The proposed Council Tax rise for 2019/20 will be covered under a separate budget report to full Council.

The Council may introduce an extension of the discretionary reduction in Council Tax available for Care Leavers up to age 21 to cover those care leavers up to age 25. The potential additional quantum is yet to be identified as it will depend entirely upon the number of care leavers with a Council Tax liability not already being met in full through other reductions, discounts and exemptions already in place.

It is recommended that the 2019/20 tax base for the whole of Kirklees area, and the tax bases for the five Parish and Town Council areas be approved as follows:

Whole of Kirklees	118,708.56
Denby Dale	5,771.84
Holme Valley	9,998.83
Kirkburton	8,910.47
Meltham	2,820.42
Mirfield	6,617.91

In order to demonstrate the methodology used in the calculation, the Appendices show the current number of properties in each band, the current effect of discounts, exemptions and the collective adjustment referred to earlier in the report. This is broken down into the Whole of Kirklees and the five Parish and Town council areas above.

Council Tax Reduction Parish Grant

Over recent years a grant has been distributed to Parish Councils to supplement the Parish precept, so as to provide top-up funding to mitigate the effect of the Localisation legislation introduced in 2013/14. The effect of Localisation was to reduce individual Parish tax bases, resulting in a consequential loss in their income. Since 2013/14 the Parishes have seen their tax bases grow and based on the tax bases recommended in this report, the following grants will be payable:

	CTR Parish Grant
Parish for 2019/20	
Denby Dale	£1,212.43
Holme Valley	£206.33
Kirkburton	£1,651.77
Meltham	£858.94
Mirfield	£3,825.85
	£7,755.32

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

The setting of the tax base is related to all domestic properties in Kirklees and is not based on individual circumstances. It applies to every property.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires each authority to devise a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme it does not specify the extent of any such reduction.

By providing a scheme that reduces liability to an affordable level, it prevents the need to take unnecessary and costly recovery action that would inevitably result in courts finding the customer did not have the means to pay.

3.2 **Working with Partners**

N/A

3.3 **Placed based working**

N/A

3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

N/A

3.4 **Reducing demand of services**

N/A

3.5 **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The setting of the tax base is related to the annual budget process.

Setting a budget specifically to meet Council Tax liability of those that would otherwise be unable to pay, means we have greater clarity as to the amount of Council Tax we might collect. That in turn allows the Council to plan more accurately based on anticipated revenue from the collection of Council Tax.

The decision to agree the tax base determines the levels of income received by the Council through the levy of Council Tax for residents of Kirklees.

The Council must consider any legislative changes as part of the Council Tax base setting process, as any changes will materially affect the Council Tax base. Any legislative changes (if any) have been considered and incorporated in the Council Tax base setting process.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Eamonn Croston - Service Director, Finance, IT and Transactional Services

Councillor Graham Turner - supports the calculations and judgments made in determining the proposed Council Tax base.

5. **Next steps**

- Cabinet agreed Council Tax base – 18 December 2018
- The Council Tax base will form part of the budget discussions at Full Council
- Agree the level of Council Tax for 2019/20.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

It is recommended that the 2019/20 Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town council areas be approved by Cabinet and forms part of the budget process as follows:

Whole of Kirklees	118,708.56
Denby Dale	5,771.84
Holme Valley	9,998.83
Kirkburton	8,910.47
Meltham	2,820.42
Mirfield	6,617.91

These figures are based on the current CTR scheme. If there are any member alterations to the tax base figures then continued delegated powers be given to the Service Director, Finance, IT and Transactional Services to adjust the tax base to reflect any changes made.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

1) That the Council Taxbase 2019/2020 for Kirklees, and the five Parish and Town Council areas, be approved as follows;

- Whole of Kirklees	£118,708.56
- Denby Dale	£5,771.84
- Holme Valley	£9,998.83
- Kirkburton	£8,910.47
- Meltham	£2,820.42
- Mirfield	£6,617.91

2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Finance) to adjust the taxbase to reflect any changes that may be agreed by Members, and to recalculate the taxbase pursuant to Section 3 1B(1) and S67(1) and (2A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

8. **Contact officer**

Steve Bird – Head of Welfare and Exchequer Services

Mark Stanley – Senior Manager Welfare and Exchequer Services

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

N/A

10. **Service Director responsible**

Eamonn Croston – Service Director, Finance, IT and Transactional Services.

Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Council Tax Base Calculation for whole of Kirklees 2019/2020

APPENDIX A

2019/2020
Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	111	0	111	9.00	23.94	0.00	78.06	5	43.37
A	85,124	3,470	81,654	9,828.75	18,414.13	390.00	53,797.50	6	35,865.00
B	34,705	782	33,923	2,930.75	3,362.19	133.00	27,762.56	7	21,593.10
C	31,653	676	30,977	2,059.00	1,722.56	66.00	27,260.93	8	24,231.94
D	16,686	357	16,329	885.50	526.84	24.00	14,940.66	9	14,940.66
E	11,579	105	11,474	469.50	207.75	17.00	10,813.75	11	13,216.81
F	5,167	40	5,127	207.25	51.89	16.00	4,883.86	13	7,054.46
G	2,127	19	2,108	84.75	20.83	4.00	2,006.42	15	3,344.03
H	112	4	108	9.25	0.00	0.00	98.75	18	197.50
	187,264	5,453	181,811	16,483.75	24,330.13	650.00	141,642.50		120,486.87
							Less : collective adjustment	1.47594%	1,778.31
							Council Tax Base for KMC - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		118,708.56

**Council Tax Base Calculation for area of Denby Dale Parish
Council 2019/2020**

2019/2020
Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	5	0	5	0.25	0.55	0.00	4.20	5	2.33
A	1,927	36	1,891	217.50	426.35	2.00	1,249.15	6	832.77
B	1,242	16	1,226	114.50	77.85	8.00	1,041.65	7	810.17
C	1,194	13	1,181	87.00	39.88	4.00	1,058.12	8	940.55
D	1,402	14	1,388	74.50	12.20	0.00	1,301.30	9	1,301.30
E	956	5	951	34.00	4.81	2.00	914.19	11	1,117.34
F	406	3	403	19.00	1.20	2.00	384.80	13	555.82
G	171	1	170	6.00	0.48	0.00	163.52	15	272.53
H	13	0	13	0.25	0.00	0.00	12.75	18	25.50
	7,316	88	7,228	553.00	563.32	18.00	6,129.68		5,858.31
							Less : collective adjustment	1.47594%	86.47
							Council Tax Base for Denby Dale Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		5,771.84

Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	5	0	5	0.50	0.82	0.00	3.68	5	2.04
A	2,709	41	2,668	331.25	630.35	23.00	1,729.40	6	1,152.93
B	2,161	31	2,130	203.75	115.09	16.00	1,827.16	7	1,421.12
C	2,649	30	2,619	201.25	58.97	9.00	2,367.78	8	2,104.69
D	1,658	17	1,641	99.00	18.03	2.00	1,525.97	9	1,525.97
E	1,686	15	1,671	71.75	7.11	3.00	1,595.14	11	1,949.62
F	939	4	935	34.50	1.78	1.00	899.72	13	1,299.60
G	415	1	414	14.00	0.71	1.00	400.29	15	667.15
H	14	1	13	0.25	0.00	0.00	12.75	18	25.50
	12,236	140	12,096	956.25	832.86	55.00	10,361.89		10,148.62
							Less : collective adjustment	1.47594%	149.79
							Council Tax Base for Holme Valley Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		9,998.83

Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	3	0	3	0.25	0.69	0.00	2.06	5	1.14
A	2,326	144	2,182	265.50	532.23	13.00	1,397.27	6	931.51
B	1,999	25	1,974	197.00	97.18	9.00	1,688.82	7	1,313.53
C	2,486	22	2,464	163.50	49.79	7.00	2,257.71	8	2,006.85
D	1,761	109	1,652	88.75	15.23	4.00	1,552.02	9	1,552.02
E	1,377	4	1,373	54.50	6.00	0.00	1,312.50	11	1,604.17
F	735	4	731	23.75	1.50	2.00	707.75	13	1,022.31
G	362	3	359	10.75	0.60	0.00	347.65	15	579.42
H	17	0	17	0.50	0.00	0.00	16.50	18	33.00
	11,066	311	10,755	804.50	703.22	35.00	9,282.28		9,043.95

Less : collective adjustment 1.47594% 133.48

Council Tax Base for Kirkburton Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent **8,910.47**

Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	1	0	1	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.67	5	0.37
A	1,248	21	1,227	152.75	251.59	8.00	830.66	6	553.77
B	532	6	526	49.75	45.94	1.00	431.31	7	335.46
C	965	5	960	68.25	23.54	3.00	870.70	8	773.96
D	415	2	413	20.25	7.20	1.00	386.55	9	386.55
E	430	3	427	17.00	2.84	0.00	407.16	11	497.64
F	156	0	156	6.25	0.71	1.00	150.04	13	216.72
G	56	0	56	1.00	0.28	0.00	54.72	15	91.20
H	4	0	4	0.50	0.00	0.00	3.50	18	7.00
	3,807	37	3,770	315.75	332.43	14.00	3,135.31		2,862.67
							Less : collective adjustment	1.47594%	42.25
							Council Tax Base for Meltham Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		2,820.42

Less :
collective
adjustment

Tax Band	Number of Properties	Number of Exempt Properties	Number of Taxable Properties	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% extra charge	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties	Fixed Ratio (9ths)	Band 'D' Equivalent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A Disabled	3	0	3	0.25	0.84	0.00	1.91	5	1.06
A	2,555	53	2,502	331.50	644.44	14.00	1,539.68	6	1,026.46
B	1,468	17	1,451	147.50	117.67	4.00	1,189.83	7	925.42
C	2,579	28	2,551	176.50	60.28	2.00	2,316.22	8	2,058.86
D	1,127	9	1,118	61.50	18.44	2.00	1,040.06	9	1,040.06
E	788	6	782	36.25	7.27	0.00	738.48	11	902.59
F	359	0	359	11.50	1.82	0.00	345.68	13	499.32
G	152	0	152	5.00	0.73	0.00	146.27	15	243.78
H	13	2	11	1.25	0.00	0.00	9.75	18	19.50
	9,044	115	8,929	771.25	851.49	22.00	7,327.88		6,717.05
							Less : collective adjustment	1.47594%	99.14
							Council Tax Base for Mirfield Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		6,617.91

Name of meeting: Council (Reference from Cabinet)
Date: 16 January 2019
Title of report: Healthy Weight Declaration

Purpose of report

To ask Council to support a Local Government (and Partners) ‘Healthy Weight Declaration’ for Kirklees (see draft Healthy Weight Declaration attached) endorse the approach, and sign off the Council’s commitment to the ‘Healthy Weight Declaration’

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Richard Parry 3.1.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Yes Eamonn Croston 4.1.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Yes Julie Muscroft 3.1.19
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Musarrat Khan

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not Applicable

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

As part of a whole-system approach to tackling Obesity in Kirklees, Public Health would like to implement a Local Government (and Partners) 'Healthy Weight Declaration' for Kirklees **(see draft Healthy Weight Declaration attached)** and seeks cabinets input and agreement to do that.

2. Information required to take a decision

Background:

In Kirklees:

- 1 in 5 (22%) 5-year olds and 1 in 3 (36%) 11-year olds in Kirklees were overweight or obese in 2016/17.
- Children aged 5 from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well off counterparts. By age 11 this likelihood triples.
- Over half of all adults (56%) were overweight or obese in 2016.
- The number of obese adults is increasing.
- 3 in 5 people with a long term condition are overweight/obese.
- Severely obese people are three times more likely to use social care.

Kirklees Public Health plans to develop and implement a local 'Healthy Weight Declaration' as part of a whole-system approach to tackling obesity.

The Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD) is a way of showing commitment to a collaborative whole-system, policy-based approach to tackling obesity, with a specific focus on policies that can impact on whole populations.

By signing up to the Declaration, the Council and its partners make a formal and public commitment to support its employees, residents and communities by making healthy choices easier.

The Declaration provides the context and rationale for the Council and its partners to review their policies and how they may impact on healthy weight.

The proposal for a Kirklees Healthy Weight Declaration is informed by emerging evidence of successful approaches in other areas such as Blackpool (see appendix below for a link) and St. Helens.

Between 2012 and 2015, Amsterdam's whole system approach reduced the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children (0-18 years) from 21% to 18.5%.

Public Health England endorse adopting a Healthy Weight Declaration by Local Authorities as part of an evidence-based approach to reducing obesity.

Options:

Cabinet can support the recommendations as set out in Sections 6 and 7.

Alternatively, cabinet could choose not to support the healthy weight declaration.

Cost Breakdown:

The HWD does not require additional finance to implement as it is predominantly about influencing and developing existing or new policies and actions within existing resources.

The publicity around the Council's commitment to the HWD will need communication support and resource.

The HWD is an ongoing policy that needs to be sustained over the long-term in order to maximise its impact and success.

Expected impact/ outcomes, benefits & risks:

As part of a whole-system approach, the HWD will contribute towards increasing the number of people in the Kirklees population to be a Healthy Weight and reduce obesity levels.

By endorsing a 'whole system' approach to tackling obesity, the Declaration will impact on wider health and social issues, not just reducing obesity.

Preventing and reducing obesity as part of a whole-system approach will contribute to significant financial savings both to the Council and the wider system (obesity is estimated to cost £27 billion to UK society). It also contributes to achieving the seven Kirklees outcomes and a range of other priority agendas including air quality, green/open spaces, walking and cycling, by increasing physical activity levels.

Risks:

To be effective, a Healthy Weight Declaration needs political and senior level endorsement and buy-in (ideally from the Council's Chief Executive and Council Leader as champions).

It will need sustained senior leaders buy-in from partner organisations (for example, endorsed and owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board), which the PH team will facilitate.

The PH team is engaging with senior level leaders, politicians and partner organisations to acquire buy-in. The HWD is due to be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board on the 31st January. A launch event, with partners, is planned for March.

Evaluation:

The PH team is working with Public Health England and an organisation called *Food Active* to develop and implement the HWD. *Food Active* have developed and provided an Evaluation Tool in order to help the Council and its partners evaluate the impact of the HWD over the short, mid and long term.

Sustainability:

As highlighted previously, evidence suggests (Amsterdam whole-system approach) that to be effective, whole system approaches to tackling obesity need sustained senior level leadership and organisational buy-in over a period of time.

As the HWD does not require additional finance to implement, as it is predominantly about influencing and developing existing or new policies and actions within existing resources, it is a sustainable approach.

Services and agencies involved:

It will then require coordination of cross-sector and cross-departmental actions including political engagement, all council departments, schools, healthcare settings, communities, neighbourhoods and third and voluntary sector organisations. The PH team will provide this.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

HWD demonstrates a commitment to developing and implementing policies and actions that are aligned with place-based approaches, 'working with, not doing to' and working with partners, to create healthy (social and physical) environments.

3.2 Working with Partners

As per 3.1. Also, as highlighted throughout this report, the HWD is a collaborative approach that is signed up to and owned by both the Council and its partners.

3.3 Place Based Working

As per 3.1.

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

As a whole system-approach to tackling obesity, the HWD aims to enable more children and young people in Kirklees be a healthy weight and reduce childhood obesity levels. This will contribute to giving every child the Best Start in life. The Declaration sets out a number of, policy-based, commitments (**see draft Healthy Weight Declaration attached**) that the council and its partners commit to. A number of these commitments are specifically in relation to children (e.g. supporting breast feeding friendly policies).

3.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

There are no identified impacts at this stage.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Cabinet Member responsible for public health has been consulted with in the development of the HWD and supports the approach and has provided feedback that will be used to shape the further development and implementation of the approach.

Kirklees's Director of Public Health supports the implementation of the HWD.

5. Next steps and timelines

Meeting	Meeting date
Cabinet	14 January 2019
Council	16 January 2019
Health & Wellbeing Board	31 January 2019
HWD launch (with partners) event	March 2019

After strategic and partner buy-in at launch event in March, an action plan will be co-produced with partners. Agreed actions will have clear timescales.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That it be noted that the report will have been considered by Cabinet on 16 January 2019, with a recommendation that:

- Cabinet support the development and implementation of the Healthy Weight Declaration, including the timeline set out in section 5 above and it be referred to the meeting of Council on 16 January 2019.
- Cabinet commits to championing the Healthy Weight Declaration.
- Authority be delegated to the Director for Public health be delegated to finalise the Declaration in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder taking into account feedback from consultees in time for the proposed launch of the Declaration in March 2019.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

It's important as a Council we do everything we can to support our residents to better health and to stay healthy for as long as possible. The declaration states a firm commitment to promote and support healthy weight across all our departments and with our partners and I support the recommendations.

8. Contact officer

Carl Mackie/Alison Millbourn

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

None

10. Service Director responsible

Rachel Spencer-Henshall

Appendix: Draft Healthy Weight Declaration

Link to Food Active Blackpool example:

<http://www.foodactive.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Food-Active-Blackpool-Report.pdf>

Link to whole systems approach in Amsterdam:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/obesity-policy-research-unit/sites/obesity-policy-research-unit/files/what-learned-from-amsterdam-healthy-weight-programme-inform-policy-response-obesity-england.pdf>

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT



THIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT
IS A STATEMENT, INDIVIDUALLY OWNED
BY KIRKLEES COUNCIL AUTHORITY AND
ITS PARTNERS.

It encapsulates a vision to promote healthy weight and improve the health and well-being of the local population. We recognise that we need to exercise our responsibility in developing and implementing policies which promote healthy weight.



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- Unhealthy weight is a serious public health problem that increases disability, disease and death and has substantial long term economic, well-being and social costs. The proportion of the population affected by unhealthy weight continues to rise;
- Unhealthy weight is affected by health inequalities and is more common in lower socio-economic groups;
- Poor diet during early life (the period between conception and weaning) can carry adverse health consequences in later life;
- Poor diet and an unhealthy weight are risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes which contribute powerfully to poor health and premature death;
- Energy dense food and drinks high in fat and sugar and low in essential nutrients contribute to a significant amount of additional and unnecessary calories in the diet;
- There is greater availability and access to foods and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt which are increasingly eaten outside of the home, contributing to excess energy intake;
- Increased intake of foods high in fat and sugar and low in fruit and vegetables are strongly linked to those in manual occupations;
- People living in more socially deprived areas have less access to healthy foods;
- Advertising and marketing of foods and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt increases their consumption;
- Education, information and the increased availability of healthy alternatives help individuals to make healthy, informed food and drink choices;
- Modern physical activity environments contribute to sedentary lifestyles;
- Urban planning can have a significant impact on opportunities for physical activity, promoting safer environments for walking, cycling and recreation.

AS LOCAL LEADERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH WE WELCOME THE:

- Opportunity for local government to lead local action to prevent obesity, securing the health and well-being of our residents whilst considering available social, environmental and financial NHS and social care resources;
- Opportunity to protect some of the most vulnerable in society by giving children the best start in life and enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and make informed choices;
- National commitment to address childhood obesity;
- Support for the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight from the following organisations: Association of Directors of Public Health North West, British Dental Association, Children's Food Campaign and the UK Health Forum.

WE COMMIT OUR COUNCIL AND OUR PARTNERS FROM THIS DATE

00.00.0000

The Kirklees Healthy Weight Declaration is underpinned by improving the quality of a place. Through the following commitments we will maximise the potential of the physical and social environment and support sustainable health and wellbeing and a high quality of life:

- Engage with the local food and drink sector where appropriate to consider responsible retailing, offering and promoting healthier food and drink options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt products;
- Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities;
- Review provision in all our public buildings, facilities and 'via' providers to make healthy foods and drinks more available, convenient and affordable and limit access to high-calorie, low nutrient foods and drinks;
- Increase public access to free fresh drinking water on local authority controlled sites and within the commercial retail sector;
- Consider supplementary guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited;
- Advocate plans with our partners including the NHS and all agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthy Cities, academic institutions and local communities to address the causes and impacts of obesity;
- Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools; 'giveaways' and promotions within schools, and at events on local authority controlled sites;
- Support action at national level to help local authorities reduce obesity prevalence and health inequalities in our communities;
- Ensure food and drinks provided at public events include healthy provisions, supporting food retailers to deliver this offer;
- Support the health and well-being of local authority staff and increase knowledge and understanding of unhealthy weight to create a culture and ethos that normalises healthy weight;
- Invest in increasing knowledge and skills around healthy eating and physical activity for people living in Kirklees, to ensure they make informed healthier lifestyle choices.
- Ensure clear and comprehensive healthy eating and physical activity messages are consistent with government guidelines;
- Consider how strategies, plans and infrastructures for regeneration and town planning positively impact on physical activity;
- Monitor the progress of our plan against our commitments and publish the results.

IN ADDITION OUR LOCAL AUTHORITY AND OUR PARTNERS WILL WORK TOWARDS:.....

- Creating supportive environments in communities for breastfeeding including normalising and removing stigma by working with businesses, community organisations and stakeholders to ensure they are breast feeding friendly places.
- Promoting the benefits of responding positively to baby feeding cues from breast or bottle and ensure adequate support/information is available for introducing solid foods.
- Creating supportive environments in schools and Early Years settings through physical activity provision and healthy food policy.
- Increasing and promote physical activity provision throughout Kirklees to ensure sustainable opportunities are available and accessible for all.
- Promoting walking and cycling across Kirklees to increase physical activity, for social and employment opportunities and minimise air pollution.
- Raising public awareness of leading a healthy lifestyle and the importance of being a healthy weight across the life course.
- Supporting workplaces to promote and support the importance of staff being a healthy weight, eating well and partaking in physical activity.
- Reducing food poverty and tackle malnutrition in all settings through working with community organisations and stakeholders. To improve the approaches to identifying

Signatories:

To be reviewed by...

Parental Leave Policy

Introduction

This Policy sets out Members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and relevant allowances.

The objective of the policy is to ensure that insofar as possible Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption, that both parents are able to take leave, and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for portfolio-holders and others in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

There is at present no legal right to parental leave of any kind for people in elected public office. This applies to MPs as well as councillors, and has been the subject of lengthy debate. These policies can therefore only currently be implemented on a voluntary basis. Discussions are ongoing about changing the law to enable compulsory provision.

Legal advice has been taken on these policies, and they conform with current requirements.

1. Leave Periods

1.1 Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from the due date, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.

1.2 In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 6 months' period. In such cases any leave taken to cover prematurity of 28 days or less shall be deducted from any extension beyond the initial 6 months.

1.3 In exceptional circumstances, and only in cases of prematurity of 29 days or more, additional leave may be taken by agreement, and such exceptional leave shall not be deducted from the total 52 week entitlement.

1.4 Members shall be entitled to take a minimum of 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).

1.5 A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible

opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from Council.

1.6 Where both parents are Members leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first six months and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.

1.7 A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months adoption leave from the date of placement, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.

1.8 Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six month period.

1.9 Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.

1.10 Any member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

2. Basic Allowance

2.1 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

3.1 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.

3.2 Where a replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall receive an SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.

3.3 The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months, or until the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the date when the member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six month period.

3.4 Should a Member appointed to replace the member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.

3.5 Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual General Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

4. Resigning from Office and Elections

4.1 If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

4.2 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

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Home Office

Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and
Vulnerability

2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Councillor Shabir Pandor
Kirklees Council, Leadership and Cabinet Office
Civic Centre III, High Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2TG

HOCS Reference: MIN/0017733/18

Dear Mr Pandor,

21 DEC 2018

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 November about child sexual exploitation and in which you ask for an Inquiry to be established in accordance with the Inquiries Act 2005. I am replying as Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation are despicable crimes and the Government is committed to keeping children and young people safe from all forms of abuse. We are clear that if child abuse of any kind takes place it must be thoroughly and properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

As you are aware, the Government established the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in 2015 with wide-ranging terms of reference to consider the extent to which institutions in England and Wales have failed in their duty to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The Inquiry operates independently of the Government and, within its terms of reference, decides for itself what it investigates and how. It has already announced a specific investigation into institutional responses to the sexual exploitation of children by organised networks, of the kind that has taken place in Kirklees. Further information can be found at: www.iicsa.org.uk/investigations/child-sexual-exploitation-by-groups-and-gangs. I agree that these cases are a matter of national concern and, as is appropriate, we will look to the Inquiry to consider what has gone wrong and what can be learned on a national level.

The Inquiry is also running a Truth Project which will enable victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to share their experiences anonymously, in a supportive and confidential setting. The information supplied will be considered by the Chair and Panel members when reaching their conclusions and making recommendations for the future. Further information on the work of the Inquiry can be found at: www.iicsa.org.uk.

I note from your letter that Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board has already commissioned an independent review into child sexual exploitation locally, with the outcomes being made public in due course, and welcome the Council's commitment to cooperate and to act on the lessons from this review.

Received
Page 55
28/12/18.

In terms of what the Government is doing to tackle child sexual exploitation, in February 2017 we published the 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: Progress Report'. This detailed delivery of the ambitious programme of work set out in the 2015 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation' report and signalled a step change in our national response to sexual exploitation and violence against children and young people. The full report can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation-progress-report.

We prioritised child sexual abuse as a national threat to empower police forces to maximise their skills and expertise to tackle these crimes, one of only six such threats that require prioritisation by the police. We strengthened law enforcement capacity and capability and have provided significant extra investment through the Police Transformation Fund to transform policing to respond to changing crimes and threats, including crimes against vulnerable children such as child sexual abuse.

I would like to thank you for writing on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Atkins', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Victoria Atkins MP



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Ms Andrea Woodside
Kirklees Council
The Democracy Service
Civic Centre 3, Huddersfield
HD1 2TG

Reference: TRO/0017645/18

Dear Ms Woodside,

Thank you for letter of 23.11.2018 and for your engagement, and that of Kirklees Council, with this vital area.

Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery remains a top priority for this Government and we are committed to stamping out this abhorrent crime. This Government is determined to end this injustice and eliminate this exploitation in our communities and in the global economy.

As you will be aware, the UK is the first country in the world to require large businesses to report on the steps they are taking to eliminate slavery from their supply chains. This landmark legislation has helped to focus businesses and board rooms on the challenge of tackling modern slavery more than ever before, but the Government recognizes that more needs to be done and has commissioned an Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act to consider the effectiveness and potential for improvement of provisions in the Act, including Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains requirements). The Independent Review is due to submit its report at the end of March 2019.

It is right that government should be subject to the same transparency requirements as businesses. In November last year, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will voluntarily publish a Transparency in Supply Chains statement setting out the steps we are taking to identify and prevent modern slavery in central government supply chains.

Meanwhile, the number of police operations and convictions for slavery and trafficking offences continues to rise. In December 2015 there were 188 police operations; today there are more than 1000 live operations. This increased activity has been supported by an £8.5m grant made by the Home Office in 2016 to improve police training and operational coordination.

The NCA has also recognised modern slavery as a key priority for law enforcement nationally, coordinating a series of multi-agency intensifications under “Project AIDANT” to target key thematic threats across the UK, aligned with coordinated activity across Europe. In the context of Brexit, the UK will continue our work with European partners to eradicate modern slavery no matter what shape our relationship with the EU takes.

You call for long-term support for victims of modern slavery. As part of a package of reforms to the support provided through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), we are trebling the period of ‘move-on’ support for confirmed victims from 14 days to 45 days. This is in addition to the minimum 45 day period of support. During this extended period, victims will be supported safely and securely to move into their future community, either in the UK or overseas. To facilitate the process of confirmed victims transitioning into communities from the NRM, the Home Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are working with six local authorities to identify best practice for transitioning into communities and accessing local services; and as part of the new victim care contract, from April 2020, the Home Office will be introducing drop-in support, which victims will be able to access for up to six months providing weekly signposting and advocacy.

The Government has listened to the concerns that victim entitlements in England and Wales are not currently set out in domestic law. In October 2017, Ministers announced that they will exercise powers under Section 50 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to set out victim entitlements in regulation and statutory guidance under Section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act.

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) are a source of specialist support for trafficked children. They are an independent source of advice and support for trafficked children who can advocate on their behalf.

We have also invested an additional £2m to expand a revised Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTA) model of provision into West Midlands, East Midlands and Croydon. This will mean, by April 2019, one third of all local authorities in England and Wales will have an ICTA service.

You will also be aware that the UK has introduced protections for Overseas Domestic Workers, removing the condition which tied a worker to a specific employer by allowing them to switch to a different employer within the 6 month validity of their visa. This provision was also extended to domestic workers employed in diplomatic households. We have also increased the period of leave which can be granted to an Overseas Domestic Worker found to be a victim of modern slavery from six months to two years. This is in addition to existing provisions for Discretionary Leave which are available to all victims of modern slavery.

I hope that the above provides insight into the Government’s strategy that will be useful for the council’s approach. The Government very much welcomes the engagement of local councils on modern slavery issues, including considering their own procurement and taking steps to protect against modern slavery risks. We will shortly be publishing detailed guidance to support organisations in producing statements, and you are welcome to [sign up to our contact database](#) to receive modern slavery reporting guidance and resources to

help you scrutinize your procurement processes. I hope these resources support the actions you are planning to take with your corporate procurement team, contractors and grievance process.

Kind regards,



Katherine Lewthwaite

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

