

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 16 July 2025

AGENDA ITEM 13 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “In January 2024 at a public meeting in Flockton the Service Director for Highways and Streetscene, when responding to public concerns about a range of issues, agreed to undertake a road safety audit of the entire length of Barnsley Rd in Flockton. Why am I still waiting for this audit to be undertaken and what would the Cabinet Member like to say to the residents of Flockton who are still waiting for the outcome of that audit?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> I understand and share Cllr Taylor’s and Flockton residents’ concerns about road safety on Barnsley Road. While the road and footpaths are narrow and difficult to improve without significant disruption or cost, the current safety record is three recorded injury collisions, two slight and one serious. This is similar to other A-roads of this type. While the overall safety record is considered relatively positive, I’ve asked officers to review the latest data to determine if the situation has changed. We are actively pursuing enforcement measures against illegal HGV use, including applying to the DfT for local enforcement powers. We’re also aware of speeding concerns but are limited in our ability to act, as the 20mph limit does not meet current criteria for camera enforcement. Importantly, Officers have informed me that Cllr Taylor has identified a possible funding source for an independent safety study. I’ve asked officers to follow this up with him to develop a project brief.
2	Question from Councillor Safdar to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “How much money did the Council save by ceasing operation of the rubble skips at the household waste and recycling centres in Kirklees?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The decision to cease the operation of the rubble skips at HWRCs was taken in 2015/16, at a point where the Council spent approximately £223,000 per year in disposal costs for this material. If you multiply this figure by the 9 years since this would provide a saving of £2,007,000. Allowing for inflation that is applied to the disposal contract each year, this figure would have been £2,245,795.

	However, I am -pleased to confirm that our new booking system for residents to dispose of Soil & Rubble at our Household Waste Sites, including Plasterboard and Asbestos, has been live for several weeks and is doing well. This is allowing those who are undertaking some small DIY projects to be able to get rid of their waste responsibly and free.
3	Question Withdrawn
4	Question Withdrawn
5	Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “When is the Council going to implement flood alleviation measures in Fenay Beck?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank Cllr Munro for taking up the offer and completing training alongside officers for ‘Mental Health First Aid’, part of the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Project on flood risk and mental health that Kirklees Council’s Flood Management and Drainage department are leading on. We fully understand any Councillors concern about investment in their area, especially in an around direct flooding from enmained watercourses. Fenay Beck, being enmained, is under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency. A meeting has already been held with Cllr Munro and Cllr Longstaff, chaired by Paul Farndale (Kirklees Flood Management) with Jon Follows (EA Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor) present to answer questions. Whilst we recognise it may be disappointing that a specific area within the district is not directly targeted for investment regarding main river flooding, we welcome the recent £1.5 million feasibility study award via Grant in Aid Funding obtained by the Environment Agency to focus on Mirfield and the river Calder, the most frequently flooded area in the district. In addition, Klrklees Flood Management has obtained Local Levy funded grants to look at feasibility studies for Natural Flood Management opportunities across the whole district. Such measures aim to slow the flow in the uplands before water enters our river network. Finally, we also spoke with Cllr Munro over her concerns regarding new development in her ward and effects on watercourses. There is an open invite to further discuss specific site upon her return from annual leave.
6	Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock “Why can’t the Council do more to support litter picking groups instead of expecting volunteer members to not only dedicate their free time in removing other people’s litter from our public spaces but also now placing the burden on volunteers of such groups to dispose of some of the litter themselves and also adhere to an ever increasing set of onerous rules?”

	<u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The Council deeply values the hard work and commitment of our litter picking groups. Through our litter picking scheme we have supported over 250 litter picks and collected over 9,000 bags of litter, including working alongside volunteers to collect almost 3 tonnes of litter during the Great British Spring Clean alone. Additionally, we are supporting Keep Britain Tidy's interventions in the Heckmondwike ward as part of their national trial to understand how we can do more to support our volunteer groups. However, there are several reasons why we must operate within certain constraints and rules. Firstly, the Council has legal obligations and responsibilities that must be met. The increasing volume of waste collected by volunteer groups, while greatly appreciated, can sometimes make it challenging for our waste collection teams to fulfil their statutory duties. By implementing measures such as the use of coloured bags to distinguish between our volunteer collections and fly tipped waste, advance notice of events to schedule collection resources, and a bag limit to manage capacity, we aim to manage our resources efficiently and sustainably, ensuring that we can continue to support efforts without compromising our legal responsibilities. Moreover, certain types of waste, such as fly tipping, need to be handled by enforcement teams as they often contain evidence required to investigate and prosecute offenders. Volunteers moving this waste could inadvertently interfere with investigations and cause delays in proper clearance. Additionally, litter picking must be confined to public land. Entering private land or waterways without permission can lead to legal consequences, and it is the responsibility of the landowner to manage these areas. We understand that these rules may seem onerous, but they are designed to ensure safety, efficiency, and compliance with legal requirements. The Council is committed to continue supporting volunteer groups by implementing the above measures. By working together within these guidelines, we can continue to make a positive impact on our community, ensuring that our public spaces remain clean and welcoming for everyone. We'd like to thank volunteers again for their incredible support and understanding.
7	Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor A U Pinnock "Analysis by the National Police Chief's Council recently has revealed that 2 million women a year are estimated to be victims of male violence, with crimes, including stalking, harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence affecting one in 12 women in England and Wales. I believe that we are experiencing an epidemic of violence against women and girls. What is the Council doing locally to tackle this issue in Kirklees?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Violence against Women and Girls including Domestic abuse is a serious problem on a national, regional and local scale. In Kirklees we adopt a whole system

	approach in collaboration with our partners and communities to address the impact of this on individuals, families and communities. We work closely with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Violence Reduction Partnership to tackle Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) regionally and locally. In Kirklees we work with statutory and specialist partners to understand our local context and to protect, manage risk, develop preventative approaches, and coordinate funding and responses to VAWG. Kirklees Domestic Abuse strategy sets out our shared vision and the partnership approach we adopt. We have a number of multi-agency forums in place, such as the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Vulnerable Adult Meetings to review and manage high risk situations to work together to safeguard victims and hold perpetrators accountable, with a view to supporting behaviour change where possible. Children's Social Care plays a critical part in protecting and safeguarding children. The Duty and Advice team provide the first point of contact for professionals concerned about a child's safety. Children's Social care works closely with police and schools to respond quickly when domestic abuse is reported. Kirklees have commissioned a five-year contract with Kirklees Domestic Abuse Specialist Services (KDASS) to ensure there is robust support for the potential multiple and complex needs of victims, including children as victims, of VAWG offences. This includes, but is not limited to, immediate support and safety planning, support with accommodation, support in respect of legal orders and the Court process, wider holistic support and therapeutic interventions. Kirklees has a number of initiatives to increase the safety of women and girls across our town centres and the nighttime economy including Street Marshalls, Ask Angela scheme and the Night safety bus. Raising awareness in our communities of the impact of violence against women and girls is a critical part of our approach. To this end we have worked with our community champions and third sector partners, as well as through the day to day working of our community facing services. Kirklees Council is proudly a White Ribbon Accredited organization, promoting equality and raising awareness to end violence against women and girls. Kirklees is committed to tackling violence against women and girls in all its forms, and our partnership approach is how we can ensure the strongest local response to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.
8	Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins "As you know parking has long been a problem in Kirkburton village and enforcement is clearly part of the solution. The presence of an enforcement officer on a regular basis will not only catch those breaking regulations but also act as a deterrent. Please can you tell me how often parking enforcement have attended Kirkburton in the last six months and what the outcome of those visits were?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> In the last 6 months, key areas in Kirkburton have been visited by CEOs a total 24 times. Key areas for enforcement include 90-minute limited waiting restrictions, single yellow lines, double yellow lines and permit parking areas.

	12 penalty charge notices (PCNs) were issued in that period to drivers not abiding by the regulations in place.
9	Question from Councillor Vickers to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “Do you share my concern, and the concern of the local residents, that the infrastructure around Crosland Moor is not robust enough for the addition of 700 houses on the old Blackcat Fireworks site?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The Blackcat site was allocated in the Local Plan that was adopted in 2019 as a housing site and has outline permission for 700 much needed homes. The site has undergone a comprehensive assessment as part of the process of the planning process, which has considered in detail the impacts on local infrastructure. The planning permission is accompanied by a S106 legal agreement which secures financial contributions towards education, highway improvements and sustainable transport measures. The former Blackcat site will be a sustainable development on a part brownfield site, which will include a mix of market and affordable homes, older people’s accommodation, local community and shopping uses on site.
10	Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “What is the current view of Kirklees on the search for a new stadium for Huddersfield Giants?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Kirklees Council acknowledges the significance of professional sport to the district and the ambitions of the Huddersfield Giants. However, the identification and delivery of a new stadium is, in the first instance, a matter for the club and its ownership. While we remain open to constructive dialogue with the club and relevant stakeholders, any proposals would need to be brought forward through the appropriate channels.
11	Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook “The new Kirklees Council tenancy agreements, which are due to come into effect in August, include a requirement for pets to be neutered unless there is a reasonable exemption. However, tenants have raised concerns that there is currently a lack of clarity about how to request such an exemption. Please could the Cabinet Member explain how tenants can go about requesting an exemption?”

	<u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The condition reads ‘<i>Where permission is given, this is on condition that pets are neutered and micro-chipped, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the council</i>’. This condition does come with the caveat ‘<i>unless otherwise agreed in writing by the council</i>’ as we understand that there can be circumstances where a pet is unable to be neutered. Requests for permission can be made in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
12	Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “Given the persistent issues with fly-tipping in our area – particularly of bulky household waste – why is it so difficult for residents to dispose of their waste responsibly if they don’t own the “right” type of vehicle?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> I’m not aware of any type of waste that residents in Kirklees cannot dispose of responsibly—whether through their household bins, our bulky waste collection service, or by visiting one of our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Given this, I fully understand the frustration caused by those who still choose to fly-tip. There is simply no justifiable reason for it. At our HWRCs, we allow cars, estates, 4x4s, and most people carriers without restriction. We also permit vans up to 3 tonnes and single-axle trailers, completely free of charge. For one-off needs, we support the use of borrowed or hired vehicles, and in the rare cases where a resident only has access to a restricted vehicle, we do everything we can to help. This may include arranging access to a larger site or coordinating a one-off visit with our contractor. In fact, only a very narrow category of vehicles is restricted - those of a commercial scale, such as vans over 3 tonnes, tippers, agricultural vehicles, and horse boxes. These restrictions are in place to (i) prevent commercial operators from disposing of trade waste at public expense (ii) protect public safety on sites not designed for large vehicles and (iii) maintain operational efficiency by avoiding long queues and skip closures caused by high-volume unloading. These policies are not about making life difficult. They are about keeping the service safe, fair, affordable, and accessible for everyone. That said, it’s only right that we keep these policies under review and respond to emerging issues. If the councillor has any specific examples they’d like to share, I’d be more than happy to review the circumstances and consider whether any changes are needed.
13	Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “Recent works have been carried out at the bottom of Gynn Lane in Honley. However, I have received several enquiries from local residents asking why

	similar consideration has not been given to Station Road, which is widely regarded as a more dangerous junction. Will the Council assess the junction at Station Road with a view to identifying any improvements that could be made to enhance safety at this location?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The Gynn Lane scheme was chosen over Station Road after analysis showed it had a higher number of reported serious collisions (two vs. one) and a clear pattern of incidents, unlike Station Road. The scheme was part of the Council's Casualty Prevention Programme, aiming to reduce road injuries. It addressed serious collisions involving right turns off the A616 by adding central turn lanes and traffic islands to prevent overtaking and protect turning vehicles. Changes at the wide Gynn Lane junction were also needed to improve safety and control vehicle movements.
14	Question from Councillor Sheard to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison "On 29 May 2025 , I sent a detailed email to you and others, including Tracy Brabin and Kim Leadbeater, outlining the serious environmental, logistical, and community impacts of the closure of the Nab Lane Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Birstall. This letter included data from DEFRA showing a 21.7% rise in fly-tipping incidents, highlighted equity concerns for residents with limited transport, and proposed a cost-sharing reopening model involving Kirklees, Leeds City Council, and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. To date, I have received no acknowledgement or response. Can the Leader explain why this correspondence was ignored, and whether the Council will now formally consider the proposal to explore regional cooperation to reopen the Nab Lane site?" <u>Leader's Response</u> The correspondence was not ignored. You sent this to multiple addresses and in order for you to receive a coherent response officers from both the council, West Yorkshire Combined authority and the MP for Spen Valley, co-ordinated a response and I believe that a response was sent from the Mayoral Office on the 8th July at 9:32. You also received a holding reply very swiftly from Kim Leadbeater. There have been many discussions over many years, including recently, about how it may be possible to deal with waste on a regional basis. An agreement has never been reached on how this could be achieved.
15	Question from Councillor Darwan to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison "Following the government's recent pledge of a £900 million investment into major sporting events and grassroots facilities across the UK the government announced plans for a new School Sport Partnerships and Enrichment Framework for schools to ensure all young people have equal access to high-quality sport and extracurricular activity. Does the Council plan to pursue this funding and if so, what plans are in place to ensure Dewsbury will be included and prioritised?"

	<u>Leader's Response</u> We welcome the Government's recent announcements and the value they are placing on sport and physical activity, recognising their impact on the nation's health and ability to unite communities. We are especially pleased to see that there will be a particular focus on investment for removing barriers for under-represented groups such as women and girls, people with disabilities and ethnic minority communities. The £900 million investment will be split between more than £500 million to fund the delivery of world-class major sporting events hosted in the UK, including the UEFA EURO 2028, Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes Grand Départs 2027; and at least £400 million to invest in new and upgraded grassroots sport facilities in communities across the country. Specific plans for how local authorities can bid for investment in grassroots facilities are still being developed but once they have been published, we will of course be looking at them to see if we can bid or whether we need to support our local sporting organisations to bid if any of our grassroots facilities meet the criteria. The Sport England Place Partnership which has recently been established in Kirklees should mean that we are in a position to be able to make a strong case for investment as we already have a partnership in place involving the Public and Voluntary Sector which is collating data and collaborating together to develop plans. The Partnership is enabling us to have regular conversations with Sport England so that they are aware of our needs and priorities and where we would like to focus investment. This should place Kirklees in a strong position to bid and ensure we take strategic decisions about where the investment is most needed. We already know that Dewsbury, Batley and Heckmondwike are priority areas due to having the lowest levels of physical activity in Kirklees. We also welcome the Government's announcement re plans for a new School Sport Partnerships and Enrichment Framework for schools. This initiative aims to ensure that all young people have equal access to high-quality sport and extracurricular activities. The new framework will be introduced as part of the government's broader Plan for Change to be published in the Autumn and so presently we have little information about what will be expected of schools and how this will be funded. We do know that schools will be required to offer at least two hours of physical education per week and that a national network will be developed to build strong partnerships between schools, local clubs and National Governing Bodies. This network aims to identify and break down barriers to sport for less active children. The role of the council is likely to be to facilitate partnerships with local clubs and organisations to enhance the range of activities available to students and seek funding to enable this to happen. Once we know more, we will be able to plan and ensure we can respond to the Government's expectations.
16	Question from Councillor Hall to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities – Councillor Pinnock "How many cameras are deployed to catch fly-tippers, and how can a ward member get one sited?"

	<u>Cabinet Member Response</u> We currently have seven CCTV cameras in operation across the borough, deployed at locations where they can have the greatest impact. The Council uses a targeted, evidence-led approach to tackle fly-tipping, prioritising persistent hotspots, health and safety risks, and locations with credible reports or witness evidence. While the number of cameras is limited, councillors can request deployment in their wards. Decisions are guided by patterns of repeat offences, public safety concerns, and operational efficiency. We use both overt and covert re-deployable cameras, working closely with residents, contractors, and the police to ensure surveillance is used effectively and proportionately. Successfully deploying a camera is a time and resource intensive process. To increase our capacity, we are currently recruiting three additional Enforcement Officers. This will allow us to expand our surveillance capability from September onwards. We are already seeing notable success in the courts, including custodial sentences, which reinforces the value of this approach.
17	Question from Councillor Hall to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “How can a ward member get a speed limit changed?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> For a ward member to get a speed limit changed there would need to be evidence it was needed in accordance with the Department for Transport guidance “setting local speed limits”. Kirklees Council commissioned an external consultant to undertake a review of the speed limits across our road network which was completed in 2021. The safety team will review further speed limits on our roads should one of the key factors below has changed since 2021: • History of collisions (frequency, severity, types and causes). • Road geometry and engineering (width, sightlines, bends, junctions, accesses and safety barriers). • Road function (strategic, through traffic, local access etc.). • Composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users). • Existing traffic speeds; and • Road environment, including level of road-side development and possible impacts on residents (e.g., severance, noise, or air quality).
18	Question from Councillor Hall to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “What is the service backlog in clearing paths of vegetation?”

	<u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Our most recent compiled data in June, for our Greenspace Action Team, shows in the month of May we received 221 reports of overgrown vegetation, and our team completed 94 of these. We also received 48 requests for cutbacks on Public Rights of Way, and the team completed 20.
19	Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “I have serious concerns about road safety in my ward and around the Borough. Road markings, including on zebra crossings, are wearing away everywhere I look. I have been told that environmental regulations dictate that the type of paint traditionally used is no longer suitable, and that the currently approved paint is not as long-lasting as before. Will the Cabinet member please explain the current situation regarding the paint used for road markings and the frequency with which these markings are renewed?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> We use durable thermoplastic road markings and we're not aware of any changes affecting their longevity. Lining refreshes are planned annually by ward, prioritising safety-critical markings (e.g., stop/give-way lines), followed by other safety-related markings. Requests for urgent refreshes are added to either the ward's scheduled visit or handled through ad-hoc works if needed sooner. Zebra crossings are reviewed twice a year, with around 100 sites inspected and ranked for condition-based prioritisation.
20	Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “I am aware that this council faces financial pressures, and that some services which my residents have been accustomed to receiving are now regarded as non-essential. In particular, it seems to me that roadside and pathside vegetation is being left untreated, or is being left for much longer before being treated. I can accept, however reluctantly, that this may be necessary to some extent in some cases to reduce costs. What I cannot accept is that in many parts of my ward, from Grange Moor to Farnley Tyas and all points in between, road safety is being compromised as important traffic signs are being left obscured by rampant foliage. Will the Cabinet Member please explain why this council is content to see Triffid-like vegetation take over the Borough, even at the expense of the safety of residents?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Obviously, the Council is not content with the overgrowths we see. While ongoing financial pressures require us to prioritise services carefully, road safety remains a key concern. We take seriously the issue of overgrown vegetation obscuring signs, particularly in areas like Grange Moor and Farnley Tyas.

	Our teams are working under tight budgets and often face delays due to the need for extra traffic management on higher-speed roads. However, we recognise that sign visibility must not be compromised. We are reviewing our Highway Grounds Maintenance to ensure safety-critical areas are addressed more promptly. In the meantime, I welcome any specific locations you can share so I can raise them with Officers.
21	Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “I have ten villages within my ward. Many, indeed most, of these, ranging from Flockton and Grange Moor, through Kirkburton, Shelley and Shepley to Farnley Tyas and Thurstonland experience severe issues with traffic. Excessive traffic volumes are a familiar complaint everywhere, but many complainants cite speeding vehicles as a serious road safety problem. Will the Cabinet Member please explain the criteria which should be satisfied before traffic calming measures can be introduced?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Similar to Councillor Hall’s question (Q17) regarding reviews of speed limits, Kirklees Council uses a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to determine the need for traffic calming measures. The Council looks at statistic relating to speeding, accidents, the layout of the road (sightlines, access roads etc), the type of road, the type of road users (particularly pedestrians, cyclists and children), the existing speed limit and the impact on local residents. The council reviews statistics which cover all these criteria with a particular focus on the safety of the road and how effective possible methods could be to improve road safety. Crucially, road safety is not just the responsibility of the Council but it is all our responsibility – to that end, the Council does not work in isolation and reviews data from our partners like the Police to work collaboratively to improve road safety across the borough.
22	Question from Councillor Burke to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “It was reported in the local media on 20th June that Huddersfield Giants’ plans for a new stadium at the former gasworks site off St Andrew’s Road have been set back, as the council stated the land lies ‘right at the centre’ of an enterprise zone expected to be used by health and wellbeing research companies. Could I ask for clarification on the intended use of this site, specifically, what type of health and wellbeing research activity is envisioned, how long has this land been earmarked for that purpose and what steps has the Council taken to secure or attract such development to the site?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The site at Gasworks Street was first earmarked for high quality employment-related development through the Station to Stadium Corridor Masterplan that was adopted by Cabinet in December 2022. At that time, Cabinet also considered the proposal for a rugby league stadium but determined that this was not the preferred use of the site.

	The site is also allocated as a Priority Employment Area in the adopted Kirklees Local Plan to ensure it is safeguarded for employment-generating land uses. Outline planning permission for the development of the National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC) was granted to the University of Huddersfield in October 2021, to provide a mix of teaching, research and public health facilities on the adjoining Southgate site. The first building on campus (the Daphne Steele building) opened in September 2024 with a second due for completion in early 2026. The site at Gasworks Street will complement the University's focus on delivering high quality teaching, research and public health facilities by providing space to accommodate innovative health and life science businesses that wish to locate in close proximity to the campus and benefit from access to its world class research and facilities. The site at Gasworks Street was first earmarked for high quality employment-related development through the Station to Stadium Corridor Masterplan that was adopted by Cabinet in December 2022. At that time, Cabinet also considered the proposal for a rugby league stadium but determined that this was not the preferred use of the site. The site is also allocated as a Priority Employment Area in the adopted Kirklees Local Plan to ensure it is safeguarded for employment-generating land uses. Outline planning permission for the development of the National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC) was granted to the University of Huddersfield in October 2021, to provide a mix of teaching, research and public health facilities on the adjoining Southgate site. The first building on campus (the Daphne Steele building) opened in September 2024 with a second due for completion in early 2026. The site at Gasworks Street will complement the University's focus on delivering high quality teaching, research and public health facilities by providing space to accommodate innovative health and life science businesses that wish to locate in close proximity to the campus and benefit from access to its world class research and facilities.
23	Question from Councillor A Smith to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins “What is being done to address the ongoing issues with missed bin collections in the Lindley Ward and can the Council explain the reasons behind the repeated disruptions and outline the steps being taken to ensure a more reliable and consistent service for residents?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> In recent weeks, a number of round have been stood down due to a shortage of drivers, which has significantly impacted our ability to maintain scheduled collections in some areas. The national shortage of HGV drivers continues to impact local authorities across the country. The market remains highly competitive, but we are taking immediate steps to address the issue. Recruitment for additional permanent drivers is already in progress to help prevent a repeat of the recent disruption. In

	the meantime, we are also bringing in temporary drivers to help stabilise the service. In addition, Kirklees, like most local authorities, recently carried out a review of waste collection rounds to ensure they are balanced, and the workload is shared fairly for crews across the district. Part of last year's review in North Kirklees which is now being rolled out in the South is an area focused model. Basically, that means the crew collecting your bin will be the same week in, week out. The benefits of crews working consistently in the same area are obvious: crews can more easily monitor issues, will become more familiar with the rounds, allow the service to be more targeted in resolving repeat issues and will also allow them to be more reactive to any missed collection. It is a new way of working but in the long run, should improve the reliability and consistency of the service for Kirklees tax payers.
24	Question from Councillor Burke to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities - Cllr Pinnock "We in the Lindley Ward are consistently reporting incidents of fly tipping, often at the same locations, with some hotspots having been an ongoing issue for the last couple of years. It's incredibly frustrating for residents and continues to be a blight on our communities. What long-term solutions are being considered or implemented to tackle persistent fly tipping at these repeat locations, where it's occurring several times each month?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Fly Tipping is not just an environmental offence, it's a behavioural issue rooted in disregard for communities, public spaces, and shared responsibility. The Council recognises that while enforcement and infrastructure are vital, long-term change depends on shifting attitudes. That's why we're working with national partners like Keep Britain Tidy to pilot behavioural interventions, including targeted messaging, community engagement, and education campaigns designed to foster pride in place and deter repeat offending. By combining enforcement with awareness and support, we aim to make responsible disposal the norm, not the exception. This includes the strategic deployment of both overt and covert CCTV cameras, and increased enforcement activity through the recruitment of additional Enforcement Officers to expand capacity from September onwards.
25	Question from Councillor Burke to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Corporate Services – Councillor Dad "As a Council, we often speak about openness, transparency, and working better for all our residents and communities. However, the Councillor Enquiries system currently in place is not fit for purpose – it lacks accountability and cannot be the only mechanism for raising and resolving local issues. There was a time when we had regular ward-based meetings, which allowed councillors to engage directly with officers and address concerns more effectively. Will you and the administration consider reinstating regular, focused ward meetings every 4 to 6 weeks – for those wards that would benefit, with clear agendas and attendance from relevant officers in areas such as planning, waste, and

	housing? These would not be meetings for the sake of it, but focused, purposeful forums designed to tackle local issues directly, improve outcomes for residents, reduce pressure on the Councillor Enquiries system, and provide greater accountability at a local level.” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The Councillor Enquiries system was established to manage enquiries from members and support their vital work in communities. This system replaced the need for members to identify and contact officers directly. Direct email contact with officers often led to uncoordinated responses, emails going to the wrong people and lacked formal logging or tracking of enquiries. The Councillor Enquiries team managed 6,055 enquiries in 2024, 6,656 in 2023, and 6,217 in 2022, up from 5,340 in 2021. This small team does an excellent job coordinating responses and supporting members. Having a single point of enquiry through the team enables efficiency, quick responses to common enquiries, and the collection of statistics to improve service delivery. More complex enquiries may take longer, but we are committed to working with members to ensure timely and quality responses. The Council recognises the importance and value of ward and place-based working and how it positively impacts local communities. Support is in place for Councillors to respond to challenges and opportunities within their wards through place standard engagement, development of action plans, civic crowdfunding, organisation of ward forums, and their devolved budgets. The reintroduction of formal ward-based meetings would require disproportionate resources. However, we recognise the benefits of these meetings which is why we have a team that support ward forum organisation; and will continue to explore ways to improve the Councillor Enquiries system.
26	Question from Councillor Robinson to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook “What steps is the council taking to support residents living in council-owned properties who are experiencing anti-social behaviour, and how is it ensuring that issues are addressed promptly and effectively?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Homes and Neighbourhoods has recently updated the ASB policy, and this was approved by Cabinet in March 2025. The policy sets out how Homes & Neighbourhoods will support residents and communities if they experience anti-social behaviour. Housing Management Officers have recently undertaken training to support the approach outlined below. - Encourage victims/witnesses to report incidents and to work in collaboration with the Council and other agencies. - Provide a named officer and agree the method and frequency of contact (e.g. weekly by email) throughout the duration of the case. - In the majority of cases, visit victims in their home or somewhere they feel safe to fully understand how the issue is impacting them.

	- Prioritise case work depending on level of risk and vulnerability of victim. - Provide details of support available including access to the Victim and a Witness Support Officer. - Ensure that all cases are treated confidentially, however victims may be asked to make statements should legal action be taken. - Respond promptly and ensure appropriate action is taken against perpetrators and cases are resolved at the earliest opportunity. - Tackle ASB through effective partnerships coordination with agencies including West Yorkshire Police, Safer Kirklees and the Council's Public Protection Services. - Support victims and witnesses in their homes where possible – this includes increasing safety and security measures where appropriate. - If the victim is not satisfied with the service received, information will be provided, including how to complain if they are dissatisfied with the service received and details of the ASB Case Review
27	Question from Councillor McLaughlin to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison “Does the Leader join me in welcoming the announcement made by Minister Jim McMahon, that the new Devolution Bill will ensure in future all councils will be consistently governed by a Leader and Cabinet Model, in line with the majority of councils nationally, and which is transparent, modern and efficient. Would this not have been a costly exercise to move from a Cabinet model to a committee model?” <u>Leader’s Response</u> Essentially, yes. If any petition was successful in calling for a referendum on the Cabinet model of governance, then the total projected cost to run that alongside the all-out district elections in May 2026 would range as a minimum from £187,897 - £304,647. The range is to take account of potential apportionment of costs between election types and for poll cards and postage which are the largest costs. I do not believe that this is a justifiable expense to expect the council taxpayer to meet. The costs above include but are not limited to additional staffing costs, building hire, poll card printing and mailing, ballot papers for polling stations, polling station statutory paperwork packs, core team overtime and polling station large prints. These figures do not take account of any inflationary increases between now and then. In addition to any election costs there are significant additional costs to be considered in terms of initial outlay and ongoing revenue costs in relation to the changing and implementing of the operational governance of a committee system as this is likely to include external project management and legal/governance support, additional councillor allowances and staffing resource to support. The figure is difficult to forecast without being clear what the exact committee system model and number of committees etc will be in place, but the costs are likely to be upwards of £120,000 and this is an extremely conservative estimate.

28	Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock "How long do you think it is acceptable to wait for fly tipping to be collected?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> The acceptable wait time for fly tipping to be collected depends on the urgency of the situation. Nationally, there is no fixed legal timeframe, but councils are expected to act promptly, especially when the waste poses a health or environmental risk. In general, hazardous or obstructive fly-tipping is cleared within a matter of hours, as we divert our teams from their scheduled work to prioritise these incidents each day. However, for non-urgent cases on public land, the wait time can be up to 12 weeks. To maximise efficiency our teams, move through a ward at a time over this period to clear any outstanding reports. Fly tipping on private land is the responsibility of the landowner, and clearance may take longer due to coordination needs.
29	Question from Councillor Scott to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison "In relation to the ethical procurement motion passed by Full Council last year, can the Leader explain why no Cabinet member was formally assigned responsibility for implementing the motion, and why the matter was referred instead to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. Given that procurement is an executive function under the Local Government Act 2000, and that only the Executive has the legal authority to adopt and implement procurement strategy, will the Leader now (i) confirm that the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee has no legal authority to 'send back' or block a motion passed by Full Council; contrary to what you stated in the Cabinet meeting on 8th July that Corporate Governance & Audit Committee could send back the motion to Council (ii) publicly accept that it is the Cabinet's responsibility to act upon the previously passed motion; and (iii) commit to bringing forward a formal Cabinet response and implementation plan within 30 days, in line with the decision already taken by Full Council?" <u>Leader's Response</u> The Council has a Procurement Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in 2021. Cabinet is the executive body who provide strategic direction and decision making for the Council. The scope and methodology for the review of procurement practice and contracts in place was very helpfully debated, considered and overseen by Corporate, Governance and Audit committee (CGAC) who play a critical role in providing oversight and assurance to the Council for a number of governance areas, such as, corporate complaints, risk, and information governance. The full reports are published and available on the website. Reviewing such practices is appropriate and proportionate to the request as drafted in the motion.

	In terms of the governance and addressing the motion as drafted the Leader was requested to write to Prime Minister and this was actioned and a response provided to full Council on 15th January 2025. The Cabinet considers the motion to have been appropriately addressed.
30	Question from Councillor Moore to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison “Following Labours recent spanking at the ballot box by Reform in May 2025 we have seen Keir Starmer and the Labour party perform a monumental u turn on winter fuel payments to pensioners in desperation for votes. A number of motions were submitted to council last year with cross party support against this ill thought-out Labour policy. Cllr Pattison, you supported the initial policy and spoke out in full council supporting the cuts to 7.5 million pensioners benefits, claiming pensioners were using the winter fuel payment to buy Christmas presents instead of paying for utility bills. Do you stand by these comments?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Thank you for giving me the opportunity to set things right. Labour did not receive, to use your rather unfortunate word, “a spanking” at the recent elections. Labour did lose some seats but no where near as many as the Conservative Party or others. The Reform party vote in May this year only took 5% of Labour voters, the vast majority of it was Conservative voters or previous Conservative voters and the rest from other parties or traditional non-voters. The speech I made at full council last year was appropriate to the point I was making at the time which was that this country needs to see a redistribution of wealth from the richest to the poorest and I am pleased to see that the government have been able for this coming winter to ensure that more pensioners receive this payment given the betterment of the finances of the country since they came into power.
31	Question from Councillor Moore to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “Recently, we organised a trip from Chickenley Community Centre to the Piece Hall in Halifax. People were truly inspired by what they saw—an incredible space that brings people together and draws visitors into the town. Many were asking, 'Why can't we have something like this in Dewsbury?' While I'm not suggesting we recreate the Piece Hall, my question is this: Where is the bold, ambitious vision for Dewsbury, something on the scale of Huddersfield's £250 million Cultural Heart project that will genuinely attract people into the town and put Dewsbury back on the map?" <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> Thank you for your question and for sharing the inspiration that came from the visit to the Piece Hall. It's always encouraging to hear how spaces like that can spark ideas and ambition for our own communities. I want to reassure you—and the residents of Dewsbury—that we do have a bold and ambitious vision for the town, as set out in the Dewsbury Blueprint. We are

	now in a significant phase of delivery, with over £100 million of public investment already committed and being put to work across a range of transformative projects. These include: • The renovation of the historic Dewsbury Arcade, bringing new life and independent businesses into the heart of the town. • The conversion of Fieldhouse into new housing, alongside ongoing planning to deliver more town centre homes, particularly in and around Daisy Hill, supporting a vibrant and sustainable community. • Public realm improvements to Bond Street and the Civic Square, creating more welcoming and attractive spaces. • Enhancements to the bus station and the development of a new police headquarters just north of the town centre. • And soon, the long-awaited revamp of Dewsbury Market will begin—an exciting milestone for the town. The forthcoming transformation of Dewsbury Market, which will be complemented by the creation of a new town park are being designed to facilitate and encourage events that will bring people together and draw more visitors into the town. We're also working closely with partners to deliver a programme of events and activities that will draw people into the town, celebrate local culture, and build momentum around the regeneration work already underway. In addition to public investment, we're seeing private sector confidence and the benefits of the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU), which will significantly improve connectivity and accessibility. Looking ahead, we've secured a further £20 million from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities through the Plan for Neighbourhoods. This will support the development of a new 10-year Regeneration Plan, co-created with the local community, to ensure Dewsbury is a great place to live, work, play, and prosper for everyone. While Dewsbury's journey may look different from Huddersfield's Cultural Heart, the scale of ambition is no less significant. Our focus is on building a thriving, inclusive town centre that reflects Dewsbury's unique character and potential—and we believe this investment will help unlock even more opportunities in the years to come.
32	Question from Councillor H Zaman to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook “Given the scale of the housing crisis in Kirklees with rising temporary accommodation placements and visible street homelessness will the Cabinet commit to an urgent review of current provision and invest in an expanded prevention and rehousing strategy?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> I am pleased to let you know that Kirklees has taken steps over the past year to increase housing support to residents. This includes early support to prevent homelessness including targeted support and financial help for people under notice from private sector landlords, and dedicated pathways for people who are being asked to leave by their family or fleeing domestic abuse.

	This has had a positive impact on the number of households who would otherwise now be homeless or in temporary accommodation, and the service continues to work proactively despite the challenges that we face here in Kirklees as part of the acute national housing crisis. Rough sleeping in Kirklees remains a big challenge. In line with national trends, the number of rough sleepers has been increasing steadily over recent years, peaking at 32 people out on a single night recorded in Autumn 2024. The rough sleeping team and partners are currently actively supporting 95 individuals, including those currently experiencing rough sleeping, as well as individuals with a history of, or vulnerability to it. Through this positive intervention, in more recent months rough sleeping figures have started to decrease.
33	Question from Councillor H Zaman to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner “Can you provide ward-level data on the number of long-term empty homes, the number brought back into use last year, and how many are currently subject to enforcement action?” <u>Cabinet Member Response</u> A long-term empty property is one that has been unoccupied and unfurnished for over 1 year. It has not been possible to determine the number of properties brought back into use. This will require individual checking of all accounts with an end date. Total long-term empty properties: 2023 Properties under court proceedings: 491

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