

Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Wednesday 26 February 2020

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

The **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the at **2.00 pm** on **Thursday 5 March 2020**.

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

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel members are:-

Member

Chris Friend (Co-Optee)

Eilidh Ogden (Co-Optee)

Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)

Councillor Martyn Bolt

Councillor Richard Murgatroyd

Councillor John Taylor

Councillor Richard Eastwood

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Andrew Bird (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

This is where Councillors who are attending as substitutes will say for whom they are attending.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 4

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 January 2020.

3: Interests

5 - 6

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

4: Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel 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.

6: Public Question Time

The Panel will hear any questions from the general public.

7: Kirklees Learning, Skills and Employment Plan Update 7 - 14

The report provides an update on the development of a Learning, Skills and Employment Plan for Kirklees.

Contact Officer: Chris Duffill, Head of Business and Skills. Tel: 01484 221000

8: Greenspaces Policy 15 - 20

The report provides an update on the development of a Greenspaces Policy.

Contact Officer: Rob Dalby, Greenspace Operational Manager. Tel: 01484 221000

9: Kirklees Digital Update 21 - 38

The report provides an update on the digital programme.

Contact Officer: Richard Hollinson, Head of Major Projects. Tel: 01484 221000.

10: Work Programme 2019/20 39 - 44

Contact: Leigh Webb, Governance Officer. Tel: 01484 221000.

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday 28 January 2020

- Present: Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Richard Eastwood
Councillor Richard Murgatroyd
Councillor John Taylor
- Co-optees: Chris Friend (Co-optee)
- In attendance: Councillor Peter McBride – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Rob Walker – Cabinet Member Culture and Environment
Councillor Graham Turner – Cabinet Member for Corporate
Mathias Franklin – Head of Planning and Development
John Buddle – Principal Planning Officer
Steven Wright - Planning Policy and Strategy Group Leader
- Apologies: Councillor Yusra Hussain
Andrew Bird (Co-optee)
Eilidh Ogden (Co-optee)

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Apologies were received from Councillor Yusra Hussain, Andrew Bird and Eilidh Ogden.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2019 be agreed as a correct record.
- 3 Interests**
Councillors John Taylor and Martyn Bolt declared an 'other' interests in respect of item 7, Community Infrastructure Levy, as Parish and Town Councillors.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel – 19 September 2019

The Chair, Councillor Uppal declared an 'other' interest in respect of item 7, Community Infrastructure Levy, as a Councillor of a ward with a specific site referred to in the report.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6. Public Question Time

No questions were asked under this item.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Committee received a report setting out details of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule. The CIL is identified in the Council's Local Development Scheme and is intended to outline the amount developers must contribute towards infrastructure costs in different parts of Kirklees (charging zones and rates applicable) once the CIL Charging Schedule is adopted by the Council.

It was reported that the CIL Charging Schedule was subject to examination by an independent Inspector (known as an Examiner in this CIL process) including a public hearing that had taken place on 16th September 2019. The Inspector recommended approval of the CIL Charging Schedule subject to modifications, which were set out in the report.

The CIL is intended as a means of contributing to the funding of infrastructure required to support growth in the District and deliver the policies and proposals in the Local Plan. It replaces part of the system of Planning Obligations (Section 106 Agreements). The CIL will help to meet the District's priorities by generating funding to provide infrastructure while being set at appropriate rates that will continue to attract investment, create jobs, and deliver new housing.

John Buddle, Principal Planning Officer, gave a presentation which included details of how the system works; details of changes in legislation; a summary of the Inspector's recommendations; and the submitted CIL rates.

It was reported that the next steps would be to establish governance arrangements and seek adoption by Council prior to implementation.

Questions and comments were invited from Panel Members and the following issues were raised:

- Councillor J Taylor highlighted that under the process small and medium sized business will be required to provide funds up front and in full whereas large developers will benefit from being able to pay in instalments. The Principal Planning Officer explained that instalments were applicable for larger scale developments but acknowledged the fact that this would be of benefit to large developers who are undertaking these projects.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel – 19 September 2019

- Councillor Bolt raised concerns about a potential democratic deficit in respect of neighbourhood forums, it was explained that in the absence of parish or town council, any group must be an established constituted body which is ultimately accountable to the Council.
- Discussion took place about exiting structures in place to engage with communities, namely place based working, and the importance of aligning the process with existing structures where possible. The ongoing work around place based working and citizens engagement is well placed as a means of engaging with the public.
- Members highlighted the fact that infrastructure spending will not necessarily be spent within the zone where a development is undertaken. Monies from one development could fund infrastructure improvements in an alternative area.
- In response to a request for further information relating to the definition and rate for retirement living, an undertaking was given to provide further information on the matter.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Panel notes the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule process and implications of the Inspector's report.
2. That the following feedback be provided in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy:
 - That further consideration be given to the instalment policy and the potential negative effect on small and medium size companies
 - That clarification be sought on the role of neighbourhood forums and links be forged with existing structure and mechanisms around place based working.
 - The importance of being able to communicate the rationale behind decisions where infrastructure spending from a development in a particular area being spent in a different area. A clear policy is needed that justifies how money is allocated across the borough.

8 Work Programme 2019/20

That the Panel's Work Programme and forthcoming items/activities was submitted.

RESOLVED –

That the Panels Work Programme and forthcoming items/activities be noted.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL				
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC				
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS				
Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel				
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.

Name of meeting: ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: 5th MARCH 2020

Title of report: KIRKLEES LEARNING, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PLAN UPDATE

Purpose of report:

- To update the Panel on the development of a Learning, Skills and Employment Plan for Kirklees and on some of the themes/issues that will be considered as the plan develops.

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
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan</u> (key decisions and private reports)?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby 24 February 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	n/a
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	n/a
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride Cllr Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/a

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, n/a

1. Summary

1.1 This report

- reviews the background to the development of an all-age, Learning Skills and Employment Plan (LSEP) for Kirklees and sets out the objectives of the plan
- presents a snapshot of some of the learning, skills and employment issues/challenges that will be addressed as the plan is developed
- highlights the specific opportunities to develop career pathways for the construction sector to capitalise on the major infrastructure, housing and other projects proposed in Kirklees over the next decade
- sets out proposals for the involvement of the Scrutiny Panel in the development of the LSEP.

2. Information required to take a decision

Learning, Skills and Employment Plan

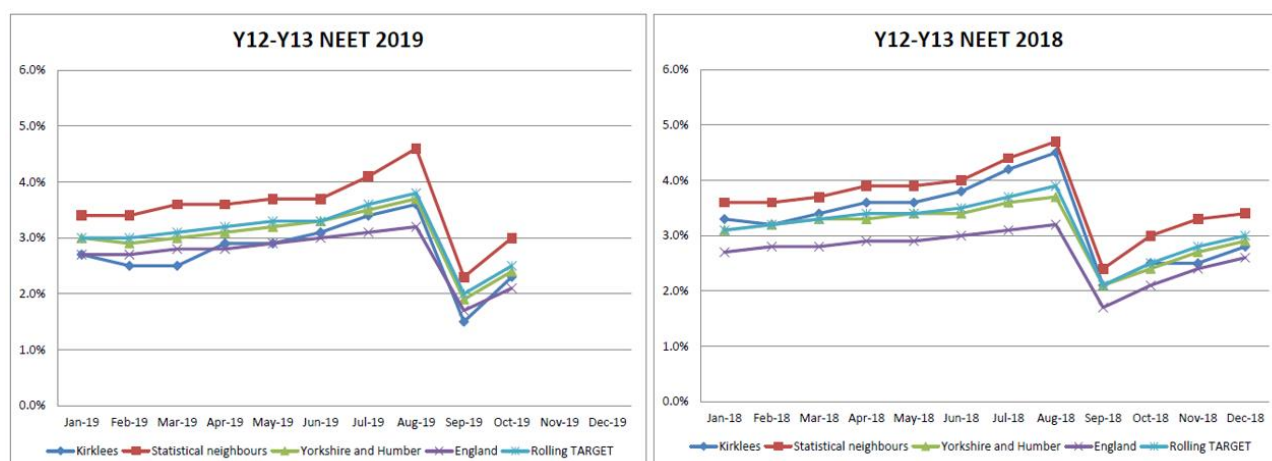
2 The Council has commenced the development of an all-age, Learning Skills and Employment Plan for Kirklees, working with schools, Kirklees College, the University of Huddersfield and other key stakeholders. The LSEP will seek to build on and add value to existing plans and strategies, including the Children and Young People's Plan, the emerging Learning Plan; and the Adult and Community Learning Strategy. It will focus on strengthening the links between these plans and on improving pathways between different stages of learning and work.

2.1 The LSEP aims to develop a shared approach (with schools, Information, Advice and Guidance providers, the College/University and employers) to realise the following objectives:

- to help young people make more informed choices around learning and work;
- to support residents into fulfilling employment and incentivise their efforts to upskill;
- to develop clear pathways and progression routes between different stages of learning and work;
- to afford vocational and academic learning with equal weight and value and acknowledges the importance of community learning as a platform for engagement and progression;
- to ensure that business can access the skills they need now and in the future to improve their productivity;
- to strengthen opportunities for employers to inform curriculum development as well as help raise learner aspirations and provide effective work experience; and
- to build a sustainable local network of high quality learning and training providers.

Challenges and opportunities to be addressed through the LSEP

2.2 Although educational attainment at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 is at or just below the England average, Kirklees has a high performing post-16 education system. The two main 6th form colleges are rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED and Kirklees College is rated 'Good'. Outcomes for students – whether through A level, Apprenticeship, vocational or mixed routes – are in line with or above national averages and generally well above those of local comparators.

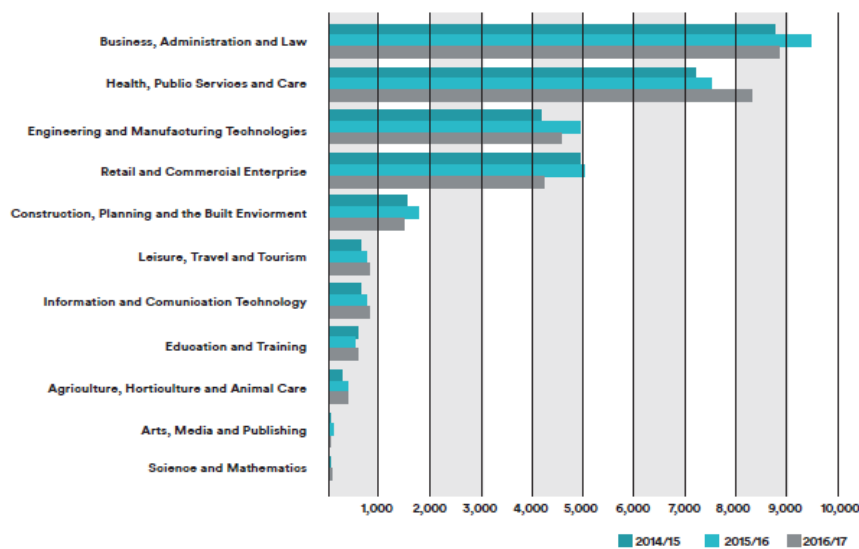


Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) 2018 and 2019

2.3 Kirklees's performance on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains better than the regional average and that of neighbouring local authorities. For boys, some BAME groups and some white working class groups remain at higher risk of becoming NEET, but girls in general, and BAME girls in particular, tend to have lower rates of NEET and good rates of progression. The Council's continued investment in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance, working with C&K Careers and other partners, remains a key strand of efforts to address this challenge.

- 2.4 Attainment at A level remains in the top quartile nationally. Kirklees ranks 27th nationally for the % of students achieving AAB or higher grades at A level and 11th for average APS (A level points) per entry, well above the regional averages. It ranks in the top 10% nationally against a number of value-added or progress measures.
- 2.5 Despite this picture, some significant challenges remain. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (age 5) 69.7% of pupils achieve a good level of development but this remains below the national average of 71.9%. At Key Stage 1, almost two-thirds of pupils achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics and the gap to the national average is reducing. Childrens Services is working with schools and other partners to continue to drive improvements as there is a strong case to suggest that intervention at Early Years/Key Stage 1 can have a significant impact on individual learning outcomes later in life.
- 2.6 Progress into Level 3 (A level) qualifications, Level 3 BTECs, Apprenticeships and beyond is determined by prior GCSE scores, and in particular the requirement to achieve GCSE Grade 4 in English and Maths. Whilst Kirklees students demonstrate higher than average progress scores in both subjects at resit, 39.2% of Kirklees 19 year olds in 2018 had not achieved a Level 3 qualification.
- 2.7 Although Kirklees again outperforms the national average on this measure (the comparator for England as a whole is 42.8%), the recent Augar review of post-18 education highlights that the vast majority of young people in this position achieve no further qualifications. Addressing this issue be an important focus for the LSEP.
- 2.8 For those young people seeking work-based vocational training the range of pre-Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships available may be limited and performance is more variable. The number of Apprenticeship starts in Kirklees has fallen significantly from over 4,500 in 2015/16 to 3,200 in 2018/19. The graph below demonstrates Apprenticeships starts by subject area at Leeds City Region level:

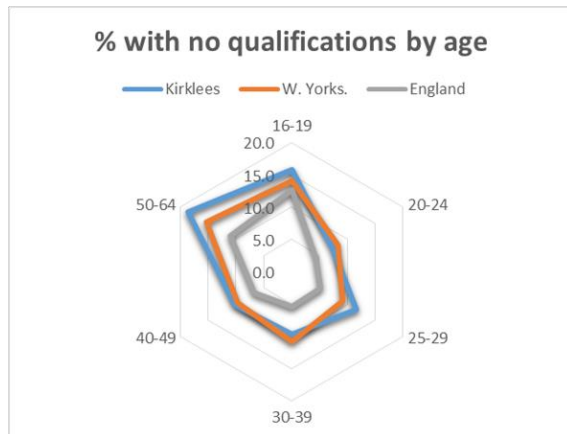
Trend in apprenticeship starts by subject area, Leeds City Region



Source: Department for Education.
Note: Figures are provisional

- 2.9 In 2017, achievement rates by Kirklees College for Level 2 Apprenticeships (81.5% compared with the England average of 68.2%) and Level 3 (83.3% against 73.3%) were outstanding although the numbers of learners were comparatively low (360). The performance of some private sector Apprenticeships providers is not as strong and there are concerns about the predominance of Level 2 Apprenticeships which offer less long-term benefit to the learner or the economy.

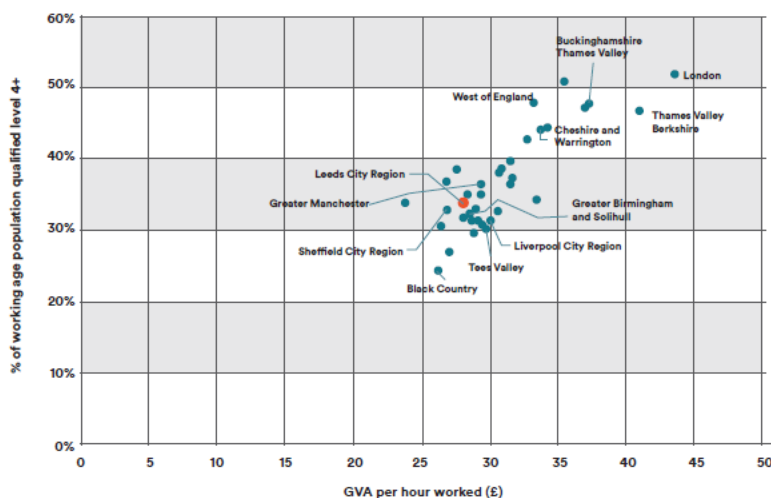
- 2.10 Employers report significant challenges arising from the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy – both for those larger firms who are in scope for the levy and SMEs who are not but for whom provision may be limited by the availability of funding. Improving both access to and the quality of Apprenticeships for Kirklees learners and employers will be an important focus for the LSEP.
- 2.11 The proportion of those aged 16-64 who have no or very low level qualifications remains a significant challenge. Between January and December 2018 there were 28,100 people with no qualifications, representing 10.4% of the working age population (compared with the England average of 7.6%). Whilst the number has fallen in absolute terms since 2011, Kirklees has remained stubbornly above the England average.



% with no qualifications by age, Kirklees, West Yorkshire and England

- 2.12 Re-engaging adults with learning may be challenging and requires a long-term approach, particularly where they have had a negative experience of school. This remains a focus of the Council’s adult and community learning programme which, working with community-based delivery partners, aims to achieve learner progression towards more formal learning. In this context working collaboratively with Kirklees College to build effective, supportive progression routes remains a continued priority.
- 2.13 At the other end of the qualifications spectrum, there is strong evidence linking productivity and the supply of high level skills in local labour markets. In Kirklees, Gross Value Added (GVA) per head was £18,827 in 2018; it was £50,547 for London. In Kirklees 33.1% of the working age population is educated to Level 4 (degree level) compared with 53.1% for London.

High level skills and productivity by LEP area

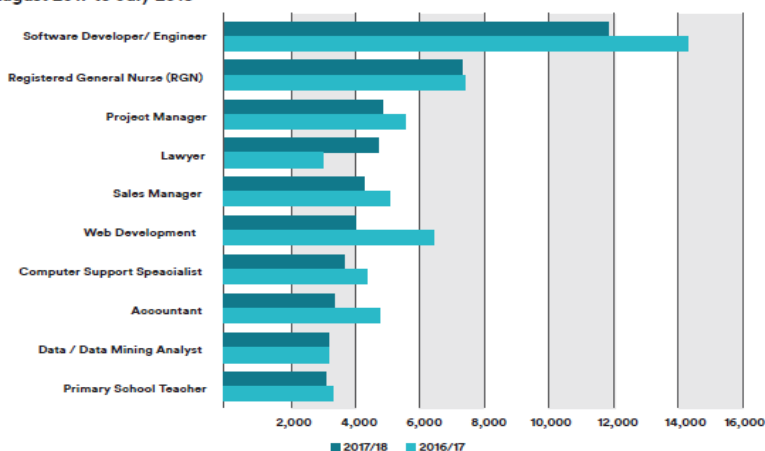


Source: Annual Population Survey; ONS LEP level estimates of productivity

- 2.14 The presence of high level skills can support effective use of technology within businesses and increase the focus on product/process innovation; it can support the acceleration of more productive business models; and help to attract inward investment which in turn supports technology transfer and good practice.

- 2.15 Research by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority/Leeds City Region LEP highlights a number of changes in the demand for labour across the city region. The research identifies growth in demand for both high skilled occupations (e.g. high level scientific, engineering and technology roles, professional and associate professional occupations) as well as in lower paid caring roles including childcare, adult care and nursing assistant roles. This is considered likely to persist in the short-to-medium term.

Top occupations in greatest demand overall based on volume of job postings, Leeds City Region, August 2017 to July 2018



Source: Labour Insight

Note: Analysis limited to jobs classified to SOC major groups 1-3

- 2.16 Digital occupations occupied four of the top ten occupations based on online job postings across the City Region. The research also highlighted demand for other key skills including project management, accountancy and legal skills.
- 2.17 The LSEP will draw together research on employer demand for skills in the Kirklees labour market, utilising both existing data and primary research with employers to develop a clear picture of current and future recruitment plans, skills gaps within the existing workforce and future/anticipated skills shortages. This will highlight both generic skills and sector-specific skills to support future programming by FE/HE and other providers.

Construction sector

- 2.18 The next decade or more will see an unparalleled period of investment in Kirklees road, rail and broadband infrastructure, including a number of major highways schemes; the Transpennine Upgrade, expected to see investment of up to £1bn in improving rail infrastructure between Huddersfield and Dewsbury; roll out of full fibre broadband via CityFibre; delivery of 31,000 new homes over the period to 2031; and transformational town centre regeneration programmes in Huddersfield and Dewsbury through Blueprint schemes for both centres.
- 2.19 These exciting opportunities will emerge during a period of significant skills and recruitment challenges for the construction and engineering sectors. Major projects like Crossrail and HS2 are acting as significant 'magnets' for skills and expertise and the longer-term impacts for the sector of the UK's departure from the European Union remain unclear.
- 2.20 The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) highlight the need to recruit 10,000 new workers in Yorkshire and the Humber alone to meet forecast demand to 2023. Failure to address this challenge will create the dual risk that the Council, Network Rail and other partners may not have access to the workforce required to deliver these projects; and that local residents and businesses may not benefit from this investment.
- 2.21 In this context, the Council is working with CITB, Kirklees College and other partners to develop a more strategic and joined up approach to construction skills and employment in Kirklees. The opportunities include:

- reviewing our approach to working with young people to raise awareness of the range of opportunities across the construction sector and the career pathways available

- identifying opportunities across our project pipeline, rather than on a project-by-project basis, to create high quality Apprenticeships and other training/employment opportunities
- effective use of the Council's procurement process to optimise social value through major contracts
- ensuring there are clear pathways in place for young people (including Traineeships and Level 3 Apprenticeships) and adults seeking to work in the sector.

Next steps for the LSEP

- 2.22 The research phase of the LSEP project has now commenced and the strategy development phase of the work is expected to commence in early May. It is anticipated that the LSEP will be completed in draft and presented to Cabinet for consideration by September 2020.
- 2.23 There are opportunities for further involvement of the Scrutiny Panel as part of the process of developing the LSEP. This will include a more detailed presentation of the issues, opportunities and emerging priorities at a subsequent meeting.

3. Implications for the Council

Working with People

- 3.1 The LSEP is focused on improving outcomes for people and will make a direct contribution to two of the Council's key Corporate Plan outcomes – Aspire and Achieve and Sustainable Economy. The development of the LSEP will be underpinned by effective engagement with learners and employers to shape the content of the strategy.

Working with Partners

- 3.2 The LSEP will be developed with the Council's key stakeholders including Kirklees Schools; Kirklees College; the University of Huddersfield; C&K Careers; key employers and a range of other partners. The aim will be to build a shared vision, objectives and actions that all partners can endorse and can play an active role in implementing.

Place-based Working

- 3.3 The development of the LSEP will be informed by engagement with learners, employers and other stakeholders across Kirklees reflecting both communities of interest and communities of place.

Climate Change and Air Quality

- 3.4 Development of the LSEP will acknowledge that traditional forms of learning (face to face on a one to many basis) are already changing with online and self-directed learning forming an increasing part of provision. The LSEP will consider how future delivery may be impacted by climate change and both the opportunities and challenges that may result.

Improving Outcomes for Children

- 3.5 The LSEP will be an all-age learning, skills and employment plan for Kirklees. Building on and adding value to the Children and Young People's Plan, Learning Strategy and other relevant strategies/plans, the LSEP will have a strong focus on improving outcomes for children.

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

- 3.6 The development of the LSEP will be managed through existing staff resource within the Business and Skills team. Implementation of the LSEP may result in a requirement for additional resource when the strategy is finalised and delivery arrangements have been agreed.

4 Consultees and their opinions

4.1 There will be extensive stakeholder engagement to develop the LSEP. Stakeholders have not been consulted in the development of this report.

5 Officer recommendations and reasons

5.1 The Panel is invited to review the contents of the report, and consider:

- the issues, challenges and opportunities that should be included within the initial research phase of the Learning, Skills and Employment Plan
- future engagement of the Panel in the development of the LSEP.

6 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

6.1 The Portfolio Holders have been consulted on the report.

7 Contact officer

Chris Duffill
Head of Business and Skills
chris.duffill@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000 ext: 72354

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

N/a

9 Service Director responsible

Angela Blake
Service Director- Economy and Skills
angela.blake@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000 ext: 71076

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Name of meeting: Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Date: 5th March 2020

Title of report: Greenspaces Policy

Purpose of report:

To provide a status update on the development of the Greenspaces Policy

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?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Not applicable for the purpose of this report Private Report/Private Appendix – Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby – 25/02/2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not Applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Not Applicable
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Rob Walker Cllr Naheed Mather

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered?: Not applicable for the purpose of this report

1. Summary

In 2018 the Parks and Greenspaces team, in collaboration with the Corporate Policy Office, began works to develop a Greenspace strategy. Due to capacity and organisational changes this process was placed on hold, however following the addition of a Programme Manager into the team capacity has been realised to recommence the works previously started.

We are bringing this to scrutiny at this point to gain feedback and direction as a useful cross-party forum between members of scrutiny and officers. The reason that we're developing a policy is to make it clear how the service will help the council deliver on its aims and objectives, principally but not explicitly issues with climate change and to support to the local economy. Ideally, our aim is to have a document which is collaborative between internal and external partners and to be used to inform service, team and individual work plans so that everyone is pulling in the same direction.

The document will be directly related to the Corporate Plan and will feed into and guide individual operational plans, policies and projects within the service. It will sit underneath the council's strategies and is intended to deliver the supporting infrastructure setting out how the greenspace service will achieve its aims and objectives.

This is an emerging piece of work so the linkages with corporate strategies require further development, however for example our proposals and plans will be guided by:

1. Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 2. Economic Strategy
 3. Climate Emergency
 4. Walking & Cycling
 5. Emerging Waste Strategy
- ...and so on...

The following table highlights some of the live and emerging policies and projects within the service. As an illustration, the Playable Spaces strategy is an individual project that will sit under the overarching Greenspace Policy to contribute towards service and corporate aims and objectives.

Operational	Development	Regulatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating of GM delivery and standards - Future Landscapes Policy - District wide re-mapping - Apprentice Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing Pitch provision review - The White Rose Forest - Playable Spaces (development of) - Tree Policy - Biodiversity Management - Biodiversity Land Bank - Land KPIs for biodiversity indices - Natural Flood Management - Closed Carbon Economy - Green arising from waste streams to biofuel production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fly Tipping Clearance Squad - Street based enforcement programme - Integrated Pest Management - PROW Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Enhanced DMMO Delivery - BOAT Management - Review of parking ticket machines

- | | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering and community delivery - Third party partner relationships - Apprentice Programme - (Depot Portfolio) |
| <p>Local Plan Linkages</p> <p>Succession Planning</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> | |

2. Information required to take a decision

Previously this workstream was proposed as a “strategy”, however following guidance from the Policy & Strategy Team we would like to propose that this is developed as a Greenspace *Policy*.

- *A strategy is direction-setting, objective-achieving plan*
- ***A policy is the means for moving in that direction and achieving those objectives/outcomes i.e. what we will do to achieve the above***
- *Service or operational plans put those policies into practice*

As mentioned in the summary section above we are due to begin works with the Corporate Policy office to develop a Greenspace Policy, (or Strategy) which incorporates works in progress, projects in development and to identify any new proposals which could support the wider Kirklees corporate strategies. The results of this will be subject to a future submission to Scrutiny.

To aid us with progressing with this process we would like to understand:

1. Are you happy for us to progress with a Greenspace policy?
2. Is there a particular approach that you would recommend taking to develop the policy (or strategy, if that is your preference)?
3. Do you know of any emerging policies or strategies across the council that we should be aware of when developing?
4. Are there any additional projects that you feel we should be investigating to support wider council initiatives and strategies?
5. Do you know of any third-party groups that we should be developing relationships with?

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

We will be working closely with officers within this service and throughout the council to ensure that the content is relevant and has the support to move forward. To date there has been an initial workshop with officers in Parks and Greenspaces and we are working with the Corporate Office who are providing their support and the Policy Tool to develop the document in line with corporate protocols. This co-development with team members and other council departments will continue throughout the process.

Previously there have been discussions with principal council internal stakeholders; communities, public health, children’s services to understand how the greenspace offer could be tailored to support their objectives. We will return to these conversations to ensure they are still relevant.

A public engagement and consultation programme will be designed into the process. It is expected that some of our landscapes will start to look different as operational models adapt to a changing climate and the need to support pollinator species or adaption to extreme weather events.

it is essential that we communicate with and inform Kirklees' citizens and communities to ensure they are engaged and knowledgeable of how their district and landscape will look and function and the reasons why these changes have been put in place.

3.2 Working with Partners

The service has and continues to develop strong relationships with partners as we are acutely aware of the importance of working together to support shared goals. As an example, our relationship with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has strengthened this year as we deliver a common cause agreement that covers the creation and management of woodlands in the district, educational programmes to support landscape change, and a mutually supportive development programme for apprentices. We have existing relationships with the Yorkshire and Humber Enforcement Officers Group and with West Yorkshire Ecology, amongst others. We will continue to work with and support volunteer groups across the district who will be fundamental to the future of our landscape, with a principal partner Natural Kirklees, which is the vehicle used to deliver free insurance to groups enabling them to work on our sites.

3.3 Place Based Working

Place based working will be inbuilt into future developments for the look, feel and functionality of our greenspaces across the district.

We already work closely with ward members, the communities and third parties to ensure policies and plans are fit for purpose and suitable the local area, and we will continue to build upon these relationships.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

A key objective of the Greenspaces Strategy will be to tackle climate change and improve air quality. This is principally by operational and landscape level changes to deliver reductions, adaptation and mitigation.

- **Reduction** will be supported by changes in fleet, tools and improvements in energy efficiency. Additionally there will be support to the EV charging programme in our carparks and ancillary areas.
- **Mitigation** includes natural flood management measures in partnership with the National Trust and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, planting of large amounts of trees (estimated to be around 2.5million to meet the objectives of the White Rose Forest), changes in management practices to sequester carbon within soils and improve habitat connectivity and type to support a wider range of species.
- **Adaptation** – this is linked to mitigation within landscape terms, but in addition ensuring habitat corridors.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The Playable Spaces project aims to improve outcomes for children by providing places for them to play, learn and develop. However, we would also like this to have a positive impact on parents/carers, siblings, grandparents etc. therefore improving outcomes for all.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Other than the workshop which has taken place with the Parks and Greenspaces officers and general discussions with our portfolio lead we haven't yet carried out wider consultation on this iteration of the policy.

5. Next steps and timescales

- Develop and present the Greenspace vision statement and policy
- Develop the full programme of works for the roll out of projects to support the strategy, including milestones and project plans
- Carryout consultation and engagement for the longer-term future landscapes policy

With reference to timescales; as a policy that sits over the operational plans, the delivery of the document would be expected to mirror some firming up of delivery timescales themselves. The core deliverables are effectively clustered into three areas:

- internal delivery for welfare / wellbeing – which includes the physical asset, successional planning and staff wellbeing and development
- climate change response – which encompasses the biodiversity and carbon agendas as well as eco system service delivery to issues such as water management
- enhanced delivery to meet the district's needs – this supports the economic and cultural vibrancy of the district, an underlying wellbeing agenda with direct support via the playable spaces work and the interlinked delivery to support the cycling and walking strategy, for example.

As such we would aim to produce the cover policy quite quickly (3 months) but the development and delivery of some of the operational plans will be a longer process, with the definition at a high level being impacted by the interlinked complexities underneath.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Our recommendations would be to produce a Greenspace Policy that is designed and developed in conjunction with a cross section of the service and with ward members, incorporating results from community engagement. This will be key to obtaining buy-in from those key stakeholders to successfully implement operational plans and achieve the Council's and the services objectives.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Cllr Walker is happy with the suggested approach of producing a policy document rather than a strategy. We can then back this up with more detailed policies and action plans. Cllr Mather also supports developing a policy framework to support the overarching strategies.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

n/a

10. Service Director responsible

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Name of meeting: ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: 5th MARCH 2020

Title of report: KIRKLEES DIGITAL UPDATE

Purpose of report:

- To update the Panel on progress following the Scrutiny meeting in February 2019.

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
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	n/a
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	n/a
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Peter McBride Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Cllr Peter McBride and Cllr Graham Turner have been consulted

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, n/a

1. Background and Context

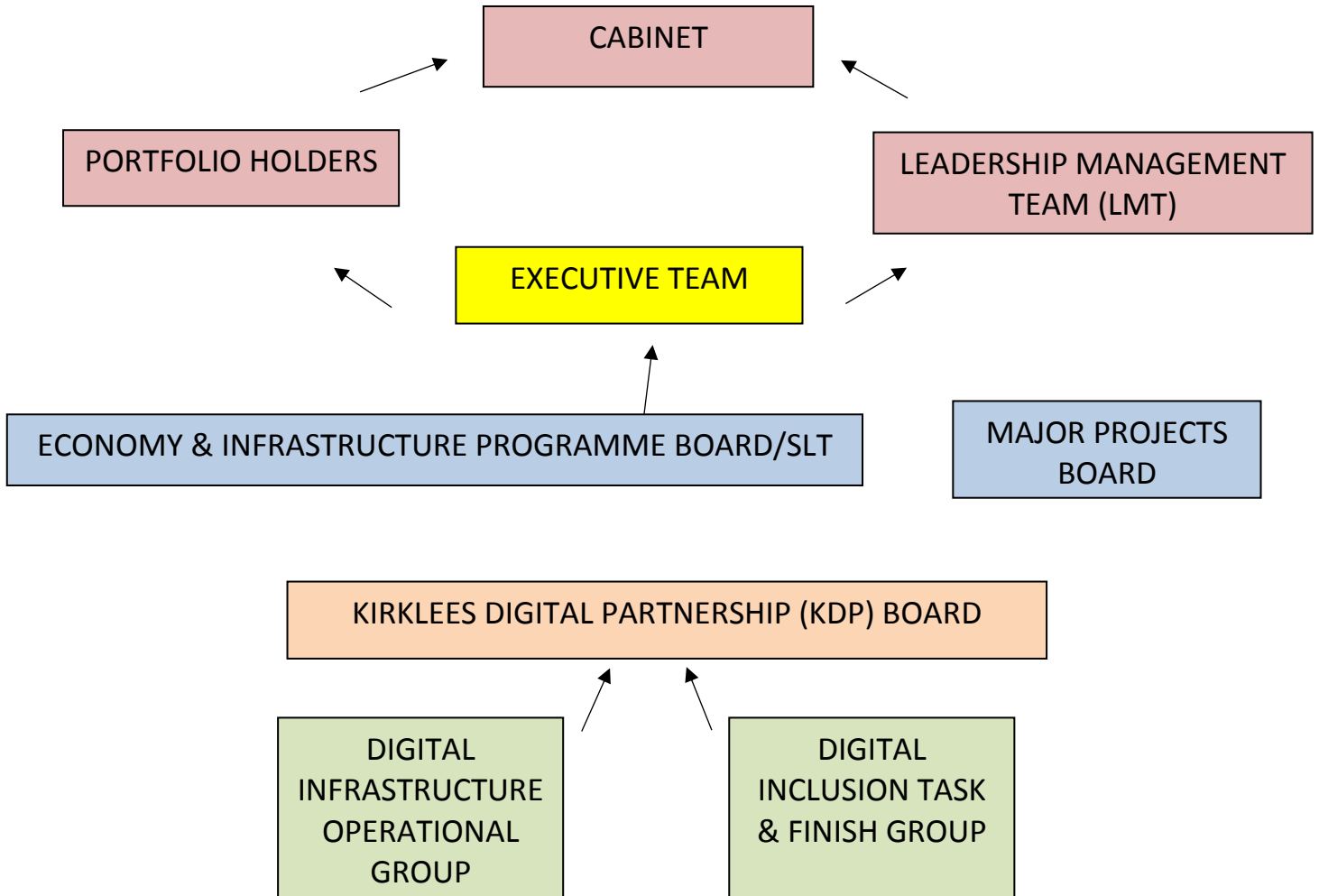
With emerging technological advancements requiring a base layer of fibre infrastructure and digital exclusion hampering economic growth, it's vital to increase our connectivity to keep pace. The backbone of the digital economy is connectivity. Critical to Kirklees' ability to capitalise on the opportunities offered through digital transformation is universal coverage of high quality, fast and reliable digital broadband networks.

Building on the foundations of the Digital Plan presented to Scrutiny on 14th February 2019, a Digital Work Programme has now been formulated in order to establish work streams, governance and relationships that are consistent with the Council's corporate plan and necessary in order to deliver the emerging Technology Strategy and its ambitions.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the digital programme, the chain of governance that has been established, what we are trying to achieve and the streams of work that are being undertaken.

2. Governance:

2.1



2.2 Kirklees Digital Partnership Board (KDPB)

A digital partnership board has been established in order to:

- Approve, review and drive delivery of the Technology Strategy and Digital Work Programme
- Monitor and review the delivery of agreed outcomes and the impact of the Technology Strategy and Digital Work Programme in line with the Kirklees Economic Strategy
- Maximise inward investment for Kirklees through regional engagement, identifying and promoting opportunities for obtaining devolved funding and bidding for other funding
- Share intelligence and data
- Identify investment opportunities
- Identify challenges, areas of development, mitigating risks
- Support collaborative working
- Ensure quality, effective and efficient digital delivery

2.3 Digital Infrastructure Operational Group (DIOG)

To support and consider matters at a more operational level, a Digital Infrastructure Operational Group has been established. This group comprises of both Council officers and private sector infrastructure suppliers. It is utilised to facilitate the roll out of digital infrastructure across Kirklees, in particular full fibre and 5G. Its main objectives are to:

- Monitor and review infrastructure rollout programmes across the District
- Share programme and current progress
- Maximise supplier rollout to premises; including harder-to-reach areas
- Support collaborative working and barrier busting
- Share intelligence and data (internal / external)
- Identify and resolve challenges (all parties)
- Identify issues for escalation, highlighting risks to the KDP Board

2.4 Digital Inclusion Task & Finish Group

This group has been created to support the Kirklees Digital Partnership Strategic agenda. Kirklees' aspiration is to achieve 100% Digital Kirklees, facilitating and supporting investment from broadband suppliers to stimulate competition and support economic growth.

The purpose of the Digital Inclusion Task & Finish Group is to:

- Develop a strategic approach, linking to the Kirklees Economic Strategy (KES) and Employment and Skills Plan
- Develop a clear position as to how broadband suppliers can best support the Kirklees approach
- Maximise and target existing funding for digital skills
- Aspire to 100% of Kirklees residents having the minimum Basic Digital Skills
- Establish a co-ordinated approach to tackle digital exclusion

3. Technology Strategy

A Technology Strategy has been developed by I.T which is shaped by a high level set of outcomes and ambitions, these represent a combination of both the Council's digital focus as an organisation, plus the wider digital agenda throughout Kirklees as a district.

"We will work together to deliver innovative, effective and sustainable technology services that are designed around our diverse places and the needs of our people, partners and businesses."

3.1 Ambitions

Getting the basics right

We will provide the right tools and technology for people to efficiently and effectively do their job requiring little intervention from the IT service, ensuring their needs are at the heart of the service we deliver.

Enabling resilient and available infrastructure

We will develop an internet first approach for partnership working built on highly-available, ultrafast connectivity with resilient services in key locations across Kirklees.

Commissioning applications fit for the future

We will collaborate with services in their redesign and transformation, rationalising the applications and enabling the efficiency of business processes designed around the needs of people.

Using data intelligently and securely

We will ensure the accurate, secure and timely collection of data to derive intelligence and value for the council and partners and empower people to make informed decisions.

Developing inclusive technology and skills

Working with partners across sectors, we will invest in new technology and skills to develop a digitally capable workforce and improve skills and opportunities for residents to support them in the internet age.

Connecting people, business and technology

We will facilitate significant infrastructure investment across Kirklees to support business growth, inclusive connectivity for people and wide-ranging capabilities via internet connected devices.

Delivering class leading internet services

We will create and deliver class leading services designed around the people that use them, in ways that meet the needs and expectations of the internet age.

4. Digital Infrastructure

In May 2018 the Government pledged for 15m Fibre-To-The-Premises (FTTP) connections by 2025 (60% UK coverage) and full coverage by 2033. In January 2020 The Rt Hon Baroness Nicky Morgan gave a speech confirming the aim for nationwide deployment of full fibre and gigabit-capable broadband by 2025, and that the government will pass legislation to make rollout quicker and easier. The ongoing working partnership with operators is essential in the effective and timely delivery of infrastructure across the district.

Negotiation of wayleaves for access to land, negotiation regarding street works and accessing existing infrastructure are commonly cited barriers to progression in infrastructure deployment. Kirklees Council are committed to barrier busting in order to expedite the roll out of full fibre infrastructure and for the realisation of benefits that this will bring for the district.

Kirklees currently engage with a number of suppliers with a view to coordinating and facilitating digital infrastructure deployment, acting as a point of contact and assisting them in the delivery of better connectivity for the local area. Regular engagement allows for streamlining of the process, obtaining of permissions and decreases the likelihood of inefficiency and delays. Kirklees Highway's department endeavour to meet weekly with infrastructure suppliers in order to keep abreast of the ongoing build programmes. Monthly operational groups are then utilised to discuss the wider agenda and to tackle barriers where necessary.

4.1 Infrastructure Suppliers

- City Fibre

City Fibre have a £30m commercial Fibre to the Home investment across 9 Ward areas (Newsome, Colne Valley, Lindley, Ashbrow, Almondbury, Golcar, Dalton, Crosland Moor and Netherton and Greenhead) within Kirklees. This will include circa 60,000 premises. Their current build programme spans 2019 - 2021.

They currently have 5,000 homes that are full fibre to the premises (FTTP) capable with 8,000 to follow shortly. They have announced further investment in Dewsbury and Batley.

- Fibre Nation

FibreNation has been working in the Kirklees area since July 2019. The full fibre infrastructure will give internet suppliers access to a gigabit-capable network, allowing them to provide customers in Dewsbury, Batley and Heckmondwike, with access to speeds capable of downloading an HD film in just seven seconds.

The first properties went live in February 2020 and it is anticipated that work will be completed by 2022.

- Openreach

Flockton and Kirkburton have been announced as areas that will be targeted by Openreach and their full fibre build programme. These areas have been selected as part of their “rural Britain” scheme in which they are aiming to deliver network upgrades in communities that are harder to reach and less densely populated.

- Virgin Media

Current schemes are planned for Chickenley and Birstall from approx. March 2020 to a similar time in 2021. The build programme aims to reach approx 10,000 homes.

5. Development of the Digital Work Programme

5.1 Consultancy support

Kirklees Council have been working with Regional Network Solution (RNETSO) consultants. They have experience in evaluating public sector digital strategies, the delivery of broadband in rural areas and expertise in the service layer which looks at social and digital inclusion, commercialisation, education and smart energy.

RNETSO supported two internal engagement sessions for service directors and senior management that were held in September and November 2019. The aim of these sessions were to:

- Discuss how digital infrastructure will enable future innovation
- Stimulate thoughts on how service areas can collaborate to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks for our residents and businesses
- Identify barriers to facilitating digital investment, mitigate the risks and understand how we can maximise the opportunities

Work is ongoing with RNETSO with a full day workshop being arranged with Officers in spring 2020.

5.2 Digital Project Work

To continue the stimulation of conversation surrounding Digital, the Digital Team are undertaking service specific sessions to further explore how the implications of this rapid investment and the Kirklees Technology Strategy could play into agendas, strategies and forward plans.

Examples of the areas of work that are being explored are:

- Digitally connected town centres: Opportunity to explore and promote the “Smart City” concept and link up with regeneration works/ Huddersfield and Dewsbury Blueprints
- Removing barriers to digital infrastructure investment (limits of construction) and planning for infrastructure growth by determining sites for data centres, masts and aerial infrastructure in advance of demand
- Ensuring that digital infrastructure expansion and provision is at the heart of planning applications and transport schemes
- Commercialisation of Council assets
- Identifying and addressing the final 20% of properties that aren’t expected to be covered under private sector infrastructure build programmes
- Research into the benefits and emerging technologies associated with 5G
- Capitalising upon the Trans-Pennine Project (£12.1m), utilising points of presence built at Huddersfield and Dewsbury with a further point planned in Slaithwaite
- Continue to engage with Building Digital UK (part of the Department for Culture, Digital, Media & Sport) to ensure Kirklees Council remains aligned with central government direction/funding.

5.3 Demand Stimulation (Gigabit Rural and Digital Enterprise Vouchers Schemes & Events)

Promoting the use and maximising the benefits of our excellent digital infrastructure is key to ensuring we create innovative and productive business who are forward looking. Over the next twelve months the Business Team will be;

- Working with the Digital Project team to map business 'not spots' and use this information to target the promotion of our national and regional digital vouchers schemes.
- Undertaking ongoing promotion and signposting to national and regional voucher schemes via our SME Growth Managers, Employment and Skills Team, Business Hub Kirklees and our social media account.
- Working with partners to deliver business facing events aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of increasing digital capacity and capability which strengthens business growth.

5.4 Digital Skills

Increasing digital skills is a catalyst for driving productivity in firms, reducing inequality and enabling every person to realise their potential. Over the next twelve months the Digital Inclusion Group will:

- Work with partners and key stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated and strategic approach to tackling digital exclusion, linking to the Kirklees Economic Strategy (KES), Learning and Skills Plan and Technology Strategy
- Deliver a consistent digital inclusion message to key stakeholders across the district, ensuring that officers across the Council are aware and support this messaging
- Develop a clear position as to how broadband suppliers can best support the Kirklees approach
- Influence and maximise existing funding for digital skills

6. **Implications for the Council**

6.1 Working with People

Kirklees Council are working alongside digital infrastructure suppliers in supporting and enabling the rollout of full fibre build programmes across the district. We have established good working relationships with existing suppliers and actively engage with and support private sector interest within the district

6.2 Working with Partners

In a regional capacity, Kirklees regularly engage with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and York Council on digital infrastructure projects and in particular have worked as a collective to deliver Phase 1 & 2 of Superfast West Yorkshire. The remaining parts of phase 2 are now being delivered as fibre to the premise. The award of the DEFRA funded phase 3 is currently pending.

In terms of wider digital outcomes Kirklees work with the combined health bodies including the two trusts; NHS CCGS and LOCALA. We also contribute to regional outcomes through work with West Yorkshire and Harrogate ICS.

In terms of our Education partners, Kirklees Council have consulted with Huddersfield University and Kirklees College as part of the ongoing development of the Technology Strategy. The authority also provides managed internet services to 130 schools in Kirklees that all connect into the JANET University network. We continue to work proactively in providing digital advice and support to any school in Kirklees who approach us.

6.3 Place Based Working

We expect that digital providers will cover a large proportion of the district through their targeted build programmes. Their business models generally aim to connect as many properties as possible within geographical locations however there is a limitation on this insofar that it needs to be commercially viable for the private sector.

As an authority we intend to focus work on interventions to address those areas/ locations that are not reached by the private sectors and the “digital not spots”.

6.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The majority of the council's digital work programme is considered to have little to no impact on climate change or air quality.

The infrastructure build programmes that are being carried out by suppliers are likely to have a small detrimental impact on carbon and air quality insofar as the presence of physical works being carried out and therefore the use of vehicles and machinery that is required to facilitate this.

Total mitigation of any build works are outside the authority's control. Digital providers, as with other utility companies (e.g. gas, water, electricity, and telecoms) have a statutory right to carry out work in the public highway in order to install or maintain apparatus in the highway. Works by utility companies are regulated by the New Roads and Street Works Act [1991]. For planned works, utility companies are required to give advance notice to the council, as the highway authority, so that the council can co-ordinate the works.

Kirklees Council is working closely with digital providers in order to minimise any delay and disruption to our networks arising from their programmes, including facilitating joint working between digital providers and weekly/fortnightly build meetings. Forward planning and coordination with providers allows for appropriate temporary measures to reduce the risk of congestion and disruption and therein reduces the impact on carbon and air quality.

The long term potential benefits, when fully exploited, of full fibre infrastructure and 5G will have a significant positive impact in terms of de-carbonisation and air quality. For example from a sustainability perspective, sensors can be deployed to monitor air pollution in dense traffic areas. If those sensors were linked directly to road traffic systems they would have the potential to alter the flow of traffic dependant on the need. The unison of technologies then has the potential to tackle problems such as pollution. The idea of technologies working together is conceptualised as “Smart Cities”.

“Smart Cities” as a concept is heavily reliant on a network that is capable of handling vast amounts of data. Full fibre infrastructure is therefore pivotal in opening up the art of the possible in terms of what technology can be utilised for in the future. .

6.5 Improving outcomes for children

Schools and colleges are now able to access faster and more reliable broadband. The pupils in lessons will benefit through the ability to access the newest technologies as they are developed.

The education sector is already being transformed through digital technology. Full fibre will accelerate new more flexible ways for students to learn remotely and to use interactive e-learning tools.

Whilst the pace of change in technology is so great that we cannot currently predict with any great certainty what new technologies are going to be available, having full fibre infrastructure in place future proofs Kirklees for any potential advancements that could benefit children's education, health and social mobility.

6.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

The council have taken a number of opportunities in order to increase resourcing and therein improve the governance for the Digital Work Programme.

A new Digital team have been established within the Major Projects service that comprise of x1 Project Manager and x2 Project Officers. The digital team work closely alongside IT services and Business and Skills in driving the work programme forward and managing the day to day delivery of its objectives.

At present the work programme has been almost entirely absorbed by the operational costs of individual services. To this end a resource request is intended to be presented to the respective senior leadership teams. This will be in relation to Highways, Asset Management, Business and Skills and Legal. Enhanced resources are crucial in moving the programme forward.

7. **Consultees and their opinions**

Due to the infancy of the Digital Work Programme, the roll out of digital infrastructure and its benefits, the consultees have been restricted to stakeholders so far.

We are involved with providers such as City Fibre and Fibre Nation and their promotion and awareness raising to businesses and local residents in Kirklees.

Next steps and timelines

- Technology Strategy to be finalised and circulated
- Engagement sessions between individual services and the Digital and IT teams (supported by RENTSO) to explore how the Technology Strategy and its ambitions can be integrated within all individual forward plans and objectives
- Continuance of work with digital providers to keep abreast of their build programmes and barrier busting
- Identification of digital funding streams
- Exploration of new and innovative technologies with “Smart City” focus in mind and how that can be introduced to the district
- Continue to engage with Building Digital UK (Dept for Culture, Digital, Media & Sport) to ensure Kirklees Council remains aligned with central government direction/funding.

8. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

Officers recommend that the contents of this report and presentation are noted, along with any observations made by third party interest, and that the next steps as proposed by officers are endorsed.

The next steps will allow the Council to continue to develop the digital work programme in accordance with the emerging principles of the Technology Strategy and in line with the Kirklees Corporate Plan.

9. **Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s recommendations**

The portfolio holder(s), Councillor Peter McBride and Councillor Graham Turner have been consulted on this report and endorse the contents.

10. **Contact officer**

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11. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Kirklees Digital Plan, Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel 14 February 2019
(Attached as an appendix)

12. Service Director responsible

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Name of meeting: Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Date: 14 February 2019

Title of report: Kirklees Digital Plan

Purpose of report The purpose of this report is to set out the background and context of the digital landscape across Kirklees; to provide the draft Digital plan for your consideration and input and to share local, regional and national strategy and investment which aligns with our ambitions.

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
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	As above
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby
Is it also signed off by the Acting Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	n/a
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	n/a
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: At this stage none

Public or private: Public

N.B. A glossary of terms is provided as appendix 1

1. Background and Context

1.1 The National Infrastructure Commission¹ (NIC) clearly sets out how digital connectivity has become an essential service much like water, gas and electricity and is recognised along with our roads, rail, air and sea links as a key contributor to driving productivity and economic growth.

1.2 By 2020/21 the NIC anticipates;

- Global internet traffic is expected to be 95 times that of 2005
- Connected devices will outnumber the global population by nearly seven to one.¹
- In the UK, fixed internet traffic is set to double every two years,

¹. <https://www.nic.org.uk/>

- Mobile data traffic is set to increase further at a rate of 25% to 42% per year. The machine-to-machine, Internet of Things market is estimated to be worth £276B.
- 82% of internet traffic will be streamed video content with 35% of that being Netflix.
- TVs will require 15Mbps dedicated bandwidth to operate. HD TV's are no longer manufactured.

1.4 If you visualise internet traffic as a national highway network, it's clear to see how vitally important motorways and trunk roads are for the country's economic growth.

Imagine the UK has just two internet motorways, the M1 and M62. The rest of the traffic is limited to a handful of 'A' roads (Fibre To The Premises) but most traffic is carried by 'B' roads (Fibre To The Cabinets) – which are slow and congested.

Local, regional and national strategy

1.5 The following strategies and plans support Kirklees Digital ambitions

- [UK Digital Strategy](#): The Government's plan to achieve a transformation in broadband in the UK; strong focus on full fibre
- [LCR Strategic Economic Plan](#): using digital infrastructure and technology to accelerate good growth
- [WYCA Transport Strategy 2040](#): Unlocking the potential of smart technology
- [Leeds City Region Digital Framework](#): Transforming Leeds City Region through digital technology
- Department for Education [Essential Digital Skills Framework](#): the digital skills adults need to participate to safely benefit from, participate in and contribute to the digital world.
- Kirklees Economic Strategy 2019 – 2025 (DRAFT): growing an inclusive and productive economy
 - Priority 1: Modern, Innovative Business
 - Priority 2: Skilled and Ambitious People
 - Priority 3: Active Partnerships
 - Priority 4: Advanced Connectivity and Infrastructure
 - Priority 5: Revitalising and Promoting Key Centre

Alignment of our actions and activity to these is being closely considered as we prepare our more detailed action plan. However, a high level review has concluded that our headline actions align closely to local, regional and national strategy and place us in a strong position to take advantage of any investment and funding that becomes available to support our ambition.

The Digital Economy

1.6 The global economy is undergoing a digital transformation, and it's happening at breakneck speed. Tech City UK estimates that the digital sectors are creating jobs 2.8 times faster than the rest of the economy. According to DCMS, the Digital sectors contributed £118 billion to the country's economy in 2015 and Government's ambition is for this to rise to £200 billion by 2025.

1.7 As well as the traditional digital sectors, technology is transforming other sectors – supporting education, improving activities in finance, delivering automation in manufacturing, solving health problems and improving people’s quality of life.

1.8 The Council is using technology to undertake a Digital Transformation of services that will provide 24/7 Digital Access, partner delivery through shared systems, automated fulfilment e.g. finance, assistive technology in health and social care, voice assistants, in-community sensors to monitor air pollution, and readiness to integrate an expected tide of devices residing on the ‘Internet of Things’. The Internet of things is the network of devices such as vehicles, and home appliances e.g. smart speakers that contain electronics, software and connectivity which allows these things to connect, interact and exchange data.

1.9 The backbone of the digital economy is connectivity. Critical to Kirklees’ ability to capitalise on the opportunities offered through digital transformation is universal coverage of high quality, fast and reliable digital broadband networks. Although this will be led by private sector commercial investment, Kirklees has a key role to play in attracting and removing barriers to investment.

1.10 *Critical to enabling this future reality is universal coverage of high quality, fast and reliable digital networks.*

Coverage and Take-up

1.11 The different broadband speeds available to our residents, the percentage of the population that can access them (coverage) and the percentage of the population that uses these speeds (take-up) can be summarised as:

Speed	Infrastructure	Coverage	Take-up	Predicted use
Up to 24Mbps – ADSL	Copper	100%	60%	Will decrease over time
24Mbps - 30Mbps – Superfast	Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC): Copper and fibre mix	96.6%	40%	Will increase over time
1 Gbps – Gigabit	Fibre to the premise (FTTP): Full Fibre	30% by 2021	2%	Will increase over time

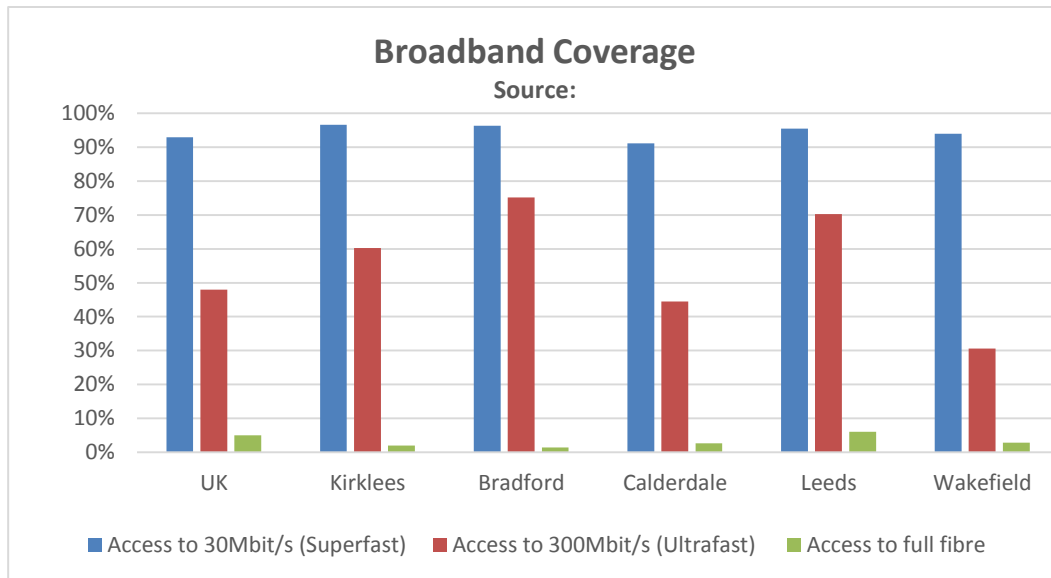
1.12 100% of our population is serviced though legacy copper infrastructure, ADSL, with take-up at 60%. Usage of ADSL will decrease over time as residents and businesses take advantage of faster speeds provided by fibre.

1.13 96.6% of our population is serviced by Superfast (up to 30 Mbps) (see figure 1 overleaf). The Superfast West Yorkshire and York (SFWYY) programme has delivered superfast speeds to 24,000 premises over the last 2 years and additional funding is being sought to reach the remaining 3.4% through Contract 3 (typically the most rural, hardest to reach areas where there is no interest in commercial investment). Coverage is anticipated to reach 98% by 2022.

Take up of superfast is approximately 40% (in line with the UK average) and has increased significantly over the last few years – it’s now seen as the fourth utility. A rapid change in the

digital landscape and available technology has seen a need for businesses and residents to access faster, more-reliable internet - supporting improved business communications, digital marketing, the ability to work from home, use of cloud computing, streaming via Netflix, TV, smart speakers and multiple-device use in the home.

Figure 1: Comparison of broadband coverage in Kirklees to the UK and neighbouring authorities Source: October 2018 Update of the Connected Nations report and associated data tables by OFCOM



1.14 Government is heavily focussed on increasing full fibre coverage across the UK to provide Gigabit speeds to homes and businesses. In May 2018, they pledged 15m Fibre-To-The-Premises (FTTP) connections by 2025 (60% UK coverage) and full coverage by 2033.

2% of premises in Kirklees currently use Gigabit / FTTP services and this will continue to increase. Our Gigabit network is set to reach 30% by 2021 through the current City Fibre Homes programme. These services will give our economy the boost it needs for the 4th Industrial Revolution, a fundamental technological revolution that will change the way we live, work and relate to one another.

1.15 In Kirklees, whilst aspiring to expand the full fibre network extensively, we must not lose sight of those premises with the poorest broadband speeds; seeking to increase their broadband speed as high as realistically possible.

Digital Exclusion

1.16 Although we live in an increasingly online world, a significant part of the population remains digitally excluded. A national study² set out a Digital Heatmap showing the likelihood of digital exclusion across the UK at Local Authority level. Across Kirklees, overall digital exclusion is Medium.

The Four metrics used to indicate digital exclusion were:

- Infrastructure (2% premises in Kirklees do not have basic broadband speeds of at least 10Mbps; 2.23% premises do not receive 4G mobile data from all providers))
- Number of people who have never been online in the last 3 months (8.5% in Kirklees)
- Basic Digital Skills (23% of adults in Kirklees lack the 5 basic digital skills)
- Basic Digital Skills used (42% Kirklees' adults have used basic digital skills in the last 3 months)

² Local Government Association and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in association with Lloyds Banking Group. <http://heatmap.thetechpartnership.com/>

Although a medium rating is encouraging, we must continue to address our resident's ability to access online products or services and increase their ability to use simple forms of digital technology.

1.17 Many jobs have a digital element so effective digital skills provision is essential to ensure the workforce is prepared for this and future technological changes. It is predicted that within 20 years 90% of all jobs will require some degree of digital skills and as the digital economy grows, there will be even greater demand for people with specialist digital skills.

1.18 There is also a direct relationship between digital exclusion and digital infrastructure. The more infrastructure we have, that is not being accessed, the more 'excluded' residents we have as a result: and the greater the economic growth potential is hampered.

The Council will need to work closely with Internet Service Providers to summarise the complex digital landscape into tangible messages for business and residents, promoting the benefits of technology to how we all live, work and play, supporting skills development and encouraging take up.

Local, regional and national investment

1.19 The following local, regional and national investment supports our *draft* ambitions;

- Superfast West Yorkshire and York Contract 2 and 3
A partnership to improve access to and take up of superfast broadband. Focusses on areas where there is no commercial interest to invest in improving broadband speeds (typically rural, hard to reach areas). Contract 2 is funded by DCMS and European funding. Funding is being sought to extend the programme to reach 98% superfast coverage by 2021.
- £30m City Fibre / Vodafone investment in Huddersfield
Commercial investment bringing full fibre connectivity to approximately 64,000 homes and businesses across the 9 Ward areas of Newsome, Colne Valley, Lindley, Ashbrow, Almondbury, Golcar, Dalton, Crosland Moor and Netherton and Greenhead by 2021. Over the next 15 years, the roll-out of full fibre could unlock £18m in business productivity and innovation, and £11m from new start-up activity.
- Network Rail Transpennine Fibre Project
Providing full fibre from Manchester to York along the Transpennine rail route. Timescales TBC.
- Digital Enterprise Programme
An innovative business support programme which helps small to medium businesses in the Leeds city region, to scale up and achieve digital transformation.
- The Better Broadband Scheme
Government scheme to provide access to a subsidised broadband installation to homes and businesses that are unable to access a basic broadband service with a download speed of at least 2 Mb per second and who will not benefit from the superfast broadband roll out. Available until November 2019.
- Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Government scheme providing vouchers of up to £2500 for business and £500 per resident that can be used to contribute towards the cost of providing a Gigabit-capable broadband connection. Available until 2021.
- The Openreach Community Fibre Partnership Programme
Communities have the option of working with OpenReach to develop a customised solution to bring higher broadband speeds to the area. Government voucher schemes can be used towards the cost and OpenReach contributes towards the cost in line with their own commercial model.
- Universal Service Obligation (USO) for broadband from 2020
Government is introducing this UK wide measure to deliver better broadband speeds to the hardest to reach premises in the UK. The USO will provide a legal right to request a

broadband connection of at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed. Eligible consumers and businesses will be able to request a connection under the USO and a Universal Service Provider(s) will be required to fulfil all requests up to a cost threshold of £3,400.

2. The Kirklees Digital Plan

2.1 Appendix 2 provides our draft high level digital plan which aims to succinctly provide an overview of the *draft* ambition, objectives and headline actions we are planning to undertake/instigate. It supports the priorities in the Kirklees Economic Strategy 2019 – 2025 (DRAFT)

2.2 Our ambition is to stimulate affordable, accessible, appropriate digital infrastructure and skills development.

2.3 Our objectives are to

- Strengthen and support supplier investment
- Create a resilient and future-proofed network
- Use connectivity as a catalyst for investment and innovation
- Develop personal/life and employment skills
- Collaborate to drive local, regional and national policy and investment

2.4 Our priorities, desired outcome and headline actions are set out below

Leadership and Collaboration – *Digital connectivity requires strong leadership and co-ordination, a cross-boundary and multi service approach.*

We will work with our partners to drive national, regional and local policy, investment and skills in order to deliver a resilient infrastructure network that supports a thriving economy where citizens have a good quality of life and business can take advantage of technology to innovate, aspire and achieve.

Stimulating Investment - *Strengthen and support commercial supplier investment to develop world-class connectivity*

We will make Kirklees is a highly attractive destination for inward investment based on its world-class digital connectivity, particularly in key economic centre and at strategic sites. Digital connectivity will be a catalyst for investment and innovation.

Extending the Network – *Maximise Gigabit, Superfast, Ultrafast, WiFi and Mobile (including 5G) across all geographical areas*

We will enhance and fill gaps in the digital network and provide premises with access to the highest available broadband speeds and a choice of supplier.

Demand Stimulation – *Work with key stakeholders to ensure arrangements are in place to address digital exclusion and enhance business and personal performance.*

We will aim to provide the right support, skills and knowledge to make it easier for businesses and citizens to achieve their growth potential and take advantage of existing and future technology and employment opportunities.

3. Information required to take a decision

Not applicable.

4. Implications for the Council

The successful delivery of the Kirklees Digital Plan will enhance our residents and our businesses productivity and ability to do more for themselves. Specific implications and risks will be identified during preparation of a detailed delivery plan. This delivery plan will contain specific actions, timescales, lead officers and budget and will be reviewed by the Kirklees Digital Partnership. The current highest level of risk associated with non-delivery is lack of staffing capacity.

5. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable.

6. Next steps

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Economy and Neighbourhoods takes account of the information presented and considers the next steps it wishes to take.

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

7.1 The Economy and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel endorse the need for the Kirklees Digital Plan and understand the importance of this plan as a tool for galvanising delivery which meets the specific needs of our residents, business, suppliers and inward investment.

7.2 The Economy and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel acknowledge the progress made to date.

8. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

The portfolio holder(s), Councillor Peter McBride and Councillor Graham Turner support the approach outlined above in the officer recommendations.

9. Contact officer

Sue Weston – Strategic Lead for Business and Skills
sue.weston@kirklees.gov.uk
(01484) 221000

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

A paper highlighting our plans for digital infrastructure was considered by the Kirklees Digital Partnership on 21st July 2018.

On the 11th December 2018 'Facilitating the development of fixed line broadband services was considered by Cabinet. A copy of the report and decision can be found here <https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6808>

11. Service Director responsible

Karl Battersby - Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure
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(01484) 221000

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ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

MEMBERS: Councillors Harpreet Uppal (Lead Member), Martyn Bolt, Richard Eastwood, Yusra Hussain, Richard Murgatroyd and John Taylor
 Co-optees: Andrew Bird, Chris Friend, Eilidh Ogden

SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES/ACTIONS
Inward Investment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inward Investment Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ which businesses/sectors should be targeted and what do they need to be sustainable and grow. ○ alternative sources of finance for environmental issues/ alternative energy use. 	April 2020
Skills Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Council is doing to develop skills Post 16 to ensure a local workforce that will have the right skills and qualifications to take advantage of planned investment across the district and neighbouring town and cities; including boosting skills to enable access to higher income and better quality jobs; • What are the gaps within the Kirklees district and the wider region? • What actions are being taken to address inequality? • Time series analysis and comparator data with the rest of the Leeds City Region and nationally. • Possible opportunities arising, from housing quality requirements, for development of the green economy in Kirklees by using the existing knowledge of relevant construction skills in the district; which also links into both the Housing Strategy and the Economic Strategy 	March 2020

<p>Towns and Communities in Kirklees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and assess the plans being developed for town centres. • Huddersfield Town Centre Masterplan – to look at the engagement and consultation process particularly in relation to local stakeholders and small businesses. • Assess the objectives of plans to include the aspirations/vision for the towns, public realm and infrastructure. • Consideration of the wider context of other town centres/villages across Kirklees to include looking at the key challenges and opportunities that could influence this agenda. 	<p><u>17 July 2019</u> Report on the Huddersfield Blueprint – with a focus on engagement and consultation. Head of Development and Master Planning requested to provide additional information in respect of a number of related issues and to include information in future reports in relation to measures to make public transport an attractive option/potential impact on other town centres/environmental impact.</p>
<p>Green Space Strategy</p>	<p>To consider the proposed approach to the draft Greenspace Strategy; focus on engagement and consultation.</p>	<p>Provisional – March 2020</p>
<p>Council Owned Tree and Woodland Management Policy</p>		<p><u>10 October 2019</u> Report on development of the Council Owned Tree and Woodland Management Policy and the commitment to the White Rose Forest initiative. Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenspace Service should engage with uniformed groups in relation to tree planting volunteering opportunities and that the engagement being undertaken with schools be endorsed. • Policy be brought back to the Panel for consideration should significant amendment be made further to the consultation process.

<p>Playable Spaces Strategy</p>	<p>To consider the proposed approach to the draft Playable Spaces Strategy; focus on engagement and consultation.</p>	<p><u>14 November 2019</u> Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for consultations with a wide range of stakeholders on the Playable Space Strategy in advance of the local elections 2020 supported. • The vital role of ward members in contributing to the consultation to develop play opportunities to meet children’s needs is acknowledged.
<p>Digital Strategy</p>	<p>Update report 12 months after implementation to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with physical infrastructure but also in respect of the wider promotion of the advantages of the Kirklees district. • The work being undertaken relating to the development of appropriate skills (links in with Skills Strategy) • The work being done to ensure that residents within more rural areas are supported to be able to access a digital network that is fit for purpose and future proofed. 	<p>March 2020</p>
<p>Planning and Related Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)/Section 106 Agreements; to include the associated administrative process and effectiveness of the provision of ‘Metrocards’ • Progress in relation to the development of the supporting policies for the Local Plan • Bus service provision relative to: the Local Plan and the planning system/ new development (links in with air quality). 	<p><u>S106 + Open Space SPGs – 20 December 2019</u> Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That further information be provided in respect of the average timeline for 106 monies being drawn down, by Department • That further data be provided relating to variances on section 106 agreements due to viability. • That clearer information on alternative sustainable transport options be provided to residents, in addition to Metro cards, which may not always be the most suitable option <p>Panel comments to be fed into draft Open Space SPD (20</p>

		<p>December 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsite provision – Panel noted that “nearby” was not strictly defined and stressed the importance of ensuring access through safe, accessible corridors which do not rely on additional car journeys - With regard to when open space is required, the panel noted the number of 300 or more dwellings to require playing pitch provision and highlighted the issue of cumulative developments within close proximity - As part of the assessment of open spaces, the issue of flood mitigation measures should be considered. <p>Hot Food Takeaway – tbc CIL + Viability Guidance - January 2020</p>
<p>Active Travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and Walking Framework 	<p>Study Visit tbc.</p>
<p>Waste Strategy</p>	<p>New National Resources and Waste Strategy is being developed. Areas could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for Kirklees Waste Strategy; Scrutiny to feed into proposals/engagement in relation to changes to collection regime. • Litter and Environmental Crime – approach; to include statistics and analysis/ how ‘hotspots’ are targeted/ trends/how the work of the Street Cleansing Teams is focused/ feedback on the Ward Based Action Squads. • Considering what work is being done with the local population and local business in respect of avoiding and reducing waste/single use plastic. • Household Waste Recycling Centres; accessibility/permit process/layout/potential barriers to use. 	<p><u>19 September 2019</u> Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Councillors should be provided with an overview of the issues reported to the Council by residents (including on ROSS) to assist them in determining the priorities for action within their ward. • Consideration be given to how best the Service might be able to support ward members in promoting and publicising this work to their residents. • The Service should consider raising awareness within schools and colleges of the potential for volunteering opportunities and work experience. • A strategic environmental assessment should be undertaken as part of the development of the Kirklees Waste Strategy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of trade waste, including the potential impact on the levels of fly tipping, should be considered as part of the development of the new waste strategy. • Fly tipping be retained on the Panel’s Work Programme with a particular focus on the use of an intelligence led approach. • It would be beneficial to increase awareness of the concessions available for the bulky waste collection service for those residents in receipt of an assisted bin service, and the permit process for the Household Waste Recycling Centres. • That Members of the Panel be provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ data in relation to the number of fines collected for littering and fly tipping compared with the number issued. ○ the enforcement flow chart. ○ the gross tonnage figures for the Household Waste Recycling Centres broken down into general waste/recyclable waste for 2015/16 onwards.
<p>Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with KNH • Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy; update post implementation including statistics on housing need/waiting lists/rough sleepers. • Tenant Involvement and Engagement 	<p>OSMC – Ad Hoc Panel</p> <p><u>10 October 2019</u> Progress Report. Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That specific reference be made to ex-military personnel as a vulnerable group and that the funding obtained at regional level to focus on work with veterans be noted. <p><u>14 November 2019</u> Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a further update on the implementation of the Tenant Involvement Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of this Panel.

<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>Update after completion of consultation</p>	<p><u>10 October 2019</u> Update on development of the Council's 5 Year AQ Action Plan. Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of interest which the Panel may wish to give more detailed consideration in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which measures have proven effective and which provide good value for money. - Addressing the issue of vehicles with idling engines particularly outside schools. - How the planning system can be used/will address issues in relation to infrastructure to encourage sustainable transport/active travel. - Improving infrastructure to encourage travel by public transport/cycling and walking. - Encouraging/ facilitating better options for travel to school to reduce use of private cars.
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