

Agenda Item 7:

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 11 March 2026

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

1	<p>Question from Heather Peacock to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook</p> <p>“Huddersfield bus station is up for a refurbishment. I've heard there's going to be a delay. What's happening?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>Huddersfield Bus Station is a joint project between Kirklees Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) to modernise the station, improve passenger experience, enhance safety, construct a new canopy to the external facade of the bus station and support wider town-centre regeneration.</p> <p>There have previously been delays to the project due to external factors and design alterations but happily the project is progressing now with enabling works in the form of utilities and stats diversions to facilitate the canopy scheme which have been on site since September 2025.</p> <p>We are anticipating starting construction of the canopy in Spring/Summer 2026 and the bus station refurbishment scheme is anticipated to start at the same time.</p> <p>The car park above Huddersfield Bus Station closed on Monday 5th January for the final stage of the refurbishment works to that element of the building. This work will make the multi-storey car park safer and more accessible with easier to use, wider vehicle parking bays.</p> <p>The six-month closure is needed for essential work on the lifts, stairwells and fire exits. The entrance and exit ramps will also be upgraded.</p> <p>When the car park re-opens, visitors will see a significant improvement in quality with new brighter lighting, clearer signage, enhanced CCTV and improved fire and emergency lighting.</p> <p>Accessible spaces have more than doubled, rising from 11 to 23 and each level now has its own colour and number scheme making it easier for people to remember where they parked.</p>
2	<p>Question from David Heathcote to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins</p> <p>“In the last 12 months, how many Category 3 (non-emergency) potholes in Kirklees were repaired after the 28-day service level target had passed, based on the Council’s own recorded repair dates?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p>

	<p>During the period January 1st, 2025, to January 31st, 2026, 2477 Category 3 potholes were repaired outside the 28-day repair timescale. For context a total of 27,324 Category 3 defects were repaired, meaning 9.07% of Category 3 defects repaired, fell outside of the 28 day timescale.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Question from David Heathcote to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Finance – Councillor Dad</p> <p>“In the last 12 months, how many Freedom of Information requests received by Kirklees Council took more than 60 working days to receive a final response, including any cases where the Council paused the clock or requested clarification?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>In the past twelve months, Kirklees Council responded to a total of 80 out of 2,861 Freedom of Information requests where the final response was issued after more than 60 working days.</p> <p>The Council does not retain specific information regarding the length of any period during which the response was paused following a request for clarification. When the Information Governance Team seeks clarification from an applicant, a ‘Suspended’ status is applied to the request. Upon receipt of the necessary clarification, the ‘Suspended’ status is removed, and the relevant Service is notified of the clarified request, which is then treated as an ‘open’ and valid request and processed in line with standard procedures.</p> <p>All requests that remain suspended pending clarification are discontinued after one month if no clarification is provided by the applicant. Consequently, there are no cases where a request remains suspended for more than 60 working days.</p>