

# Public Document Pack



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

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Friday 3 July 2020

## Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

### **Cabinet**

A Meeting of **Cabinet** will take place remotely at **3.00 pm** on **Monday 13 July 2020**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

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.

## Cabinet Members:-

<b>Member</b>	<b>Responsible For:</b>
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Leader of the Council
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Cabinet Member - Children (Statutory responsibility for Children)
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care
Councillor Naheed Mather	Cabinet Member - Greener Kirklees
Councillor Peter McBride	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Carole Pattison	Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities
Councillor Cathy Scott	Cabinet Member - Housing and Democracy
Councillor Graham Turner	Cabinet Member - Corporate
Councillor Rob Walker	Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment

### Emergency Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities During Covid-19

Cllr Shabir Pandor	Leading the immediate response to the pandemic Leading recovery strategy Public Health
Cllr Peter McBride	Immediate support to business Planning the post-pandemic inclusive economy
Cllr Viv Kendrick	Statutory responsibility for children's social care Safeguarding our most vulnerable children throughout the pandemic
Cllr Musarrat Khan	Statutory responsibility for vulnerable adults Responsible for vulnerable adult social care, and safeguarding our most vulnerable adults throughout the pandemic
Cllr Carole Pattison	Working with schools to maintain services Planning for return to school
Cllr Graham Turner	Financial oversight Resources
Cllr Naheed Mather	Council staff, including staff wellbeing
Cllr Cathy Scott	Engaging and supporting voluntary sector capacity for immediate responses to the pandemic Strengthening place-based working for the future (North Kirklees)
Cllr Rob Walker	Engaging and supporting voluntary sector capacity for immediate responses to the pandemic Strengthening place-based working for the future (South Kirklees)

# Agenda

## Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

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### Pages

**1: Membership of Cabinet**

To receive apologies for absence from Cabinet Members who are unable to attend this meeting.

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**2: Minutes of Previous Meeting - 26 May 2020**

1 - 14

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 May 2020.

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**3: Interests**

15 - 16

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.

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**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.

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**5: Deputations/Petitions**

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

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

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## **6: Questions by Members of the Public (Written Questions)**

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, Members of the Public may submit written questions to the Leader, and/or Cabinet Members.

Any questions should be emailed to [executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk) no later than 10.00am on Friday 10 July 2020.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5), the period allowed for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes. A maximum of 4 questions per person may be submitted.

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## **7: Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)**

Cabinet will receive any questions from Elected Members (via remote access).

In accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 2.3 (2.3.1.6) a period of up to 30 minutes will be allocated.

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## **8: Kirklees Children and Young People's Partnership Plan**

17 - 24

To receive (i) the Children and Young People's Plan for endorsement and (ii) an update on the work and status of the Children and Young People's Partnership.

Wards affected : All

Contact : Mary White, Children's Services Commissioning and Partnerships Manager

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**9: Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme update - Disposal of Land at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield** 25 - 32

To receive a further update on the Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme and consider the disposal of a site at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield, varying the terms of the previous Cabinet authority of 29 August 2018, to enable the disposal of site at less than market value.

Wards affected : Crosland Moor and Netherton

Contact : James Hinchliffe, Housing Growth Manager

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**10: Kirklees Local Economic Recovery Plan** 33 - 64

To receive a report setting out the Kirklees Economic Recovery Plan in response to the economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic seeking approval to take the plan to wider engagement with the public and stakeholders.

Wards affected : All

Contact : Chris Duffill, Head of Business and Skills

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**11: Colne Valley Place Partnership - Mental Health Initiatives - Summer 2020** 65 - 68

To consider the allocation of a sum of funding from the Place Partnership mental health themed budget towards support and help for families who live in the Colne Valley Place Partnership area over Summer 2020.

Wards affected : Colne Valley, Golcar, Lindley

Contact : Julie McDowell, Active Citizens and Places

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**12: White Rose Forest Plan and the Trees for Climate Programme**

69 - 88

To confirm the role of Kirklees as the accountable body of the White Rose Forest.

Wards affected : All

Contact : Guy Thompson, Partnership Manager – White Rose Forest

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**13: Exclusion of the Public**

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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**14. White Rose Forest Plan and the Trees for Climate Programme**

89 - 92

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

(An exempt appendix in relation to Agenda Item 12).

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CABINET

**Tuesday 26th May 2020**

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)  
Councillor Viv Kendrick  
Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Naheed Mather  
Councillor Peter McBride  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Graham Turner  
Councillor Rob Walker

Observers: Councillor Andrew Cooper  
Councillor David Hall  
Councillor Aleks Lukic  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor John Taylor

**168 Membership of Cabinet**

All Cabinet Members were present.

**169 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that exempt information was provided at Agenda Item 14 (Minute No. 181 refers)

**170 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**171 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)**

Cabinet received the following questions from Members of the Council;

**Question from Councillor Cooper**

“Is it correct to say that many pupils returning to primary school will receive only two days education per week?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Councillor Pattison).

**Question from Councillor Cooper**

“I appreciate the concerns we have for children. I have had teachers’ contacting me who are very concerned about returning to school, who are not sure that they have proper PPE for when they may require it, who are not certain about the procedures that they have and are quite anxious themselves. I wonder why some local authorities are giving direction, but Kirklees isn’t?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Councillor Pattison).

**Question from Councillor D Hall**

“What steps are Cabinet taking to anticipate a probably rise in unemployment due to the ongoing crisis?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor D Hall**

“In the press last week the GMB raised an issue concerning taxi firms and their contract with the Council, and it has been alleged that some are not passing money onto drivers in regards to school transport. Have we any evidence in Kirklees that this is actually happening and if so what do we think might be the scale of the problem?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Councillor Pattison).

**Question from Councillor Lawson**

“With the Government giving the go-ahead to open markets from 1 June, what steps are being taken in Kirklees to re-open our markets and does this include the farmers markets, such as the one in Cleckheaton?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker).

**Question from Councillor Lawson**

“In the event of a second wave of covid-19, how will the Council build on the financial assistance that it has already given to care homes, and roughly how much has been given to those care homes?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Khan).



**Question from Councillor Lawson**

“Can we have a quick update on how bins are operating as there seems to still be a few systematic errors of repeated misses of bin collections?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker).

**Question from Councillor Lawson**

“With the acquisition of the George Hotel and the plans to put a museum in there, what are the plans for the rest of the building? Who else are we talking to get the rest of the building occupied?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride).

**Question from Councillor Lawson**

“There seems to be a bit of confusion recently, what would Cabinet’s advice be to residents considering a long car journey?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor J Taylor**

“I’m picking up concerns about the number of University students who may possibly defer this year. We’ve seen Cambridge already saying that they are going to put a lot of courses and lectures online, and so students may think this is a good time to take a gap year. If they already have places guaranteed for next year, that will put greater pressure on students that would be coming through the system next year. There is also the issue of whether we will have the same number of foreign students, as there is a large co-hort of foreign students at Huddersfield University. Have we done any work yet, or had any conversations, about the impact on finances, upon both the University, the town and the Council? If we have less students, what impact will that have upon the local economy, and upon student accommodation that is not occupied?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“Last week Kirklees hosted a virtual meeting of over 200 education professionals. If this is the case, why can’t the access be provided for the 69 members representing our communities, or for members of the public to directly ask questions? The technology is clearly there but we are not able to engage.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“Having been made aware of the dangers to users of the Batley Greenway, where children on tandems and tagalongs are left in the road while the adult has to dismount to walk around barriers, why nothing has to been done to remove these barriers which Kirklees were told by Cycling England in 2007 should not be used on sustainable travel routes?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“Residents have reported high volume fly tipping on Paul Lane, Dalton, blocking half of this essential access route for homes and businesses. How long will it take to clear and do you still think there are no issues with fly tipping?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“The creation of a Calder Valley Greenway included using a former rail line from Paul Lane to Bog Green Lane in the Dalton ward. The planning drawings show a 2m wide equestrian surface along side the tarmac. This was never constructed. Given the Kirklees stance on enforcing planning with others shouldn't it ensure that its Services abide by planning approvals, especially as Kirklees seeks to promote active travel?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“Councillor Mather was asked last week for details of projects and consultation in light of the £2bn government funding pot made available for active travel. She had no details last week, meanwhile other local authorities pushed forward and seized their share of the money in West Yorkshire. Can we put forward suggestions such as (i) improving safety on Bog Green Lane, Dalton (ii) linking Mirfield to Dewsbury South by upgrading the bridleways and the side paths and (iii) connecting the Calder Valley Greenway out to Waterloo in Dalton by upgrading the towpath and footpath around Syngenta? Could she look at providing a safe multi user path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders avoiding the canal towpath between Bradley and Brighouse?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question from Councillor J Taylor (on behalf of Councillor Bolt)**

“Having highlighted the danger on roads in Kirklees, would the Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive join me, at a social distance, on a cycle ride so that they are personally aware of what many residents have to endure daily?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question from Councillor Lukic**

“What measures will the Council be taking to keep the high street safe when non-essential shops reopen on 15 June?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor Lukic**

“To help local businesses recover and to help maintain distancing on public transport, will the current suspension of car parking charges be continuing and until what date?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride).

**Question from Councillor Lukic**

“Do we know when libraries and customer service centres will re-open?”

**172 Questions by Members of the Public (Written Questions)**

Cabinet received the following questions from Members of the Public:

**Question from Gideon Richards**

“It is coming up to the renewal period for the Parking Permits. At the budget approval meeting by the Council, there was to be a change of rules to allow Electric Vehicles to park in all Kirklees Council car parks for free, and also to park on-street for free as well. Can you confirm how this is to be implemented and when it will come into force?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question by Gideon Richards**

“Supplementary to my previous question, can you confirm what the Parking Permit arrangements will be for getting the extended parking, or will this be automatically built into the permit?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question by Gideon Richards**

“Can you confirm that all significant housing planning developments (over say 25 houses) going through planning, or have just been recently approved, will consider transport accessibility if another Pandemic were to hit the public transport system and what steps would need to be included in order to ensure that they do not impact on the Kirklees area Net-Zero GHG targets?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride).

**Question by Gideon Richards**

“Following the court judgement on Heathrow with regards to having developments that do not impact Climate Change commitments, what metrics are the Council using to measure and avoid being legally challenged for decisions that could impact our Net-Zero 2038 target?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

**Question by Christine Hyde**

“At the Cabinet Meeting on 1 May, you said that you will be including the cost for the community Covid 19 contact tracing and isolation in our estimates while the pandemic is ongoing. We hear Directors of Public Health are responsible for Contact tracing and quarantine with regard to Care Homes.

Will both North and South Kirklees homes be selected in the same time frame or will one area begin and a rolling programme across the areas ensue?

Have the Department of Public Health had time to train and vet new employees or volunteers to help with this work. Are people being employed by the LA or are volunteers being used? What level of DBS check is being used?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question by Christine Hyde**

“At the Cabinet Meeting on 1 May, you said that when we come out of this we will need to make sure that the people who are already in poverty, and/or are now in an even worse situation, should be helped in the best way we can.

Nevertheless, we think it would be good to scrutinise the Integrated Care System’s response to Covid 19 and build in measures to tackle the next stages of the response, to make sure that the disproportionate damage Covid19 is doing to both poor and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities is ended now. Not wait until “we come out of this”.

Please will you consider setting up ‘virtual’ Health Scrutiny meetings and press the Joint West Yorkshire and Harrogate health and Care Partnership to do the same?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**Question by Christine Hyde**

“Only when local contact tracing, and quarantine measures are set up can we be confident that schools do not pose a threat to the community by spreading the virus, both among the children and staff. Studies have been done in France and one which looked at a 5 week period in a school found that of the numbers in the school infected, 60% were lunchtime and other support staff.

The children in school at present are a specialised cohort in small groups. Their parents are among those at greater risk of catching the virus. The NEU and other Unions do not think their tests for a safe return to full time education have been met and private paid for schools are not reopening.

Please will you make sure all measures are put in place to safeguard the children who are already there, and all their staff before opening schools?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Councillor Pattison).

**Question from Christine Hyde**

“In terms of the Coronavirus Act 2020, it is likely that there will be a fallout such as a predictable increase in domestic violence, and also of unintended consequences. Does the Cabinet intend to do a Health Inequalities Assessment of the legislation?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**173 Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme Update**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the small affordable housing sites programme and sought approval to vary the terms of the previous Cabinet authority of 29 August 2018 to enable the disposal of three sites at (i) Kitson Hill Crescent (ii) Fox Royd Drive, Mirfield and (iii) Sixth Avenue, Hightown, Liversedge, at less than market value. The report advised that the amount of any discount would be based on viability approvals for the development of the sites, which were for 100% affordable housing.

Cabinet noted that, subject to approval, the disposal of the sites to the Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust (JJHT) would be progressed under delegated authority, and it was expected that new bungalows would be available for letting in spring 2021.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the programme update, as outlined in the considered report, and the proposed investment of the Preferred Partner and Homes England in enabling the acquisition and development of the first tranche of three sites at Kitson Hill Crescent and Fox Royd Drive, Mirfield and Sixth Avenue, Hightown, Liversedge, be noted.
- 2) That approval be given to the disposal of land at Kitson Hill Crescent and Fox Royd Drive, Mirfield and Sixth Avenue, Hightown, Liversedge.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to negotiate and agree terms and dispose of Kitson Hill

Crescent, Fox Royd Drive, Mirfield and Sixth Avenue, Hightown, Liversedge, as detailed in the considered report.

- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into such agreements on negotiated and agreed terms for disposal.

**174 Huddersfield Southern Corridors Scheme Approval and Land Acquisition**  
(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Lawson).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Huddersfield Southern Corridors Scheme, to acquire necessary third-party land and to progress construction, subject to approval of the full business case, funding confirmation and obtaining the necessary planning and consents.

The report set out the objectives of the Huddersfield Southern Corridors project, which was funded via the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund, from the Phase 1 Corridor Improvement Programme, and consisted of improvements to Queensgate, Folly Hall, Longroyd Lane and Lockwood Bar.

Cabinet noted that the Huddersfield Southern Corridors Scheme had been submitted to West Yorkshire Combined Authority during 2018 and that outline business case approval had been secured, releasing £2.534m to progress the project to full business case which included £1.6m for land assembly. The report set out details of the individual scheme proposals, which were illustrated within the appendix to the report.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to the Huddersfield Southern Corridors Scheme.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to negotiate and agree the acquisition of the long leasehold interest in 181-187 Lockwood Road for £550,000.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to progress the Huddersfield Southern Corridors to construction, including; (i) acquiring all necessary third-party land (ii) obtaining approval of the full business case from West Yorkshire Combined Authority that funding is approved (iii) obtaining the required planning permissions and listed building consents and (iv) securing the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders and Stopping Up Orders.

**175 2020/21 Council Capital Plan - Proposed allocation of 2020/21 Capital Funding from the Directorate for Children's Achieve & Aspire baseline section of the Capital Plan**

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Lawson).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which identified projects, to be funded from the Achieve and Aspire Capital Maintenance baseline section of the capital plan, as approved by Council on 12 February 2020. The report advised that the funding was

## Cabinet - 26 May 2020

to be used to address urgent condition related needs in maintained schools and Cabinet were asked to approve the Capital Maintenance Programme, along with specified projects, so that they could be delivered in 2020/2021.

Cabinet noted the detail of the business case, as attached at Appendix A to the considered report, which outlined the rationale for the schools' condition works programme, and the list of proposed school works during 2020/2021, which was attached at Appendix B.

The report advised of proposals for the £3.4m 2020/2021 budget to be allocated to (i) urgent condition need based projects and health and safety works (ii) essential fire safety works (iii) capital plan preparation, advance surveys, feasibility studies, advance design and condition surveys in relation to the delivery of the projects and a risk pot for emergency additions to the capital plan in year/balance for high tenders and asbestos removal.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to the business case at Appendix A of the considered report, which outlines the rationale for the schools' condition works programme, the availability of funding, the selection process and the main categories of work, thereby enabling the projects concerned to be designed, procured and implemented.
- 2) That approval be given to the detailed list of proposed works in schools for 2020/2021, as set out as Appendix B of the considered report.
- 3) That approval be given to the delegation of powers (as set out in paras 2.11 to 2.13 of the considered report) to the Service Director (Economy and Skills) to manage the implementation of the identified works within the respective agreed total programme budget.

### **176 Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint - Supplementary Planning Document** (Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Lawson and J Taylor).

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The report advised that the benefit of converting the Huddersfield Blueprint to an SPD was that as a planning tool it would add greater support to the delivery of the Huddersfield Town Centre Regeneration Programme, including potential funding applications for the delivery of key sites and transport schemes identified in the Huddersfield Blueprint.

Cabinet were advised that the Blueprint had already been used to share ambitions with partners and funders in order to secure delivery of key projects, and that the SPD could be used to support any Compulsory Purchase Orders in Huddersfield Town Centre which the Council may undertake in the future.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document, as set out at Appendix 2 of the considered report.
- 2) That Cabinet recognise the importance of the Penistone line to Kirklees, in terms of the connectivity that it provides to the Sheffield City Region, and that the importance of this infrastructure and the benefits that it provides for accessibility and the economy should be recognised within the Masterplan.
- 3) That Officers be authorised to carry out the necessary formal procedures for the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to make any further non-material additional modifications to the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document that arise as part of the adoption process.

**177**

**COVID-19 Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (Urgent item)**

(This report was considered as a late urgent item. Cabinet were advised that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had agreed to (i) the addition of the item for consideration, having not been listed on the Forward Plan and (ii) that the right to Call-In be waived due to the need to make the fund available as soon as possible).

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor J Taylor).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Council to establish a Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund for Kirklees. The report advised that the grant scheme would provide support for certain types of small and micro businesses that had been affected by Covid-19, but that were ineligible for the Government's Small Business Grant Fund and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund, and that the Fund had been launched by the Government to help address gaps in the existing support programme. Cabinet were advised that £5.244m had been allocated for businesses in Kirklees, which represented 5% of the funding allocated to the Council in early April in order to support the Government's Small Business Grant Fund and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.

The report advised that, subject to approval, the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund would be launched as soon as practicable and that the Council would work with key local partners to publicise the scheme and target eligible applicants, and that detailed scheme guidance would be published on the website.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the content of the report be noted and that approval be given to the establishment of the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund for Kirklees, including the eligibility criteria for applicants and the grant amounts to be awarded, as detailed in Section 2 of the report.



- 2) That authority be delegated for the implementation and monitoring of the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) and the Service Director (Finance) including the authority to make minor changes to the scheme to ensure equity and achievement of the objectives.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) and the Service Director (Finance) in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder (Corporate) to vary the eligibility criteria for the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme in the event that there are residual funds available following a reasonable period for applications, and in accordance with extant Government guidance.

**178 Support to Adult Care Providers (Urgent item)**

(This report was considered as a late urgent item. Cabinet were advised that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had agreed to (i) the addition of the item for consideration, having not been listed on the Forward Plan and (ii) that the right to Call-In be waived due to the need to make support available as soon as possible).

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for further financial support measures for the local adult social care sector. The report advised that the Government had recently announced the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund, totalling £600m nationally, which was the first funding to Councils specifically for adult social care. Cabinet noted that the overall objective of the fund was to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission in care homes and between one care home and another, and to support other workforce actions necessary to deliver infection control.

The report advised that the funding would be paid as a Section 31 grant, ring-fenced exclusively for actions which support care homes and domiciliary care providers to tackle the risk of Covid-19 infections, and it set out the proposed approach to distributing the Adult Health Social Care Fund and the broader pressures faced by the care home sector including additional support options.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That in relation to the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund, the proposed allocation of 75% be agreed along with the proposed delegation to the Strategic Director (Health and Adult Social Care) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Adults and Health) in relation to the remaining 25% of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund.
- 2) That the likely need for additional financial support to care homes beyond that being provided through the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund be noted.
- 3) That, given the rapid changes to the care home sector, delegation on the detail of any additional financial support in relation to Covid19 be allocated to the Strategic Director (Health and Adult Social Care) in consultation with the Section151 Officer and Cabinet Members for Adults, Health and Corporate Resources.

- 4) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet setting out the issues facing the adult social care provider sector and the support provided to date including decisions taken under delegated powers.

**179 Disposal of Land at Kenmore Drive, Cleckheaton**

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 14 (Minute No. 181 refers) prior to the determination of this Agenda Item).

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Lawson).

Cabinet received a report which requested that consideration be given to objections that had been received as a result of advertising the Council's intention to dispose of open space on a Council owned site at Kenmore Drive, Cleckheaton. The submitted objection was appended as exempt information.

The report presented Cabinet with information on (i) the outcome of the delegated selection of a delivery partner for Kenmore Drive (ii) site proposals and (iii) the disposal of land at Kenmore Drive at 'less than best consideration' to the selected registered provider – Housing 21, for an extra care scheme, subject to Housing 21 securing a Homes England Grant. Cabinet were asked to approve the allocation of Section 106 affordable housing contributions as a grant to Housing 21 towards the provision of affordable homes on site.

Cabinet were advised that the site would contribute to the delivery of the Council's housing strategy, specifically in relation to providing a range of products to support housing growth and a long term supply of affordable housing, and meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable groups. The report indicated that the objection received raised concerns regarding the impact of development upon the stability of a retaining wall, and that such concerns would be dealt with at the planning application stage of the development.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That, having given consideration to the objections received, approval be given to the disposal of open space on the basis that the objections received in relation to any proposed development in the site can be considered as part of the planning process and that the land can be better utilised for the provision of an extra care facility.
- 2) That approval be given to the disposal of the land at 'less than best consideration' to a specialist extra care provider, Housing 21, and grant S106 affordable housing contributions as set out in this report to ensure that the scheme is viable.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to (i) negotiate and agree the terms of disposal with Housing 21 and (ii) determine the appropriate level of discount following comprehensive assessment of Housing 21's development appraisal.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute any agreement and other ancillary

## Cabinet - 26 May 2020

documents necessary to dispose of the land to Housing 21 for use as extra care housing.

### **180 Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

### **181 Disposal of Land at Kenmore Drive, Cleckheaton**

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely Information relating to the identity of an individual. The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making).

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 12 (Minute No. 179 refers).

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<b>KIRKLEES COUNCIL</b>			
<b>COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC</b>			
<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>			
<b>Name of Councillor</b>			
<b>Item in which you have an interest</b>	<b>Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")</b>	<b>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]</b>	<b>Brief description of your interest</b>

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:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2020  
**Title of report:** Kirklees Children and Young People’s Partnership Plan

**Purpose of report:** To present the Kirklees Children and Young People’s Plan to council for endorsement, and to update members on the work and status of the Children and Young People’s Partnership

<b>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?</b>	Yes – the Plan is for all Kirklees Children and Young People.
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	Yes
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	Yes  The Plan was discussed at the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel 17 January 2020
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Mel Meggs - 31.03.20
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Eamonn Croston - 29.06.20
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Julie Muscroft - 01.07.20
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Give name of Portfolio Holder/s</b> Cllr Viv Kendrick Cllr Carole Pattison

**Electoral wards affected:** All - The Children and Young People’s Plan sets priorities to address the needs of the whole child population

**Ward councillors consulted:** Councillors nominated as representatives at the Children’s Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and Cllrs Kendrick & Pattison as Portfolio holders.

**Public report.**

**Has GDPR been considered?** GDPR has been considered. This report contains no personal data that may identify an individual.

## 1. Summary

- This report updates members on the relaunched Children and Young People's Partnership and asks council to endorse its Children and Young People's Plan
- The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the Partnership's agreed priorities. These enable the council and its statutory and third sector partners to focus attention to work towards achieving a shared ambition to give children and young people in Kirklees the *Best Start in Life*.
- The plan provides a framework for partners to collaborate, share expertise, and work across the system to bring about positive changes that improve children's outcomes.

### Information required to take a decision

## 2. Background

### The Children and Young People's Partnership

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Partnership was relaunched in March 2019 at an event attended by 80 participants from a cross section of organisations working with children in Kirklees. The Children and Young People's Partnership had been paused for the previous 18 months to focus attention and resources on the Improvement Board and its work. The old Children and Young People's Partnership was a formal committee, with a closed membership of senior leaders and a traditional committee cycle.
- 2.2 A new Partnership model was developed at the March consultation and relaunch event. It aspires to bring together members' collective insight, expertise and resources to collaborate to achieve **the best start in life** for children and young people. Membership of the new Partnership is open to all organisations from the public and third sector, including strategic managers, frontline workers, elected representatives, and both specialist and universal service providers. Members are accountable to each other and to children, young people and families in Kirklees. There is no formal committee structure, no formal decision-making responsibilities. The people involved are there because they want to collaborate to achieve ambitions for children.
- 2.3 The Partnership has agreed that it will:
- Focus energy and expertise on agreed priority areas of work;
  - Share intelligence and insight into children and young people's experiences so that children's outcomes and services are improved, and work is evidence-led;
  - Use collective insight into children's voice and views to influence and shape its work
  - Collaborate effectively to use partner organisations' resources to address to collective goals & priorities;
  - Influence, inform and provide strategic leadership in the children's sector;
  - Develop a Children and Young People's Plan and agree key, shared priorities, based on evidence of need that members bring their collective energy and focus to;
  - Provide analysis to inform service improvements, transformation and cultural change, including an annual review of key outcome data and updates from related partnerships
  - Provide coherence for a range of thematic partnerships and plans that affect Children and Young People's outcomes.



2.4 The Partnership has agreed that its members will:

- Work restoratively – with not to or for
- Listen to and value children’s voices
- Share power and responsibility across sectors and agencies
- Provide challenge and support to hold each other to account
- Celebrate and serve the diverse needs of people and places in Kirklees.

## 2.5 The Children and Young People’s Plan

2.5.1 There is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People’s Plan. However, there is consensus in the Partnership that a Plan provides a collective focus and clarity about the priorities to be championed and addressed across the Partnership. Work with the new Children and Young People’s Partnership has focussed on assessing intelligence and insight from a range of sources to agree priorities. (e.g. KJSA, Year 9 Health Survey, Community Hubs’ insight; young people’s voice and influence work and commentary; service key performance data on outcomes for the child population and for specific vulnerable groups). A new Children and Young People’s Plan has been developed and is attached.

2.5.2 The Children and Young People’s Partnership has identified and agreed nine priorities that support good outcomes for all children. The priorities will help close the gaps in children’s inequalities and their life chances.

2.5.3 Six of the Priorities are already being addressed by existing cross sector thematic partnerships. For these, the Children and Young People’s Partnership will support and share that work more widely, but not seek to undertake additional work to avoid confusion, duplication and displacement. The six priorities where work is ongoing are:

- **Emotional health and resilience** – Children’s Integrated Commissioning Group manages this priority
- **Early Support in communities** – Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Task & Finish Group, and the Best Start Partnership manage this priority
- **Food & Physical Activity** – Health & Wellbeing Board; Thriving Kirklees, Active Kirklees manage this priority
- **Vulnerability to criminal exploitation** – Youth Development Programme Board; Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership; Communities Board manage this priority.
- **Gaps in educational attainment** between some population groups and the Kirklees attainment rates – Education and Learning Partnership Board & Community Hubs manage this priority.
- **Outcomes for Looked After children** – Corporate Parenting Board; Improvement Board; Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership manage this priority.

2.5.4 Three new priority areas identified required new cross sector management arrangements. They are:

- **To reduce the effects of poverty on children** – This priority is being developed in collaboration with Tackling Poverty Partnership. This new group is developing work to

reduce the effects of poverty across the Kirklees population, including addressing child poverty as part of family & household poverty.

- **To support inclusion and better outcomes for LGBT+ young people** – a new cross partnership working group is leading and developing this work.
- **To grow our youth offer – places to go, people to see, things to do.** This work is being developed and delivered through the new Youth Programme Development Board arrangements, and its workstreams on detached youth work; prevention & community-based youth offers; a new practice model, & developing appropriate facilities, safe spaces and provision for youth work

2.5.5 The covid-19 pandemic has changed the wider context that this work happens in, how partners deliver services, and who experiences the inequalities that often underpin poorer outcomes. Nevertheless, the identified priorities remain relevant during and post pandemic. Partners will review intelligence and adjust planning and interventions to respond to the consequences of the pandemic and to reshape provision where needed.

## **2.6 Governance and Accountability**

The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to take on the oversight of this work (21 November 2019). The rationale for this includes:

- The Board already has oversight for a range of local planning and services
- The Board's membership includes the relevant cross-sector organisations
- The contribution that the Children and Young People's Plan makes to achieving the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

## **3 Implications for the Council**

### **3.1 Working with People**

The Children and Young People's Partnership has committed to working restoratively, and to listen to and value children and Young People's voices. The insight used to determine the priorities in the plan included looking at and listening to the views of children. The agencies involved in the partnership work directly with local children and families, listening to and sharing their views. Partners are asked to canvass and share the views of service users as we address different topics. There are a range of ways that we consult with and listen to children and families – including surveys, advocacy groups, service user groups, structures such as reference groups, voice and influence groups and using insight already gathered or commissioning / undertaking new consultation where necessary. This insight provides a rationale for how we work and what we prioritise.

### **3.2 Working with Partners**

The Plan is an important platform for engaging partners, agreeing shared values and identifying shared priorities. The Children and Young People Plan has been co-produced by cross-sector partners – including statutory services (including council, health, police, probation, schools) and community and voluntary organisations – from large commissioned organisations to neighbourhood youth groups. There are currently 56 organisations represented, and an open door for new members who share the Partnership's principles and objectives to join. Partners are involved in developing, managing, delivering and challenging the Plan and the work of the Partnership.

### **3.3 Place Based Working**

Where children live shapes their experiences and outcomes, and their economic and social circumstances. Place and neighbourhood are important and influential, to both everyday experience (for learning, play, neighbourliness or isolation, access to opportunities and services) and longer-term outcomes – such as health and economic activity and status. The evidence and intelligence that the Plan is based on included an analysis of how place-based information can shape interventions, by evidencing different rates of demand, unequal outcomes between areas, for example. Our understanding of Place influences the way that we work and how we deploy resources.

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not directly applicable. Action plans to address the priorities will consider their responsibilities to reduce environmental impacts as part of their planning and monitoring.

### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

Giving children the Best Start in life is at the heart of the Children and Young People's Plan. This shared outcome provides the core rationale for the Plan and the Partnership. The Plan sets out the overarching priorities for partners to address collaboratively in order to improve outcomes in learning & achievement, safeguarding, health, economic wellbeing, reducing inequalities of outcomes for some population groups (including looked after children, children living in poverty and LGBT+ children and young people). The Children and Young People's Plan's appendix records key outcomes and indicators for the Partnership to track. Regular reports on work to address the key priorities will be made to the Health and Wellbeing Board to review progress.

### **3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Producing a Children and Young People's Plan is no longer a statutory requirement. However the Council's constitution requires approval by Full Council where one is developed, as it is part of the Council's policy framework.

There are no specific legal or resource implications from the CYP Plan. As work develops to address its priorities, opportunities for changing systems and services to improve outcomes will be identified, which may have implications for resource allocation. Where appropriate, these will be reported separately.

## **4 Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 The Children and Young People's Plan has been developed collaboratively by members of the Partnership participating in three Partnership Events. **In March 2019**, 70 people attended the event, from a range of services and agencies in the public and voluntary sector, including safeguarding, learning providers (from pre-school to higher education), youth offending, criminal justice; health (Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health, family support, young people's activity programmes, voice and influence, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) services; commissioning, housing & housing support, community development, research & intelligence; careers, training & development. This event was designed to consult about whether we should re-launch a CYP Partnership and, if so, what its main objectives and operating principles should be. Attendees assessed a range of available insight and data about children's lives.

and outcomes. Participants were asked to identify areas of concern and assess whether those concerns were both sufficient in scale and likely to benefit from a partnership system wide response. This process gave us a 'long list' of priorities.

- 4.2 The June 2019 event further tested out the priorities suggested in March, and identified whether issues were of high concern, were already in view and the subject of collective action. It asked attendees to identify effective actions and practice to find out more about what is already happening to address a priority, and the effectiveness of impact of that work – and what else we could do or should stop doing.
- 4.3 The September 2019 Event fed back the outcomes of the consultation exercise and agreed the Plan's nine priorities.
- 4.4 Elected members have been consulted as portfolio holders for children's services, as members of the Partnership, the Health & Wellbeing Board and through discussion at a Scrutiny panel. Their insight and comments have contributed to the final shape of the Plan.
- 4.5 Children and young people's views and experiences are a key strand of the evidence that is used to set priorities, determine interventions and to evaluate impact. Their views are captured through formal and informal routes. These include working with focus groups, school councils, the Youth Council and Children in Care Council. We receive feedback through specific projects (such as the LGBT+ yOUTH Mystery Shopper project), by talking to service users about their experiences, inviting them to work with us to plan or comment on proposals and through the now annual Year 9 Health Survey. Members of the Partnership engage with the children and young people who they work with and use this insight to advocate for them. Where it is appropriate, the Partnership and its members commission specific pieces of work to engage with children and young people.

## **5 Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 Council will be asked to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan (as part of the policy framework).
- 5.2 The Plan will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership, with specific priorities being the responsibility of identified thematic partnerships. The Health and Wellbeing Board will provide governance oversight, receiving reports on the work to address new priorities and the impact on children's outcomes. The Children and Young People's Partnership will review key indicators of children's wellbeing and outcomes as a regular part of its work, and formally as part of an annual review of the Plan.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that work on the Plan will result in changes to service delivery as this is an explicit intention – to identify where we can improve children's outcomes by delivering services differently. The ways in which this happens will also be reported through partners' management and governance arrangements.

## **6 Officer recommendations and reasons**

Cabinet are asked to endorse the new Children and Young People's Plan.

## 7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out how we work with skilled and committed partners to support Kirklees' children to have the Best Start in Life. The Plan is no longer statutory, but it is still an important tool to set out how agencies working with and for children and families choose to collaborate to achieve our ambitions and outcomes for children. Cabinet are asked to endorse the new Children and Young People' Plan.

## 8 Contact officer

Mary White, commissioning & Partnerships Manager, Children's Services.  
[mary.white@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:mary.white@kirklees.gov.uk). 01484 221000/07976497683.

## 9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

The Children and Young People's Plan 2019 – 2022 is appended.

24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - **Corporate Governance and Audit Committee approved a report recording that** the Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed to provide governance for this work and to amend its Terms of Reference to do so at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019. The proposed changes to Terms of Reference will now progress to council

The 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Children's Scrutiny Panel discussed a report on the new Children and Young People's Plan and gave their insight and comments on the arrangements described and the contents of the Plan.

## 10 Service Director responsible

Tom Brailsford, Service Director for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships, Children's Services. [tom.brailsford@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:tom.brailsford@kirklees.gov.uk) 01484 221000/07711 015748.

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**Name of meeting:** CABINET  
**Date:** 13th July 2020  
**Title of report:** Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme update: disposal of land at Nabcroft Lane Huddersfield

**Purpose of report:**

The report is to provide Cabinet with a further update on the Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme and to seek Cabinet approval to dispose of a site at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield, varying the terms of the previous Cabinet authority of 29 August 2018 to enable the disposal of the site at less than market value.

<b>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?</b>	<b>Yes</b>  This report deals with land disposal issues where the aggregate of land values in this disposal tranche exceeds £250,000 and where 2 Wards are affected.
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>Key Decision - Yes</b>  Public Report
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Karl Battersby - 26.06.20</b>
<b>Date signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>Eamonn Croston - 01.07.20</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Julie Muscroft - 26.06.20</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Cllr Peter McBride - Deputy Leader Regeneration Cllr Cathy Scott - Housing and Democracy Cllr Graham Turner - Corporate</b>

**Electoral Wards affected:** Crosland Moor and Netherton

**Ward councillors consulted:** Cllr Erin Hill, Cllr Manisha Roma Kaushik  
Cllr Mohammad Sarwar

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes. There is no personal data contained in this report.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report updates the position on the Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme, ('SAHS') and seeks authority to dispose of the site at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield at less than market value.
- 1.2 The amount of any discount would be based on viability appraisals for the development of the site, which is for 100% affordable housing.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **Background**

- 2.1 The Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme is part of the Housing Growth Programme. It is a pilot programme which brings a portfolio of sites forward for the delivery of affordable homes, using the resources of Registered Providers and Homes England and was approved by Cabinet on 29 August 2018. The programme is designed to enable the whole scheme delivery by spring 2022.
- 2.2 The Council's agreed Preferred Partner is Accent Development Consortium (ADC), a group of Registered Providers working with Homes England to build affordable homes. Part of the consortium, Unity Housing, has applied for planning permission for 19 new affordable homes off Nabcroft Lane on a site which has previously secured outline residential permission. Other land in the programme is being assessed by partners and a further progress report and development proposals will be brought to Cabinet at a later date.

### Cabinet authority

- 2.3 On 29th August 2018 Cabinet:-
  - Approved the competitive disposal of a portfolio of 8 sites to a Registered Provider, and for the construction of only affordable housing and the acquisition of sites at market value;
  - Endorsed the issue of statutory notices advertising the disposal of sites, where this is deemed to be public open space;
  - Delegated authority to the Service Directors for Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support, and Economy and Infrastructure, to negotiate and agree terms and complete the sale of sites once planning permissions are granted, unless further authority is required for the disposal where objections are received following the publication of statutory notice;
  - Delegated authority to the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support to enter into and execute any agreement and other ancillary documents necessary to enable the sale and transfer of the sites in the Small Affordable Housing Sites portfolio.
- 2.3.1. On 26 May 2020, Cabinet further delegated authority for the disposal of three sites at Mirfield and Hightown to Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust at less than market value



following the grant of planning permission for 20 affordable bungalows. These are scheduled to be the first units to be constructed in the programme.

### Programme progress

2.4 Continuing ADC's commitment to supporting the programme, and recovery from Covid19 issues, Unity Housing submitted a planning application for the development of 19 new affordable homes on this enclosed, disused car park site at Nabcroft Lane. Formerly leased to adjacent manufacturing premises, the site proposals comprise: of (2x) 2 bed bungalows, (6x) 2 bedroom houses and (7x) 3 bedroom houses and (4x) 1 bedroom specialist supported apartments. This development will be delivered jointly by Unity/Chartford.

2.5 In preparation for the disposal of this second phase site in parcels to Unity and Chartford, the Council has instructed external valuers to provide a valuation for each parcel of land at market value, restricted value and unrestricted value in accordance with the technical appendix to the 2003 General Disposal Consent, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972. These valuations have been shared with the preferred partner.

2.6 As the programme has progressed, site evaluation has raised cost and development challenges. These are due to:

- Physical challenges of the sites around site levels and bedrock which need to be tackled before any homes can be constructed
- Increased costs due to additional drainage requirements and attenuation required

Balanced against the higher than average constructions costs of the schemes is the requirement to set the rent of the new homes at affordable levels, to ensure that the properties are financially accessible and inclusive. This thus reduces the income generated by the homes going forward. Rental income to be generated is also lower than average as the homes to be built are bungalows, as opposed to houses which would command a higher rent. To address this, Homes England are considering providing higher than average grant to support the schemes.

2.7 Despite the high level of grant from Homes England, there is still a shortfall in funding and the sites are not viable should the land be sold at market value, as provided for in the previous Cabinet decision.

2.8 The Council has 2 options:

(a) Withdraw the site from the SAHS Programme and seek a disposal on the open market

2.9 The Council could put the sites for sale on the open market. This may secure higher capital receipts for the Council as higher density market housing could prove financially viable. However, this will not guarantee house building, nor provide social housing which brings with it additional value as outlined below.

(b) Dispose of the sites at less than market value (Recommended Option)

- 2.10 This option requires the Council to provide financial assistance to the scheme by disposing of the sites at a purchase price below market value.
- 2.11 This option is recommended because the construction of housing at Nabcroft Lane under the SAHS Programme would benefit Kirklees by:
- Creating 15 new affordable houses and 4 apartments in a locality where BAME communities and people at risk of becoming homeless can access a safe, warm and affordable home
  - Securing nomination rights for the Council, based on 100% on first lettings, and 50:50 thereafter between the Council and Unity/Chartford/Horton Housing
  - Bringing around £3.1m of inward investment in new homes,
  - Creating jobs; a nationally recognised benchmark (set out in the National Housing Strategy for England) recognises that for each £1m invested in housing, approximately 38 jobs would be created.
  - Assist the council in meeting its housing targets under the Local Plan
- 2.12 The Preferred Partner has supplied to the Council site cost analysis and this information would be assessed by officers to identify the shortfall in funding on each site and determine the amount by which, if any, the market value purchase price would be reduced. Should the actual build costs be less than those shown in the site cost analysis the Council will be able to seek repayment of the difference from the Preferred Partner. This will ensure that the Council is not giving financial assistance over and above what is necessary to make the schemes happen.
- Timescales
- 2.13 Following purchase, Unity intend to proceed with a contractual start on site in October 2020, enabling their first tranche drawdown of Homes England funding. Completion of this site is expected to have occurred by December 2021, in line with the final tranche payments in the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme.
- Expected impact/ outcomes, benefits & risks (how they will be managed)
- 2.14 The developments will achieve several Council objectives in providing quality affordable homes for an ageing population, and in meeting objectives in the Housing Strategy and Housing Delivery Programme. The bungalows will be able to be adapted to different residents' needs. The bungalows mark an important step to addressing older peoples' needs in established communities.
- 2.15 Programme delivery risk will be managed both in the delivery and funding accountability to Homes England as the principal public funding body, and through continued risk review in the SAHS programme delivery group meetings with Accent Development Consortium.

## Evaluation

- 2.16 The investment from partner agencies in the delivery of this development in the Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme far outweighs the loss of full market capital receipt for the land. The investment in affordable homes will help to meet needs and provide quality places that will be constructed for people to live safely and affordably

in their later lives. The scheme will also contribute to overall housing delivery trajectory as set out in the Local Plan.

#### Sustainability

- 2.17 This parcel of land has previously been assessed by the Council as Local Planning Authority to be sustainable, and has previously secured outline planning permission.

#### Services & agencies involved

- 2.18 Homes England is a major partner in the Programme. Grant funding from the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme is expected to contribute to around £975,000 of finance to enable the delivery of these new affordable homes at Nabcroft Lane. The programme is supported by cross-service working between the Council's Housing Growth and Regeneration Team and colleagues from the Planning Service, Adult Social Care, Housing Solutions and Accessible homes, Assets team and Highways.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### Working with People

- 3.1 These developments will provide much needed affordable rented housing for the local community, meeting the needs of families and those who are at risk of becoming homeless, providing quality affordable housing accommodation for those who are unable to access market housing without intervention. The schemes will be managed by Unity and Horton Housing (Chartford is Horton's Registered Provider development arm) and prior to construction, the partners propose to liaise with the community to outline the scheme and opportunities for applying to live in the developments. This is in addition to linking in with the councils Housing Solutions Service to ensure that residents will be supported. The Council will nominate the first tenants (100%) and each partner will nominate on a 50:50 basis thereafter. The properties are expected to be advertised on the 'Choose n Move' system.

#### Working with Partners

- 3.2 The schemes continue the collaborative work that the Council has been undertaking with Registered Providers in the Accent Development Consortium and Homes England to deliver the Small Affordable Housing Programme, using the external resources, capacity, shared risk and expertise of external partners to deliver the sites.
- Place Based Working
- 3.3 The development of the site is a local response to identified needs within our communities as identified in the Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The developments will offer quality, new affordable homes in this locality
- Climate Change and Air Quality
- 3.4 ADC are committed to delivering homes which will achieve high levels of energy efficiency to mitigate any negative impacts on the environment. This will involve the use of building materials with good insulating properties. Other measures aimed at

reducing the impact on the environment include maximising natural sunlight in the design of the homes to reduce artificial light usage and reducing water usage through the use of specific sanitary fittings.

#### Improving outcomes for children

- 3.5 This scheme will provide much needed affordable rented housing which helps to meet the needs of families with children provide quality affordable housing accommodation for those who are unable to access market housing without intervention.

#### Other (Legal, Financial or Human Resources)

##### **Legal Powers and Implications**

- 3.6 The land to which this report refers is held in the Housing Revenue Account.
- 3.7 The Council has the power to dispose of Housing Revenue Account land by virtue of Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 and the General Housing Consents 2013 A3.2.
- 3.8 The Council has the power to provide financial assistance for the development of housing accommodation to a Registered Provider under Section 24 of the Local Government Act 1988 and the General Consent for the disposal of land to registered providers of social housing 2010 (as amended). There are conditions under this consent that the development of housing land shall be completed within 3 years of the disposal and that the housing accommodation developed shall be let by the registered provider as social housing and these would be placed upon the recipient via the legal documents.
- 3.9 The disposal of land at below Market Value would constitute State Aid. However, the aid would be exempted as the provision of affordable housing is a Service of General Economic Interest - services of public benefit which are unlikely to be provided to the public at large by the market. As the body giving the State Aid, the Council will inform the recipient (Unity Housing and Chartford Housing) of specific requirements to avoid overcompensation, and the mechanism to repay compensation should the actual build costs be less than the proposed build costs. These matters would be contained in the legal documents.

#### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 This update report relates to a programme which was authorised by Cabinet on 29 August 2018 and is thus pursuant to that authority. Crosland Moor and Netherton ward members have been engaged with the proposals.

Cllr Erin Hill  
Cllr Manisha Roma Kaushik  
Cllr Mohammad Sarwar

#### **5. Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 If Cabinet agree to the recommendations in the report, the disposal of the site at Nabcroft Lane in two parcels to Unity and Chartford under the delegated authority will

be progressed. It is expected that a start on site could be made in October 2020 to enable the drawdown of Homes England funding.

- 5.2 It is expected that the new bungalows referred to in 2.3.1 will be handed over and prepared for first letting in the spring of 2021. JJHT has indicated that pre-development engagement with communities around the sites would be undertaken before the construction phase.

## **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1 Cabinet notes the Programme update as outlined in the report, and the proposed investment of the Preferred Partner and Homes England in enabling the acquisition and development of the second phase site at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield
- 6.2 Cabinet approves the disposal of land at Nabcroft Lane, Huddersfield as outlined in this report
- 6.3 Cabinet delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Economy and Infrastructure to negotiate and agree terms and dispose of land at Nabcroft Lane, as outlined in this report
- 6.4 Cabinet delegate authority to the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning to enter such agreements on negotiated and agreed terms for disposal
- 6.5 These recommendations are necessary to enable the delivery of the second phase of the SAHS programme as previously authorised, and to contribute to the delivery of the Council's housing strategy, and Housing Growth plan.

## **7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

**Cllr Peter McBride, Cllr Cathy Scott, Cllr Graham Turner:**

- 7.1 The Cabinet Portfolio Holders support the recommendations in this report and ask Cabinet to resolve to agree to the recommendations as outlined in section 6 of the report.

## **8. Contact officer**

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Email: [james.blamires@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:james.blamires@kirklees.gov.uk) 01484 221000

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

29 August 2018 Cabinet report and Decision to proceed with the Small Affordable Housing Sites Programme. Link to Report and Decision:  
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s24280/Item%2011.%202018-08-29%20Small%20Affordable%20Housing%20Sites%20Cabinet%20Report%20V5.pdf>

26 May 2020: Cabinet Report and Decision to dispose of land at less than best consideration for the sites at Kitson Hill Crescent, Mirfield, Foxroyd Avenue, Mirfield and Sixth Avenue, Liversedge.

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=15620>

**10 Service Director responsible**

Naz Parkar Service Director for Growth and Housing

Telephone: 01484 221000

Email: [naz.parkar@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:naz.parkar@kirklees.gov.uk)



**Name of meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2020  
**Title of report:** Kirklees Local Economic Recovery Plan

**Purpose of report:**

This paper presents the attached Kirklees Economic Recovery Plan in response to the economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. This plan has been developed in partnership with local anchor organisations and other key stakeholders. Approval is sought from the Cabinet to take the plan to wider engagement with the public and stakeholders.

<b>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?</b>	<b>Yes</b>  <b>Expenditure &gt;£250,000 and affects more than 1 ward</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	<b>Key Decision – Yes</b> This is only applicable to Cabinet reports  <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes – the Recovery Plan will be considered by Scrutiny on 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Karl Battersby - 02.07.20</b>  <b>Eamonn Croston - 02.07.20</b>  <b>Julie Muscroft - 02.07.20</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Councillor Peter McBride – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** All wards

**Ward councillors consulted:** Ward councillors have not been consulted as a result of the need to develop a rapidly district-wide local economic recovery plan as soon as possible and will be engaged in parallel with the proposed consultation.

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## 1. Summary

The local Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) has been developed in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and details how the Council and its key public, private and voluntary sector partners can support the economic recovery.

The Kirklees ERP has been developed in parallel with and will inform the development of the West Yorkshire Recovery Plan. The draft ERP is presented to Cabinet for review and approval to enter into a wider programme of consultation with the public, businesses and other key stakeholders.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

### Economic impacts of the pandemic

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the economy locally, nationally and globally in an unprecedented manner. Economic forecasts by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Bank of England and other institutions all indicate that lockdown will result in the largest global economic shock since the Second World War. Some of the headline impacts locally include:

- 50,400 Kirklees workers had been furloughed by the end of May 2020, representing just under 25% of Kirklees residents in employment (just below the UK average of 27%)
- some 14,200 self-employed residents of Kirklees had received support through the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme by the end of May 2020
- the claimant count for Kirklees (the number of people claiming Universal Credit and other out of work benefits because they are unemployed) increased from 10,225 at the end of March 2020 to 18,870 by the end of May, representing an increase of almost 85%
- 95% of Kirklees businesses report that their trade has been impacted by COVID-19 and 50% have closed their business temporarily during the lockdown.

2.2 Whilst the financial support provided by Government has mitigated impacts in the short term, the phased withdrawal of support through the furlough scheme in particular, commencing in August, is likely to see a very significant increase in redundancies. The recession that is anticipated is likely to be significantly worse than that experienced during the financial crisis of 2008/9 and most commentators agree that it will take at least 3 years, possibly longer, to return to pre-virus levels of output and employment.

### Aims of the Economic Recovery Plan

2.3 The primary purpose of the ERP is to set out how the Council and other stakeholders – including our key private sector employers, the University of Huddersfield; Kirklees College; and voluntary and community sector organisations – can directly support the recovery. Together, these 'anchor institutions' have a vital role to play in leading recovery efforts through investment, procurement and recruitment decisions and use of key property and other assets.

2.4 The draft plan covers the 2020-2023 period and has a strong focus throughout on supporting people, including our most vulnerable residents; other priorities include:

- the Council will kick start recovery efforts by assembling a £40m *Economic Recovery Fund* through repurposing our Property Investment Fund and Start Up and Retention Fund and prioritising other capital investments that will directly support the recovery.
- the importance of a clear focus on *job creation* during the recovery period through enhanced support for the growth of our existing businesses; scaling up our business start-up programmes; a renewed focus on inward investment; and ensuring that our capital projects and other procurement deliver more social value benefits for local businesses and residents



- mitigating the economic impacts of the virus on the future learning, employment and progression prospects of *young people*; the recovery plan proposals include a Kirklees Youth Guarantee to address this challenge
- tackling the *digital divide* between our most and least affluent communities and residents; the rapid shift to online working and learning and accessing services during the lockdown has exacerbated this issue
- developing the role and contribution of the *voluntary and community sector* to each of the Recovery Plan themes, building on the effective, cross-sector partnership working which characterised the lockdown phase.

2.5 The draft recovery plan is attached at Appendix 1. Some of the initiatives proposed include:

- developing a new package of *grant support* for businesses and social enterprises with potential to deliver jobs growth and other social value outcomes, targeting both existing SMEs and inward investors;
- scaling up our support for *business start-ups and self-employment*, including a major awareness raising campaign and linking advice/support for start-ups with subsidised accommodation through our business centre network or town centre venues
- implementing a *Kirklees Youth Guarantee*, complementing any further Government initiatives that may be announced following publication of the ERP; the Youth Guarantee will support all 16-18 year olds retain access to full-time education, pre-apprenticeships support or Apprenticeships, and support 19-24 year olds into Apprenticeships or employment
- scale up our *Works Better* programme and other employment and skills initiatives to continue to support adults furthest from the labour market to regain sustainable employment, utilising our tried and tested, community-based delivery models
- accelerating key *Blueprint* projects, including St George's Quarter (building on the exciting catalyst of the recently announced National Rugby League Museum) and development of the Southgate site in Huddersfield, and the Arcade in Dewsbury, utilising Council assets to kick start the regeneration process
- piloting regeneration programmes in *Batley, Cleckheaton and Holmfirth*, working with key community and business partners to develop and implement proposals that will support the economic diversification and revitalisation of these communities
- developing a *Good Work Charter* that sets out the minimum employment standards that we aspire to for residents of Kirklees and work with our anchor institution partners to implement it.

### **Options**

2.6 The Council could have determined not to develop a local Economic Recovery Plan and rely on proposals developed at city-region or Government level to support the recovery. This would reduce the scope to benefit local businesses through procurement activity and the potential to engage local voluntary and community sector in delivery. It is not recommended that this option is pursued.

### **Costs**

2.7 Financial matters are addressed in section 3 of the report.

### **Expected impact/outcomes/benefits**

2.8 The expected outcomes/benefits of the proposals set out in the plan will include:

- supporting business resilience and growth
- creating sustainable jobs
- mitigating the impact of the anticipated recession on our most vulnerable residents.

## **Risks**

- 2.9 There are a number of financial and delivery risks associated with delivery of the initiatives set out in the Economic Recovery Plan. These will be managed at both programme and project level. These include the ability to secure additional external funding to deliver some elements of the plan; and delivery risks associated with some capital projects in the context of the operating and market constraints facing the construction sector. It is considered that these are outweighed by the positive reputational benefits of putting in place a clear plan which sets out how the Council and its partners will lead and support the local economic recovery.

## **3. Implications for the Council**

### **Working with People**

- 3.1 There is an opportunity for substantive and in-depth engagement with residents and businesses on the draft ERP, if approved by Cabinet, to build a clearer picture of their aspirations for the economy post-lockdown and to help shape and prioritise interventions. The aim of this engagement is to:
- understand the principal concerns of Kirklees residents in relation to the economic impacts of COVID-19, building on the recently completed business survey
  - test the interventions proposed to address these impacts
  - ensure that the concerns of all groups are taken into consideration.
- 3.2 The intention is to promote a broad debate around what a better economy would look like to residents that might also promote the consolidation of positive behavioural shifts (lower levels of commuting etc.) that have been seen during lockdown. Engagement will be carried out via an online engagement platform and supplemented with semi-structured conversations with representatives of specific interest groups. The engagement will be promoted to Council staff and other partner organisations (e.g. Kirklees College, University of Huddersfield, KNH, Locala) as well as through the Council's social media channels.
- 3.3 The public consultation will be open for 6 weeks. Findings will be reported back to the Economic Recovery Partnership, Inclusive Economy Group and Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel.

### **Working with Partners**

- 3.4 The ERP has been developed with the multi-stakeholder Economic Recovery Partnership Group. Membership of this group includes representation from both large employers and SMEs; the University of Huddersfield; Kirklees College; Department of Work and Pensions; key business representative organisations including the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses and Calderdale and West Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliance; and Third Sector Leaders, representing the Kirklees voluntary sector.
- 3.5 There are also clear links to the developing West Yorkshire ERP through Council participation in the WY Board and officer group. There has also been engagement with the Kirklees Inclusive Economy Group and Third Sector Leaders, representing the voluntary and community sector. Delivery of the ERP will be driven by task and finish groups which will incorporate partner organisations where possible.

### **Place Based Working**

- 3.6 The ERP is a high level plan guided by intelligence on the impacts of the crisis at the most local level currently available namely district and by the views of partners with local knowledge. This includes the recently completed Kirklees Business Survey to which over 760 local businesses responded. Delivery of interventions will be designed incorporating local level intelligence and build on engagement with members, staff groups, partners and residents.

## **Climate Change and Air Quality**

- 3.7 Lockdown restrictions have had a positive impact on air quality while bicycle use has seen significant increases nationally. However, there is a risk that mixed messaging around use of public transport as the UK emerges from lockdown, alongside reduced capacity, result in increased private car use. Active travel measures are incorporated to mitigate this risk.
- 3.8 Development of carbon reduction and resource efficiency considerations within business support aim to encourage new and existing businesses to adopt more environmentally sustainable business models. The plan also highlights the opportunity to develop the concept of the circular economy as an integral part of the business support offer.

## **Improving outcomes for children**

- 3.9 The Economic Recovery Plan does not relate directly to outcomes for children although it does have a focus on young people aged 16 and over. However, mitigating the impacts of the recession on unemployment numbers will reduce the numbers of children in households in poverty and the availability of schooling and childcare is a key enabler for working parents to return to work.

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

### *Financial*

- 3.10 The proposed Economic Recovery Fund will repurpose existing funding allocated in the capital programme including the Property Investment Fund; Start Up and Retention Fund and reprioritisation of other capital programme commitments to support the economic recovery. There is also scope to align the transfer of the Council's unspent Apprenticeship Levy funding to support private sector Apprenticeships and use of Business Rates Pool funding tied to the Employment Hub project to support recovery projects.
- 3.11 Individual interventions will need to draw on existing resource allocations, new funding streams that become available as the Government announces its plan for recovery and in the medium term through devolution.

### *Human resources*

- 3.12 There are no direct HR implications though the Good Work Charter may have implications for the Council's employment practices and People Strategy. The Council will also seek to transfer any unallocated Apprenticeship Levy funding to support the retention of Apprenticeships placements by employers.

### *Communications*

- 3.13 A detailed communications plan is being developed alongside the ERP covering staff, members, local employers and residents. Communications around the reopening of non-essential businesses has already occurred and will continue as more business types are able to open such as pubs, cafes and restaurants that are expected to open on 4 July.

## **Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

- 3.14 A Stage 1 IIA has been undertaken suggesting the need for a Stage 2 IIA for Equalities considerations but not for Environment. The IIA will be used to identify key groups to engage during the consultation.

## **4. Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 The ERP has been developed with the Economic Recovery Partnership group as well as having been presented to the Kirklees Inclusive Economy Group and the leadership of Third Sector Leaders. The contributions of these stakeholders have been reflected in the draft plan.

## **5. Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval the local Economic Recovery Plan will be issued for a period of public consultation as described in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2. The draft plan will then be amended to take into account public/business comments.

- 5.2 Members and officers will continue to input to the West Yorkshire Recovery Plan being developed by WYCA. Task and finish groups, involving Council officers and partners, are being established to further develop the key initiatives outlined in the plan and support accelerated implementation.

## **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

1. Cabinet notes the content of this report and the draft Economic Recovery Plan and approves the draft plan for the purposes of public consultation.
2. Cabinet delegates authority to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure to implement the consultation programme and finalise the Economic Recovery Plan in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.
3. Cabinet delegates authority to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure and the Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Strategy and Asset Strategy, to establish the Economic Recovery Fund and pursue external funding to support delivery of the plan.
4. Cabinet delegates authority to the Strategic Director Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to establish appropriate monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the Economic Recovery Plan and to prepare regular reports to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
5. Cabinet delegates authority to the Strategic Director Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, for the delivery of the key projects outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan, where this authority is not already in place, and to commence any related procurement exercises

### Reasons

1. To enable Cabinet to approve the draft local Economic Recovery Plan to enable consultation and engagement with the public, businesses and other partners as soon as practicable.
2. To enable rapid and efficient finalisation of the plan, in accord with the scheme of delegations.
3. To enable the identification and implementation of recovery plan projects as soon as practicable.
4. To ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to monitor the progress and impact of the Recovery Plan and to afford appropriate opportunities for engagement via the relevant Scrutiny Panel(s).
5. To enable the identification and implementation of recovery plan projects as soon as practicable.

## **7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

The Cabinet portfolio holder supports the recommendations which have been developed as a matter of urgency at the request of Cabinet to ensure the local Economic Recovery Plan can be subject to further consultation and implemented as soon as practicable.

## **8. Contact officer**

Chris Duffill, Head of Business and Skills, [chris.duffill@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:chris.duffill@kirklees.gov.uk), 01484 221000

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

Kirklees Local Economic Recovery Plan: Consultation Draft

## **10. Service Director responsible**

Angela Blake, Service Director Economy and Skills, [angela.blake@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:angela.blake@kirklees.gov.uk), 01484 221000

# Kirklees Local Economic Recovery Plan 2020-2023

Consultation Draft

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Foreword by Cllr Shabir Pandor, Leader Kirklees Council (to follow)

Summary: plan on a page (to follow)



# 1. Introduction

## An unprecedented global event

The Coronavirus has resulted in the worst global health pandemic in living memory, requiring a national emergency response unprecedented since the Second World War. Tragically, there have been 288 COVID-19-related deaths in Kirklees over the period to 5 June 2020, and new cases continue to be reported.

COVID19 has tested our emergency services, communities, businesses and our way of life to the very limit. Yet the way in which our health, social care and other key workers; our voluntary and community organisations and their volunteers; and our local businesses have come together in response has been truly astonishing. Together they have cared for our most vulnerable residents; kept schools and other frontline services open; provided free school meals and food parcels; and operated community hubs across Kirklees. The local response provides much on which we can build as we enter the next phase of living with COVID-19.

The global economic impacts of COVID-19 have also been unparalleled in recent history. We describe some of the impacts on the Kirklees economy in Appendix 1.

## A local Economic Recovery Plan

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in his statement on coronavirus on 6<sup>th</sup> May, said:

*“As we look ahead to supporting businesses as they are able to re-open, my department will lead our work on how our local economies can adapt, evolve, recover and grow. I will continue to support mayors and local government leaders, who will play critical roles in this work. Every local economy now needs a plan to re-start and recover.”*

The Kirklees Local Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) covers the period from 2020 to 2023 – the likely timeframe for the local economy to return to pre-COVID-19 levels of employment and output. It has been developed by the Kirklees Economic Recovery Partnership which includes key public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders.

The purpose of the ERP is to set out how the Council and other stakeholders – including our key private sector employers, the University of Huddersfield; Kirklees College; and voluntary and community sector organisations – can directly support the recovery. Together, these ‘anchor institutions’ have a vital role to play in leading recovery efforts through our investment, procurement and recruitment decisions and use of key property and other assets. By optimising the impact of our spending on the local economy, we hope businesses and other organisations in Kirklees will follow this example.

The Council will kick start recovery efforts by assembling a £40m *Economic Recovery Fund* through repurposing our Property Investment Fund and Start Up and Retention Fund and prioritising other capital investments that will directly support the recovery.

Building on this, we will continue to seek funding support from Government, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority/Leeds City Region LEP and other sources to deliver our recovery plans.

COVID-19 has thrown into sharp focus some of the wider challenges – and opportunities – that Kirklees faced before the pandemic. The need for *inclusive growth* - an economy in which everyone can participate and benefit from – is more acute than ever. Black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to be in less secure, low wage jobs that will be most at risk during the coming months, so *racial equality* must underpin every aspect of our approach.

Similarly, whilst there have been significant improvements in air quality during lockdown in air quality, the Climate Emergency remains a very real threat. The lockdown has resulted in a number of changes in how we commute/work, shop and live.

As we move to the ‘new normal’ of living with the virus for the foreseeable future, we will intensify efforts to encourage walking, cycling and other sustainable behaviours to avoid locking in carbon and resource consumption; and promote a low carbon recovery. Rather than merely return to the situation before the virus, our recovery planning presents a vital opportunity to ‘*build back better.*’

## Our Plan to Rebuild

Our plans to kick start the local economy are set firmly within the framework of the Government’s strategy for exiting the lockdown.

The Government published ‘Our Plan to Rebuild<sup>1</sup>’ on 13 May, setting out a three step approach. Step 1 has been implemented. Step 2, involving the phased re-opening of primary schools for some year

groups; staging live sports events behind closed doors; and re-opening open air markets and car showrooms commenced on 1 June, with further non-essential shops opening on 15 June. The re-opening of hospitality, leisure and personal services businesses took place on 4 July.

Achieving these milestones is dependent on ongoing assessment of the rate of COVID-19 infection (the ‘r’ rate); the scaling up of the Government’s test/trace/isolate capability and society’s continued willingness to adopt social distancing and related measures. Other factors likely to influence the economic recovery nationally and locally will include:

- the duration of the Government’s financial support package and in particular the impact of scaling back the furlough scheme
- whether some shifts in working and shopping practices lead to long-term/permanent changes in behaviour
- the rate at which public transport services can be safely scaled up to facilitate commuting
- public attitudes to revisiting town/city centres for leisure and shopping post-lockdown.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

## 2. Objectives and themes

### Introduction

The Economic Recovery Plan builds on the priorities and actions developed through the Kirklees Economic Strategy (KES), adopted by the Council in 2019, which sets out a vision for the Kirklees economy that is:

- **Inclusive:** with every person realising their potential, through good jobs, and higher levels of skills, income and wellbeing.
- **Productive:** with innovative, outward and forward looking businesses; higher productivity supports good jobs and higher incomes.

The ERP also builds on the vision and shared outcomes set out in the Kirklees Corporate Plan for 2018/20, for Kirklees:

*“to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.”*

The vision is translated into eight outcomes which drive the work of the Council and its key public, private and voluntary sector partners:



### Aims of the Economic Recovery Plan

As detailed on page 1, the primary purpose of the ERP is to set out how the Council and other anchor institutions can directly support the economic recovery – through:

- our collective investment, procurement and recruitment decisions; use of key property and other assets;
- funding and support for business resilience and growth; and
- helping to mitigate the economic impacts of the virus on our most vulnerable residents.

The ERP will also

- be intelligence-led, driven by emerging evidence on local economic impacts and needs;
- integrate business and infrastructure investments with interventions to support vulnerable people and achieve inclusive growth; and,
- balance support for sectors with the potential to deliver growth during the recovery and those that need to strengthen their resilience.

### Recovery Plan themes

Building on our shared outcomes, the initiatives we will describe in the rest of this plan are grouped under the themes below:



In considering the economic and wider impacts of COVID-19 on Kirklees residents and businesses, stakeholders have identified four specific priorities for action which are emphasised throughout the remainder of the plan and

- the importance of a clear focus on *job creation* during the recovery period through enhanced support for the growth of our existing businesses; scaling up our business start-up programmes; a renewed focus on inward investment; and ensuring that our capital

projects and other procurement deliver more social value benefits for local businesses and residents;

- mitigating the economic impacts of the virus on the future learning, employment and progression prospects of *young people*; the recovery plan proposals include a Kirklees Youth Guarantee to address this challenge;
- tackling the *digital divide* between our most and least affluent communities and residents; the rapid shift to online working and learning and accessing services during the lockdown has exacerbated this issue; and,
- developing the role and contribution of the voluntary and community sector to each of the Recovery Plan themes, building on the effective, cross-sector partnership working which characterised the lockdown phase.

### Governance

This plan has been developed with the Kirklees Economic Recovery Partnership Group which includes representation from both large employers and SMEs; the University of Huddersfield; Kirklees College; the Department of Work and Pensions; key business representative organisations including the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses and Calderdale and West Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliance; and Third Sector Leaders, representing the Kirklees voluntary sector.

The Kirklees Inclusive Economy Group has been consulted on the draft ERP. The plan is also aligned with and complements the work of the Kirklees Tackling Poverty Group which will focus on optimising access to the benefits system, support for vulnerable families and communities and improving education standards.

The ERP has been developed in parallel with ongoing recovery planning led by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and has both informed and been informed by this work. Whilst many interventions and best planned and delivered at local level, others will benefit from funding, economies of scale, geographical coverage or other advantages at city region level.

Implementation of the ERP will be overseen and guided by the Economic Recovery Partnership Group. Task and finish groups have been established to develop and implement discrete projects.

The Partnership Group will report progress on delivering the plan to the wider Kirklees Partnership.

### 3. Supporting business growth and enterprise

#### Overview

Kirklees is home to a diverse mix of businesses and social enterprises, with over 14,600 firms located in the district of which just under 84% are micro-businesses employing less than 10 people. At the other end of the scale, Kirklees has just 50 large employers with more than 250 staff, including Cummins, Thornton Ross, Syngenta and Wesco Aircraft.

Kirklees has a higher than average proportion of jobs in manufacturing (17.3% compared with just 8.1% for England as a whole) with the particularly high concentration of employment in textiles and engineering compared to the national average. Kirklees is also over-represented in wholesale and retail trade employment.

Prior to the virus, productivity remained a significant challenge for Kirklees businesses. GVA per head in Calderdale and Kirklees was just £18,827 in 2018 – just 64% of the England average.

The business stock in Kirklees increased by 24% between 2010 and 2019, less than the growth rate for England as a whole of 31% over the same period. Between 2015 and 2018 there were an average of 1,990 new business start-ups in Kirklees per annum; three year survival rates for start-ups match the England average.

#### The response to COVID-19

The Government put in place a wide ranging package of support for businesses following the imposition of the lockdown on March 23<sup>rd</sup>,

involving both grants, loans, business rates relief and payment holidays for VAT and income tax.

Nationally, 70% of businesses have furloughed some or all of their employees and over 970,000 firms have applied for Bounce Back or other loans from the British Business Bank, with a value of over £40bn. The recent Kirklees Business Survey highlighted that over 90% of local firms were impacted in some form by COVID-19; 51% had furloughed at least some staff; and 54% had only three months or less cashflow in reserve.

To date, Kirklees Council has made over 8,000 grant payments to local businesses with a value of over £90m – distributing one of the largest allocations of Government funding in the country. The Council has advised over 600 business on funding and other matters during the lockdown period, working closely alongside key partners including the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, University of Huddersfield, Federation of Small Businesses and Leeds City Region LEP. The University has launched its Manufacturing Recovery Programme to help local manufacturers develop their resilience and unlock growth.

Encouragingly, developer interest in a number of the strategic employment sites across Kirklees (e.g. Moor Park 25, Interchange 26 and Lindley Moor East) continues to remain strong and the Council is managing a number of inward investment enquiries with the potential for significant job creation.

## Our proposals

As we move into 'living with COVID-19' we will shift our focus from business survival towards business resilience and growth. We will widen the sectoral focus of our business support activity, balancing support for high skilled/high innovation sectors (e.g. advanced manufacturing and engineering, med-tech, digital and creative) with those 'foundational' economic sectors with potential for sustainable job creation (e.g. health and social care, construction). We will also strengthen our support to develop the resilience and capacity of the voluntary and community sector in Kirklees.

We will:

- develop a new package of *grant support* for businesses and social enterprises with potential to deliver jobs growth, innovation and other social value outcomes, targeting both existing SMEs and inward investors; to be supported through the proposed Economic Recovery Fund, complementing existing support available through the LEP/WYCA
- working with key partners, scale up our support for *business start-ups and self-employment*, acknowledging that the recession may generate a significant increase both 'opportunity' and 'necessity' entrepreneurship; we will develop a major awareness raising campaign and link advice/support for start-ups with subsidised accommodation through our business centre network or town centre venues and a 'virtual office' offer
- *extend the reach of our business support offer* to a much wider client-base of SMEs by extending collaboration with the Mid

Yorkshire Chamber, FSB, University of Huddersfield and LCR LEP; this will ensure more businesses can access tailored advice and support to meet their needs and improve signposting and referral arrangements to ensure a 'no wrong door' approach

- extend the specialist support available for *social enterprises, co-operatives and other not-for-profit vehicles*, including those operating in key sectors including health and social care, to develop their resilience and support long-term, as part of wider support to develop voluntary and community sector capacity in Kirklees
- continue to implement measures to increase the proportion of the Council's procurement activity spent in Kirklees, including the proportion spent with local SMEs (see also section 7), and encouraging larger employers to develop local supply chains
- increase support for a range of 'Buy Local' initiatives like Totally Locally and Shop Appy to help local independent retailers and hospitality businesses during the critical re-opening phase following lockdown
- review access to finance and investment readiness support for businesses and social enterprises, including non-bank lending; to include testing the feasibility of a business mutual credit platform

## Key actions

	Intervention	Partners
Existing	Government financial support programmes inc. Small Business, Retail and Discretionary Grants	KC
	Awareness raising and signposting to above	KC/MYCCI/FSB/UoH
	Growth Manager advice/support (B2B firms only)	KC/LCR LEP
	Manufacturing Recovery Programme/Supply Chain	UoH/LCR LEP
	Ad:Venture start-up scheme	LCR LEP
	Business resilience	LCR LEP
	Chamber/FSB support for members	MYCCI/FSB
New	Grants programme targeting business growth/resilience and inward investment opportunities for key sectors, through Economic Recovery Fund	KC
	Business start-up programme including graduate start up	KC, Ad:Venture LCR LEP
	New business support concordat to improve signposting/referral and increase reach	MYCCI/FSB/ UoH/LCR LEP
	Buy Local and other initiatives to support local businesses and increasing local online offer	BID
	Promotion of B2B mutual credit platform	KC

(Short-term/early phase projects highlighted in yellow)

## Success measures:

- Number of new business accounts/start-ups and survival rates
- Business confidence
- Productivity (GVA per head)
- Jobs created.



## 4. Supporting People: Skills & Employment

### Overview

Kirklees' diverse population has long been its most important economic asset. 20.9% of our residents were from a black or minority ethnic background in 2011, compared with 14.1% for England as a whole.

Our population grew more rapidly than that of Yorkshire and Humber as a whole between 2008-2018 and this trend is forecast to continue over the next 20 years, with particular increases in the number of younger children and adults aged 64 and over.

In recent years academic attainment for our young people at Key Stage 2 has been below the England average but the gap has narrowed by Key Stage 4; attainment at A level stage is consistently above the England average. Just 3.1% of young people in Kirklees were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in March 2020, well below the regional and national average, as a result of effective partnership working between schools, the Councils and our delivery partner C&K Careers.

In terms of the adult workforce, Kirklees has a lower proportion of residents aged 16-64 who are economically inactive (75%) than the regional (77.2%) or England (79%) averages and employment rates are also correspondingly lower. Kirklees occupational structure is under-represented in higher level skills occupations (managers/directors, professional occupations and associate professional/technical) than England as a whole; conversely it is over-represented in 'mid-level' skills occupations (administrative

and secretarial, skilled trades and caring, leisure and other service occupations).

Our adult population have lower skills levels than the England average. 9.4% of Kirklees adults (25,300) have no qualifications - more than the region (8.5%) and more than England (7.5%); qualifications lag the regional and national average at NVQ Levels 1 to 3. At Level 4, just 33.1% of residents have a degree level qualification or better, compared with 39% for England.

Low skill levels is one of the factors impacting on productivity and in turn wage levels. Gross weekly pay for Kirklees residents was just 89.6% of the England average in 2019; wages growth lagged that of England as a whole between 2015-2018.

18% of Kirklees households are workless - more than in the Region (16%) and England (14.3%). Unemployment, based on the ILO definition, has remained above the England some average but the gap has narrowed significantly since 2018; between January-December 2019 the Kirklees rate was 4.2% of those aged 16 and over and 3.9% for England. Appendix 1 presents further details of more recent changes in unemployment and Universal Credit claimants as a result of COVID-19.

### The response to COVID-19

The impact of the widespread closure of schools, the College and University during lockdown on the learning and progression of young people may take some years to fully evaluate.

During lockdown, the Council, Jobcentre Plus and its other partners have continued to provide support for both young people and adults to secure Apprenticeships, re-enter the labour market or re-engage with learning. Much of this support is focused on vulnerable residents with complex needs, and has had to shift online during this period.

### Our proposals

Although over 25% of the local workforce has been supported via the Government's furlough scheme, there are very real concerns about the potential impact of the recession on young people and the lowest paid, with women and BAME residents likely to be most affected. The capacity of employers to sustain Apprenticeships is also a significant risk.

The ERP will prioritise support for young people to remain in learning, access pre-Apprenticeships support, Apprenticeships or employment, with a particular focus on supporting care leavers or other vulnerable groups. Those adults who are furthest from the labour market or have multiple barriers to regaining work will continue to need support.

We will:

- implement a *Kirklees Youth Guarantee*, complementing any further Government initiatives that may be announced following publication of the ERP; the Youth Guarantee will support all 16-18 year olds retain access to full-time education, pre-apprenticeships support or Apprenticeships, and support 19-24 year olds into Apprenticeships or employment, through

the expansion of the *Employment Hub programme* delivered in partnership with Leeds City Region LEP and our delivery partners;

- develop a *Kirklees-wide Apprenticeship Strategy* to underpin support for employers to retain existing and recruit new Apprentices, underpinned by transfer of unallocated Apprenticeships Levy by the Council and our anchor institution partners to fund training costs and wage subsidy to incentivise employer take-up; to include piloting a Council-backed Apprenticeship Training Agency to support the construction and social care sectors
- scale up our *Works Better* programme and other employment and skills initiatives to continue to support adults furthest from the labour market to regain sustainable employment and secure progression in work, including an extended package of wage subsidy support for employers and utilising our tried and tested, community-based delivery model
- work with Jobcentre Plus, the National Careers Service and other partners to provide an integrated response including rapid online support for people who have been made redundant as a result of the pandemic but need less intensive support to re-enter and remain in work
- gear-up towards devolved commissioning and delivery of the Adult Education Budget from September 2021, optimising opportunities for training/re-training for the unemployed, progression towards Level 3 qualifications and community learning

- continue to deliver our community-based Adult and Community Learning and English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes to help re-engage residents in learning and develop progression towards work or other outcomes
- develop and implement a Digital Citizenship basic skills programme for adults, building on the Government Level 1 entitlement, to enable Kirklees residents to access services, shopping and other online opportunities.

### Success measures

- Local unemployment rate;
- Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- Gross disposable household income;
- Female pay gap (Median female gross weekly pay as percentage of male pay)
- BAME pay gap.

### Key actions

	Intervention	Partners
Existing	Support for unemployed- Works Better/LEP Employment Hub	KC/LCR LEP
	Jobs brokerage	NCS
	IAG for young people (schools)	Schools/ C&K
	Skills Service (LEP)	College/ LCR LEP
	Apprenticeships (College and private providers)	
	Adult Education Budget activity	College/KC
	Project Search	KC/College
New	Kirklees Youth Guarantee – ensure 16-18 year olds retain access to full-time education, pre-Apprenticeships or Apprenticeship	KC/ LCR LEP/ VCS C&K/ employers
	Development of a Kirklees Apprenticeship Strategy; to include transfer of unspent Levy to support employers	KC/ College/ anchor institutions/ Employers
	Scale-up Employment & Skills support for furthest from labour market including through online delivery	KC/VCS
	Support other unemployed or furloughed employees	National Careers Service
	Gear up for devolved commissioning of Adult Education Budget	KC/College
	Accelerate digital citizen basic skills roll out	KC/College/VCS

## 5. Supporting our distinctive places

### Overview

The character of each part of Kirklees is defined by the distinctive local landscape and townscape (buildings, open spaces and trees) and the presence of historic buildings. Kirklees is a varied district which includes the open farmland of the Holme and Colne Valleys, Denby Dale and Kirkburton areas, the central urban area of Huddersfield and the towns of Dewsbury, Mirfield, Cleckheaton, Batley, Heckmondwike and Liversedge.

The Council's priorities for supporting the regeneration and growth of these communities, as set out in the adopted Local Plan, include:

- accelerating the regeneration of *Huddersfield Town Centre*; the Blueprint, adopted by the Council, details ambitious proposals to develop a modern, thriving town centre with a vibrant culture and leisure offer, enhanced public spaces and a new town centre living offer, focused on six key areas of the town and underpinned by capital investment by the Council and Future High Streets Fund
- transforming the role of *Dewsbury*, which lies at the heart of the strategic North Kirklees Growth Zone (NKGZ) which has the potential to serve the wider Leeds City Region as a location for housing and employment growth; the Dewsbury Blueprint, published in 2020, seeks to develop the role of the town centre through encouraging leisure, cultural and residential use alongside a consolidated retail offer
- supporting rural regeneration through support for development of our rural towns and villages
- developing *strategic employment sites* along the M62 Corridor and other key locations including at Whitehall Road, Lindley Moor East, Cleckheaton and Chidswell focused on attracting investment in manufacturing, engineering, logistics and other key sectors
- accelerating *housing growth* to deliver over 31,000 new homes over the period to 2031, including large sites at Bradley, Chidswell and Dewsbury Riverside, with the potential to deliver vital infrastructure and community facilities
- delivering *major infrastructure projects* to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and unlock growth including the TransPennine Upgrade project to provide faster rail journeys between Leeds and Manchester including station improvements; roll out of full fibre broadband by CityFibre and Fibre Nation; major highway schemes on the A629, A62 Leeds Road and at Cooper Bridge; and new bus interchanges in Huddersfield and Dewsbury supported through the *Transforming Cities Fund*

### The response to COVID-19

Following the dramatic decline in footfall in both Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres following the lockdown, the Council, Huddersfield BID and other partners are undertaking a wide range of activity to support the safe re-opening of both centres, including:

- advice/support for retailers and other town centre businesses on how to re-open securely
- an enhanced street cleaning regime
- re-allocation of road space to allow social distancing and enable some cafe's/bars to utilise spaces for outdoor seating including temporary closures or widening of key town centre streets
- a public art programme to support public health messaging.

### Our proposals

We will review and where possible accelerate our major capital projects and other place-based initiatives to support the economic recovery and create a local economic stimulus. We will utilise funding from the Economic Recovery Fund and other capital programme commitments to leverage private investment, further investment from WYCA and Government programmes including the Future High Streets Fund (Huddersfield) and Towns Fund (Dewsbury).

We will:

- seek to accelerate key Blueprint projects, including St George's Quarter (building on the exciting catalyst of the recently announced National Rugby League Museum) and Southgate, and the Arcade in Dewsbury, utilising Council assets to kick start the regeneration process
- utilise other Council assets (town centres, libraries, business centres) to support start-ups and other 'meanwhile' uses on a

subsidised basis and support the regeneration of our major centres

- pilot town centre regeneration programmes in Batley, Cleckheaton and Holmfirth, working with key community and business partners to develop and implement proposals that will support the economic diversification and revitalisation of these communities through re-use of public assets, public realm improvements and other initiatives
- accelerating delivery of our major housing sites, including Dewsbury Riverside and other Council-owned sites, to support the contribution of the construction sector to the recovery
- working with Network Rail, the Transpire Alliance and other key partners to optimise the social value benefits of the TransPennine Upgrade, including the development of construction and engineering skills training facilities, Apprenticeships and local recruitment and supply chain opportunities.

### Success measures

- Average house prices;
- Resident satisfaction.
- Town centre vacant floorspace.

## Key actions

	Intervention	Partners
<b>Existing</b>	Existing WYCA/LTP highways and infrastructure schemes;	KC, WYCA
	TransPennine Upgrade;	Network Rail
	Ongoing town centre management activity.	KC, BID
	Social distancing measures for Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres, including public spaces and public buildings;	KC,BID
<b>New</b>	Acceleration of key Blueprint projects – St Georges Quarter, Southgate, Dewsbury TBC inc FHSF/Towns Fund schemes	KC, private sector
	Use of Council assets (town centres, libraries, business centres) to support start-ups and meanwhile uses	KC
	Batley, Cleckheaton and Holmfirth regeneration programmes	KC, VCS, private sector
	Accelerate delivery of Council housing growth programme including social/affordable, self-build	KC, KNH, private sector

## 6. Environment: Build Back Greener

### Overview

The UK is seeing very real climate change, with the 10 warmest years all occurring since 2002 while over the last decade summers have been 13% wetter and winters 12% wetter and 2018 saw 10 named storms batter the UK. At the same time long-term exposure to poor air quality in the UK leads to an estimated 28,000 to 36,000 deaths per year.

In this context, Kirklees Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has proposed an ambitious programme of activity to address the emergency. This will require significant societal changes to how we all live and work, with an urgent need to dramatically reduce our emissions and to adapt locally to a changing climate.

Our vision is to make Kirklees completely carbon neutral by 2038. To do that we have already committed to setting a carbon budget, increasing the number of charging points for electric vehicles and increasing the number of electric vehicles within the Council's own fleet, planting more trees through the White Rose Forest Partnership and considering the environmental impact of all Council decisions. We are clear however that we must go further.

The COVID lockdown has demonstrated that previously unimaginable changes in air quality can be achieved rapidly. Another recent change is the significantly heightened interest in active leisure and travel as people sought to take advantage of quieter roads and to avoid public transport. The challenge as we

move to a 'new normal' is not to return to or even surpass the levels of poor air quality and carbon emissions experienced prior to COVID-19 or lock in carbon and resource inefficiency in our production practices and lifestyles.

Kirklees Council wishes to rise to this challenge and be a leader to achieve this change with our local partner organisations, businesses and residents with the help and support of the national government and regional partners and aligned to our corporate ambitions for People, Places and Partners.

### The response to COVID-19

As public health measures have been relaxed the Council has introduced a range of measures in our town centres that facilitate walking and cycling as well as promoting social distancing.

### Our proposals

The extent of support being provided to businesses and training that will occur as we rebuild from this crisis provides a once in a generation opportunity to make a step change in the sustainability of our local economy. We will:

- advance the work of the Kirklees White Rose Forest Group delivering reforestation and green streets; a Leeds City Region bid has been made for £25m from the Nature for Climate fund to support this work; as well as making a significant contribution to reducing emissions accelerating delivery of the White Rose Forest will create opportunities for walking and cycling, tourism and volunteering

- deliver on the Air Quality Strategy which includes major transportation schemes, redesigning and making new roads to move vehicles more efficiently, improve active travel and reduce emissions; and reducing emissions at existing junctions by improve technology on our traffic signals to prioritise certain vehicles and move vehicles through junctions in an efficient way;
- connect more Kirklees businesses to ReBiz and other resource efficiency support to achieve reduced emissions and generate business cost savings.
- promote the circular economy model to businesses, particularly within the manufacturing sector, returning Kirklees to the forefront of the Green revolution.
- accelerate implementation of the Huddersfield Heat Network to provide lower carbon and lower cost heat and power to businesses, partners and council premises in the town centre. The Network will provide a genuine economic boost to the town by cutting energy costs for partners that can connect and create high-skilled construction and maintenance jobs as well as making the town more resilient for the future
- include environmental sustainability requirements within the Council's Procurement Strategy ensuring we maximise the impact of the levers available to us;
- working with energy providers, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing partners and private sector landlords, accelerate home energy efficiency retrofitting and renewable energy generation reducing fuel poverty and energy consumption and increasing resilience at both the household and community levels, whilst

creating significant local supply chain and employment opportunities;

- ensure that all skills interventions prepare residents with skills for 'Green' jobs providing a workforce ready for firms looking to adopt sustainable technologies and practices;
- seek to reallocate road space for walking and cycling to capitalise on shifts to active travel and leisure during the pandemic and reducing pressure on public transport services.

#### Success measures

- Proportion of journeys by car/walking/cycling
- Air quality measures (particulate matter measures)
- Reduced emissions
- Renewable energy production.



## Key actions

	Intervention	Partners
Existing	Kirklees White Rose Forest Group including reforestation and Green Streets;	KC, LCR LEP, Woodland Trust
	Air Quality Strategy including major road redesign schemes to increase efficient traffic flow and safer active travel as well as promotion of low emissions and electric vehicles;	KC
New	Ensure business support offer also achieves reduced emissions and better resource efficiency;	KC/LCR LEP
	Inclusion of environmental sustainability requirements within procurement strategy;	KC, anchor institutions
	Accelerate home energy efficiency retrofitting and renewable energy generation;	KC, KNH, private sector
	Reallocation of roadspace for walking and cycling;	KC
	Focus on providing residents with skills for 'Green' jobs through skills interventions;	KC, KNH, Kirklees College
	Promotion of circular economy model to businesses	KC/LCR LEP

## 7. Inclusive Economy

### Overview

The Kirklees Economic Strategy set out a vision for an inclusive and productive economy at the heart of the North a vision that is now more necessary and more urgent. We remain committed to building local wealth, creating an economy that is inclusive: with every person realising their potential, through good jobs, and higher levels of skills, income and wellbeing; and productive: with innovative, outward and forward looking businesses.

The 2019 English Index of deprivation placed 12% of Kirklees neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived in England. While this is lowest proportion of any West Yorkshire district – varying from Wakefield and Calderdale at 16% and Bradford at 24% - it illustrates that the experience of deprivation within our district varies according to ethnicity, gender, age and geography.

It is well recognised that economic outcomes are a key driver of health and well-being with female life expectancy having fallen for women in the poorest areas in the last 10 years. Good Work – having a satisfying level of challenge, some say in how you do your work, feeling part of a team and of course pay and conditions – is also important with insecure employment and zero hours contracts resulting in increased stress.

Residents without access to or the skills or equipment to use the internet have suffered greater limitations and isolation as a result of public health restrictions. This has particularly been true of the education of children in low income families.

We also know that community businesses and local voluntary sector organisations play a key role in serving their communities and increasing community resilience as well as the VCS being responsible for around 4% of jobs.

### COVID-19 Response

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been characterised by local action by residents of our towns, villages and rural areas who have worked together through Mutual Aid Groups, in partnership with local third sector anchor organisations and the Council as well as other partners and local businesses.

The Council also more than doubled our ward members' budgets from £20,000 to £50,000. This has helped councillors address problems at a neighbourhood level with proactive support for food banks, meal deliveries to vulnerable people, direct support for residents in hardship, and support for the mutual aid groups. This money has supported our local economy.

### Our proposals

As we emerge from the COVID crisis the Kirklees Inclusive Economy Group will continue to drive improvements in the local economy seeking to ensure that residents from all communities have access to Good Work particularly for young people and school leavers particularly at risk from the impacts of this recession. Local community groups will have a key part to play in providing this support.

We will:

- develop a Procurement Strategy and Social Value Strategy that allows to scale up social value benefits of Council spend;
- continue to pursue the transfer of Council assets to community organisations allowing local communities to take greater control of the spaces and services that shape their local area while permitting sub-letting to community businesses;
- develop a programme of support for alternative business models including social enterprises (e.g. Community Interest Companies) and co-operatives, raising awareness of these options in our business support offer and with professional services providers, as these are recognised to provide inclusive jobs and enhance community resilience;
- develop a Good Work Charter that sets out the minimum employment standards that we aspire to for residents of Kirklees and work with our anchor institution partners to implement it;
- ensure all residents have access to affordable, high quality broadband and the skills to use it so no one is prevented from working from home by digital infrastructure and no child is excluded from online learning.

### Key Actions

	Intervention	Partners
Existing	Seeking to increase social value benefits (e.g. local recruitment) and local spend through Council procurement	KC/Anchor Institutions
	Asset transfers to community organisations permitting letting to community businesses	KC/VCS
New	Social enterprise and co-operative support programme;	KC/VCS
	Development of a Good Work Charter	KC/Anchor Institutions/VCS
	Ensure broadband and data affordability	KC/telecoms providers

### Success Measures

- Total social value achieved (Council and system wide)
- Percentage of Kirklees Council procurement budget spent within local economy
- Percentage of workers in secure work
- Percentage of residents with 1 Gb broadband coverage.

## Appendix 1: The economic impact of the virus in Kirklees

### Introduction

Economic forecasts by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Bank of England and other institutions all indicate that lockdown will result in the largest global economic shock since the Second World War. OECD forecast that the UK may see Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fall by at least 11.5% this year - more than any other developed country<sup>2</sup>; monthly falls of 5.8% (March) and 20.4% (April) have already been recorded by ONS.

In this context it is widely acknowledged that the UK economy will fall into recession later in summer 2020 following two consecutive quarters of contraction in GDP. Whilst some hope of a rapid return to economic growth remains, many commentators accept that a long, slow climb out of recession is much more likely.

The Office for Budget Reform and others forecast that unemployment will increase by at least 2 million during 2020, from 4% to 10% of the working age population. The occurrence of a 'second wave' of COVID-19 infection would also have significant economic as well as health consequences.

### Local economic impacts

The speed at which the pandemic has impacted on the economy and the Government's unprecedented financial response to the

crisis make it difficult to fully quantify the local economic impact of the virus at this stage.

A wide range of research and analysis has sought to predict the likely impact of the virus on local/city-regional economies and to identify the factors which make areas more vulnerable/less resilient. Analysis by the Leeds City Region LEP suggests that just under 17% of employees in Kirklees work in industries most directly affected by the lockdown, matching the England average<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, the Centre for Cities<sup>4</sup> recently ranked Huddersfield in the least impacted 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the 63 largest UK cities and large towns that it monitors on an ongoing basis.

On a less positive note, the Centre for Progressive Policy<sup>5</sup> (CPP) forecasts that *economic output* (Gross Value Added, or GVA) in Kirklees may decline by up to 41% during q2 2020, making our area the 66<sup>th</sup> most impacted of 382 English local authority areas and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Yorkshire and the Humber. Other local economic headlines to date include:

- 50,400 Kirklees workers had been furloughed by the end of May 2020, representing just under 25% of Kirklees residents in employment (just below the UK average of 27%)
- some 14,200 self-employed residents of Kirklees had received support through the Government's Self-Employment Income

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/economic-outlook/>

<sup>3</sup> Leeds City Region COVID-19 Monitor April 16 2020

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.centreforcities.org/blog/what-does-the-covid-19-crisis-mean-for-the-economies-of-british-cities-and-large-towns/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.progressive-policy.net/publications/which-local-authorities-face-biggest-immediate-economic-hit>

Support Scheme by the end of May, representing just under 50% of those eligible to receive support compared with UK take-up of 70%.

- the claimant count for Kirklees (the number of people claiming Universal Credit and other out of work benefits because they are unemployed) increased from 10,225 at the end of March 2020 to 18,870 by the end of May, representing an increase of almost 85%; in comparison, during the financial crisis of 2008/9 there was a 72% increase in the number of residents on out of work benefits.
- youth unemployment in Kirklees stood at 3,910 or 10.4% of the population aged 18-24 (cf England 8.9%) in May 2020, 900 higher than in April and over 2,000 higher than in May 2019.
- to date no large scale redundancies have been announced by larger employers in Kirklees although the Council continues to monitor the position closely.
- the number of live vacancies posted on recruitment websites in Leeds City Region is over 60% lower than pre-crisis levels.
- town centre footfall in Huddersfield and Dewsbury fell to just 25% of normal levels.

Analysis<sup>6</sup> suggests that groups at particular risk in this recession are likely to be young people and the lowest paid, with women more adversely affected than men. Other research<sup>7</sup> has highlighted the potential impact of the recession on the employment prospects and wages of those young people leaving education during this period, based on evidence from the previous recession. BAME

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14791>

residents have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 due to socio-economic risk factors – and those in low paid, less secure jobs are also likely to be severely impacted during the anticipated recession.

It will take some months for a full picture of the economic impact of the virus on Kirklees to emerge. The scaling back of the Government's furlough scheme, in August 2020, is likely to result in a further, significant increase in redundancies as employers are required to contribute to the scheme.

The Council will continue to assemble data and evidence on the economic effects of COVID-19 and this will inform our recovery plans. We will continue to publish this information on the Kirklees Data Observatory.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/05/Class-of-2020.pdf>

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**Name of meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
**Title of report:** Colne Valley Place Partnership - mental health initiatives - Summer 2020

**Purpose of report:**

- To consider allocating a sum of funding from the Place Partnership mental health themed budget towards support and help for families who live in the Colne Valley Place Partnership area over Summer 2020.

<b>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?</b>	<b>No</b> If yes give the reason why NA
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	<b>Key Decision – No</b> This is only applicable to Cabinet reports  <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Rachel Spencer-Henshall - 02.07.20  Eamonn Croston - 30.06.20  Julie Muscroft - 01.07.20
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Give name of Portfolio Holder/s</b> Cllr Cathy Scott, Housing and Democracy

**Electoral wards affected:** Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley

**Ward councillors consulted:**

Councillors Donna Bellamy, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Christine Iredale, Andrew Marchington, Richard Murgatroyd, Cahal Burke, Richard Eastwood and Anthony Smith

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## 1. Summary

A budget of £1m in total has been allocated by the Council to the 7 Place Partnerships in Kirklees for mental health and well-being initiatives that build local community capacity and resilience.

Councillors in the Colne Valley Place Partnership led by Cllr Rob Walker (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley wards) are focusing their mental health theme work on children, young people, parents and carers based on initial local profile data and information; a higher proportion of young people reported low happiness and worry most days (year 9 schools' survey).

There is clear evidence that a range of prevention activities promote good mental health and reduce some of the impacts of poor mental health.

Local engagement was undertaken by ward councillors in January and February 2020 with schools, GPs, community organisations & front-line services, who shared challenges experienced by local families in accessing early information and support.

Anecdotal information gleaned by ward councillors from local communities and services is that since the covid 19 lockdown there has been an increase in the need for early intervention and support among families in this area.

This proposal focuses on short-term early intervention and support for the Summer holiday period in the three wards. It complements the Healthy Holiday programme for the area. It is additional to the support currently on offer to schools in Golcar and Lindley wards through the Council's Trailblazer programme. And to the online "back to school" workshops that are available from Northorpe Hall to any young people and parent carers in Kirklees.

It meets the partnership's agreed outcomes to improve early intervention and prevention support and resources for local families, to link that support with the wider Kirklees offer and to build up knowledge and understanding of the local picture among communities, services and partners.

Further proposals will come forward to meet these outcomes for delivery from September 2020.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

This proposal is made up of the following two elements across the 3 wards of Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley:

### 1) Timestep Community Dance exercise and well-being provision (Luke's Lads/ Butterflies) - £8,400

For the seven week period three sessions per week for young men aged 11-15, three session per week for young women aged 11-15, one weekly session for young men aged 16-19 and one weekly session for young women aged 16-19. Individuals being able to access one appropriate session a week. Group therapy sessions with mental health first aiders and ASSIST trained professionals, allowing for appropriate sign posting to take place. Sessions will comply with covid 19 physical distancing rules. The cost for the eight sessions is £5,600. An extra four sessions per week over the seven weeks is sought if there is extra demand at £2,800. The total amount requested is £8,400. Places will be offered to residents in the place partnership area via the three high schools in the first instance, and subject to space then offered to year 6 pupils. Evaluation information will be requested as part of the contract and will be used to plan next steps.



## 2) **The Ladder Group - counselling provision based at UCHM (United Church Healing Ministries), Milnsbridge - £19,200**

For an eight week period 30 one- one sessions per week for young people 11-19 years based on a cost of £80 per session. Assuming 8-10 sessions per person including room hire at £20 per hour. (Average number of sessions offered by the NHS is 6 per person). Evaluation information will be requested as part of the contract and will be used to plan next steps. Between 20 and 30 young people have been identified by the three high schools who would benefit from this approach. At the end of the sessions young people will, if necessary be referred to further support.

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

### • **Working with People**

Local community organisations and residents have contributed their experiences during the conversations with ward councillors in January/ February 2020. Their experiences have informed the agreed outcomes and priorities, and the proposals put forward.

### • **Working with Partners**

The place partnership has worked collaboratively with the three school hubs for the place partnership area. Emotional health and well-being are a priority and there have been ongoing discussions including at the hub meetings. Representatives on the school hubs include local GPs, frontline staff in services, community organisations and ward councillors. There has been a discussion at the Lindley Ward Partnership meeting which includes ward councillors, community organisations, residents and staff from front line services.

### • **Place Based Working**

This work has involved starting with mental health profile information specific to the Colne Valley place partnership area, engaging all nine councillors and undertaking local discussions with communities, services and partners to reach a shared understanding of the information, needs and opportunities.

### • **Climate Change and Air Quality**

No change

### • **Improving outcomes for children**

Impact on priority “children will have the best start in life.”

### • **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The legal power for grants is section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general Power of Competence). Also the council must when providing grants comply with Financial Procedure Rules contained in the Council’s Constitution and in particular FPR 20.7 to 20.13.

### **Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

Yes around impact of poverty on access to the provision (14% of children and young people in the Colne Place Partnership area live in poverty).

## 4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Conversations between ward councillors, front line services, schools, GPs, community organisations and residents informed the desired outcomes and priorities for improving mental health and well-being among children and families. All the nine ward councillors and the three high schools in the place partnership area have been consulted on the specific proposals in this report and these proposals are welcomed.

Stewart Horn, Head of Joint Commissioning (Children and Families) supports this proposal provided it is run as a pilot to inform future provision, it is monitored, and the schools are confident at what point to refer in individuals.

Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk Corporate and Corporate Procurement and Commissioning have advised on the approach to take when commissioning activity with the place partnership funding.

**5. Next steps and timelines**

The proposed initiatives will be commissioned, the school hub co-ordinators will work with the mental health and well-being leads in the schools in the place partnership area to identify the children and young people who would benefit from it. The evaluation will inform development of medium to long term proposals to build mental health and well-being capacity in the place partnership area working with local services, partners and communities which link in with the Kirklees wide offer.

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

The Cabinet is asked to approve funding from the Place Partnership mental health theme allocation for children and young people in the Colne Valley Place Partnership during Summer 2020:-

£8,400 for the provision of Timestep Community Dance Provision (Luke's Lads/ Butterflies) and

£19,200 for the provision of The Ladder Group counselling provision based at United Church Healing Ministries, Milnsbridge

Total amount sought £27,600

Reasons for recommendation – to meet the partnership's agreed outcomes to improve early intervention and prevention support and resources for local families based on the needs identified, to link that support with the wider Kirklees offer and to build up knowledge and understanding of the local picture among communities, services and partners.

**7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder recommends that Cabinet approve funding from the Place Partnership mental health theme allocation for children and young people in the Colne Valley Place Partnership during Summer 2020:-

£8,400 for the provision of Timestep Community Dance Provision (Luke's Lads/Butterflies) and

£19,200 for the provision of The Ladder Group counselling provision based at United Church Healing Ministries, Milnsbridge

Total amount sought £27,600

Reasons for recommendation – to meet the partnership's agreed outcomes to improve early intervention and prevention support and resources for local families based on the needs identified, to link that support with the wider Kirklees offer and to build up knowledge and understanding of the local picture among communities, services and partners.

**8. Contact officer**

Luc Bride, Active Citizens & Places Officer, email [luc.bride@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:luc.bride@kirklees.gov.uk) Tel 01484 221000  
Julie McDowell, Active Citizens & Places Officer, email [julie.mcdowell@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:julie.mcdowell@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Tel 01484 221000

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

Annual Council 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – item 7 Ward and Place Partnerships – establishment of place partnerships

**10. Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer- Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public Health, email [rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk)



**Name of meeting:** Kirklees Cabinet  
**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
**Title of report:** White Rose Forest Plan and the Trees for Climate programme

**Purpose of report:**

- 1) To confirm Kirklees role as the accountable body for the White Rose Forest namely by granting
  - (i) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements to receive both revenue and capital funding from Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWAC), as the accountable body for the “Trees for Climate” programme, re White Rose Forest Project – both in Kirklees Council’s capacity as the accountable body for the White Rose Forest and also as a grant recipient;
  - (ii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with the other parties to the White Rose Forest Project (from time to time) re both revenue and capital funding;
  - (iii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with third party landowners who are not party to the White Rose Forest Project joint venture agreement;
  - (iv) An authority for Kirklees Council to vary the existing joint venture project agreement/enter a new joint venture project agreement for the White Rose Forest Project upon completion of the White Rose Forest Plan expected December 2020.
- 2) To take a leadership role across the geography of the White Rose Forest joint venture to deliver the White Rose Forest Plan as a way of tackling the climate emergency and supporting a “green” economic recovery.

<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>If successful, the grants received and distributed will cover areas of North and West Yorkshire over next five years.</b></p> <p><b>The current target figure is 1500 hectares at a total cost of at least £20 million over 5 years</b></p> <p><b>The 1st year revenue grant applied for (but not yet secured) will be in the region of £700k</b></p>
<p><b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b></p>	<p><b>Key Decision – Yes</b></p> <p><b>Public Report/Private Appendix – Yes details of the national “Trees for Climate” bid need to remain private until confirmed with a public announcement expected in the Autumn</b></p>
<p><b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b></p> <p><b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b></p> <p><b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b></p>	<p><b>Karl Battersby - 30.06.20</b></p> <p><b>Eamonn Croston - 30.06.20</b></p> <p><b>Julie Muscroft - 29.06.20</b></p>
<p><b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b></p>	

	<p><b>Peter McBride</b> - Deputy Leader of the Council and holder of the Deputy Leaders Cabinet Portfolio and Regeneration Portfolio</p> <p><b>Naheed Mather</b> – Greener Kirklees</p> <p><b>Rob Walker</b> – Culture and Environment</p>
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**Electoral wards affected:** The White Rose Forest joint venture agreement currently covers West and three of the seven North Yorkshire District Council areas (previous Leeds city region Local Enterprise Partnership area and now York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership area). The North Yorkshire County Council are minded to sign the JV, so the WRF will then cover North and West Yorkshire entirely including the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks.

**Ward councillors consulted:** n/a

**Public or private:** There is a private Appendix to this report. The Appendix is recommended for consideration in private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 namely it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and third parties. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the rights of an individual or the council, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the council’s decision making.

**Has GDPR been considered?** No details of third party landowners contained in report at this stage

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Kirklees Council, the accountable body for the White Rose Forest (WRF) since 2002, is leading the development of the WRF Plan for the Leeds city region.
- 1.2 The WRF Plan will 1) set out broad targets for increasing tree and woodland cover up to 2050 in the Leeds city region and 2) provide a “delivery pathway” for landowners and WRF partners to design, deliver and maintain new community woodland, using a variety of funding streams .
- 1.3 Once the WRF Plan has been agreed by Leeds city region, Local authorities and other partners in December 2020, a new governance structure to help deliver the WRF Plan will require a revised Joint Venture Agreement (JV). Kirklees Council will need to oversee this process. Funding is being sought to cover the costs of the revising the JV.
- 1.4 The government announced a £640m Nature for Climate Programme on the 11 March 2020 Budget to create 30,000 hectares of new woodland by 2025. Work is underway to develop a Community Forest led strand of this fund, creating 6000 hectares of new woodland in England’s Community Forest areas, including 1500 hectares (approx.3000 football pitches) in the White Rose Forest.
- 1.5 Should the Community Forest strand be successful, DEFRA have invited Cheshire West and Chester Council (a/c body for the Mersey Forest), to make an application to be the accountable body, programme managers, funding recipient and distributor for a national “Trees for Climate” programme.
- 1.6 Cheshire West and Chester Council would then contract Kirklees Council to deliver the programme in line with the WRF Plan across the geography of the joint venture.
- 1.7 This would require Kirklees to have “back to back” agreements with 1) other WRF partners such as Leeds city council, 2) 3<sup>rd</sup> landowners such as Yorkshire Water 3) itself as a grant recipient on its own land.
- 1.8 The DEFRA investment may include a revenue strand to fund various posts within the WRF partnership and a capital element to pay for the conversion of suitable land into woodland.

**NB** The details of this have yet to be confirmed and are therefore not for public awareness at this stage.

- 1.9 This level of investment in new trees and woodlands presents a great opportunity to be part of a post-Covid recovery package

## 2. Information required to take a decision

### Background

- 2.1 The WRF was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2000 to create a “well wooded landscape” in West Yorkshire to support economic growth by attracting and retaining business investment.
- 2.2 In 2002, the WRF was made into joint venture agreement and Kirklees Council became the accountable body. There are currently over 30 signatories to this agreement including all the local authorities of the Leeds city region

- 2.3 In 2009, the WRF expanded into the Leeds city region and was identified as a “local authority trailblazer” for its work with Yorkshire Forward in delivering the nation’s first partnership green infrastructure investment programme.
- 2.4 The 2017, Leeds City Region Green and Blue infrastructure strategy was published. The WRF partnership was identified as the convenor partnership for priority 5 “Plant and manage more trees and woodlands”. A key action under this priority was to produce a **WRF Plan** for the city region that would set planting targets and develop delivery mechanisms to make them achievable.
- 2.5 The WRF Plan and the joint venture that underpins it was recognised in April 2018 by the Leeds city region Chief Executives as our contribution to the Northern Forest.
- 2.6 As one of the founding partners in the **Northern Forest**, the WRF have led the formation of the Northern Forest Operations Group which is made up programme managers across the four community forests and the Woodland Trust. This group has helped deliver the first two years of the DEFRA Northern Forest grant. This has confirmed to DEFRA that the community forest network is capable of planning and delivering programmes of woodland creation.
- 2.7 The government announced a £640m Nature for Climate Programme on the 11 March 2020 Budget. This funding is to support climate mitigation programmes, sequestering and storing carbon from the atmosphere in trees and peat. The Nature for Climate programme is part of an array of actions needed to reach the UK government target of net zero carbon by 2050 to avoid dangerous global temperature rises. By creating new woodlands, a wide range of additional benefits can be achieved. Some of these relate to adaptation to the climate emergency. Others include health and well-being and air quality benefits, an increase in biodiversity and the improvement of ecological networks to improve resilience of our biodiversity.
- 2.8 These environmental and wider benefits particularly delivered via community forests are detailed in the Government’s 25 Year Plan for the Environment

#### WRF Plan

- 2.9 The WRF Plan has been taking shape over the last few years. It is a named Action in the Leeds city region green and blue infrastructure strategy under Priority 5 “Plant and manage more trees and woodlands”. The White Rose Forest is the convening partnership for this action. The basic framework and approach for the WRF Plan is already in place.
- 2.10 The current consultation round with WRF Partners, is focusing on setting planting and sequestration targets and the practicalities of setting up and resourcing a multi-partner **WRF Delivery Pathway** across the geography of the joint venture agreement

The basic multi partner approach can be outlined as follows

- 1) Co-ordinated landowner marketing and engagement
- 2) Multi-disciplinary design (Right tree right place etc)
- 3) Wider stakeholder involvement in funding and delivery

- 2.11 The two programmes that operate under this framework are

- 1) **Landscapes for Water** (catchment approach /rural)

The priority catchments for landowner engagement are the Aire, the Calder and the S.U.N.O (Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse) catchments. Our priority landowners are Yorkshire Water and

National Trust. The primary driver for this programme is using trees and woodlands to reduce flood risk

2) **Green Streets** (key transport corridors/urban areas)

The priority landowners are Local Authorities and Highways England. The primary driver for this programme attracting economic investment and providing healthy environments for communities

It is intended that the WRF Plan will be completed and approved by December 2020

Setting Tree Canopy Targets for the Leeds city region

2.12 The primary target in the WRF Plan will be for increasing the area of tree canopy cover by 2050 for the Leeds city region. It is currently 11.2%. The **WRF Carbon Group** is undertaking a carbon led approach to this using a range of data from the Forestry Commission and others such as Blue Sky digitised tree canopy data, Woodland Carbon Code, Leeds I-tree study, Woodland for Water, Low Risk planting data and the Ecological Site Classification. The study will provide a realistic range for increasing tree cover and, from that, provide a meaningful assessment of the city region’s carbon sequestration potential. We hope to provide a range of options for each Local Authority to consider by September 2020. Please note that this work will have a second phase that will include North Yorkshire should North Yorkshire County Council join the WRF joint venture. This work will be linked to both the West and North Yorkshire emissions pathway work streams.

2.13 The WRF Plan will set out a targets for actual planting schemes for both its programmes in the next 5 years. Currently, subject to funding, it stands at

<b>Landscapes for Water</b> including Yorkshire Water and National Trust land (Common Cause)	1535 hectares
<b>Green Streets</b> including Local Authority land	1080 hectares

Other targets in the WRF Plan

2.14 The WRF Plan will look at setting targets in hectares, for bringing ancient semi natural woodland into management under a **Woodland Ways** programme

2.15 Secondary metrics for biodiversity (exploring links with DEFRA’s Biodiversity Net Gain), flood reduction, health and air quality, access and community engagement are being considered based on the simple use of geographic information systems (GIS) and incorporating suitable design processes as shown in the table below.

<b>Community Forestry objectives</b>	<b>Description of potential scoring metrics</b>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of new native woodland</li> <li>• Buffering ancient woodland</li> <li>• Within Living Landscapes priority area</li> </ul>
Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate of carbon sequestered (calculation tbc)</li> <li>• Area of new woodland in a Woodland Carbon Code scheme</li> </ul>
Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of suitably designed woodland within Woodland for Water</li> <li>• Within priority Landscape for Water Catchment</li> <li>• Identified Environment Agency Hotspot</li> </ul>

Health /Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of suitably designed urban woodland within Green Streets priority area</li> </ul>
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of people involved in planning</li> <li>• Numbers of people involved in planting</li> <li>• Numbers of people involved in aftercare</li> <li>• Numbers of Businesses involved</li> </ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of new woodland with public access</li> <li>• Area of new woodland within Priority Places</li> </ul>

These secondary metrics will be the basis for scoring new planting schemes entering the WRF Delivery Pathway.

- 2.16 It should be noted that DEFRA’s current Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric does not fully support the benefits of woodland and is artificially weighted in favour of non -tree habitats. This has been raised with DEFRA and the Forestry Commission nationally. The Right Tree in the Right Place approach should provide the optimum biodiversity benefits for both tree and non-tree habitats within the same design process as successfully demonstrated with the Gorpley Reservoir project.

Some WRF Plan highlights

1) Landowner engagement

- 2.17 The multi partner approach to landowner engagement is our partnership’s USP and is being pioneered in the Aire catchment in partnership with the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme 2 NFM programme. The contract with the Environment Agency has been delayed due to Covid 19 but is expected to start in October. It should be noted that this project is exploring some interesting innovation that could, if successful, provide real benefits for the Northern Forest and beyond.

2) WRF staff capacity boost

- 2.18 Kirklees Council Major Projects Service, as a response to its climate emergency declaration, is to employ two further staff members to support the development of the WRF Plan and its implementation. The resourcing of these posts includes a proposed Council underwrite of £98k per annum from the strategic investment & support reserve for some of the revenue cost requirement. It is anticipated that some or all of the underwrite may subsequently be clawed back in time from other funding streams supporting the overall project.

3) WRF Partnership structures update

- 2.19 Each Local Authority in the Leeds city region (except Barnsley) has now set up a **District WRF Group** to help steer its response to the WRF Plan locally. Angela Blake chairs the Kirklees WRF Group
- 2.20 Leeds City Council have hosted a Chairs of the Districts WRF Group to bring together all the Chairs and WRF Leads in each Leeds city region District into one group. This group will meet twice a year and help co-ordinate delivery on Local Authority land across the city region.
- 2.21 It should be noted that most Local Authorities including Kirklees Council, have allocated additional staff time and financial resources to expanding tree cover within their respective landownerships.

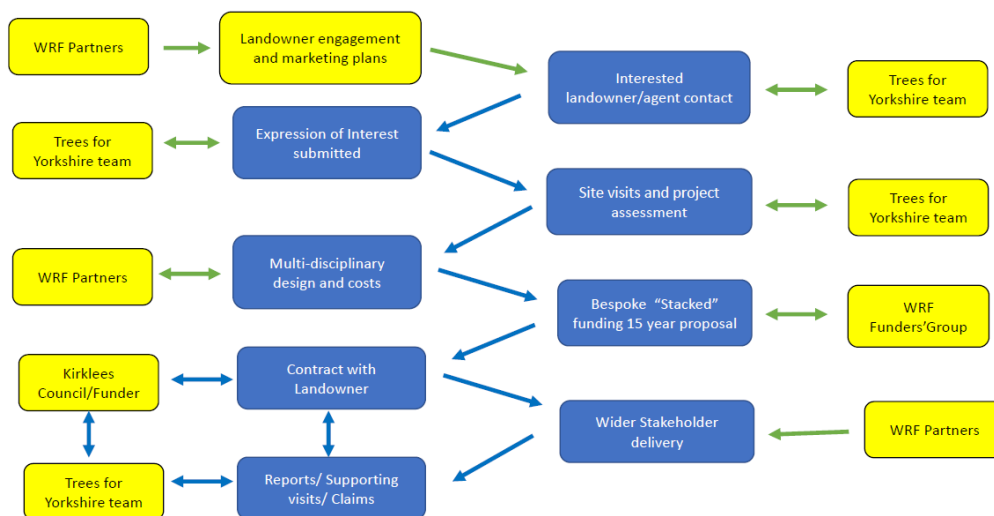


2.22 The **WRF Funders' Group** has also been established to bring together all tree planting and woodland creation funders into one place to help link the right funding for the right project.

4) WRF Delivery Pathway

2.23 The process of long-term land use change is a complex process with a bewildering array of competing interests. The **WRF Delivery Pathway**, (after setting targets ,the next key part of the WRF Plan) sets out to simplify this process by offering support to landowners ,their agents and WRF partners from the initial enquiry stage , through to design and regulatory considerations, finding suitable funding opportunities and exploring delivery options. If no support is required each scheme can still be recorded digitally to keep track progress on achieving overall tree planting targets for the city region.

Summary flow diagram of the WRF Delivery Pathway



WRF Governance

2.24 The current WRF joint venture (2009) requires updating on account of the following.

- 1) The WRF Plan will require a change of structure and partner responsibility if its new targets are to be met on time
- 2) North Yorkshire County Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are minded to join the WRF partnership. The WRF Plan needs to be updated to reflect the needs of both authorities and the changes to Local Enterprise Partnership boundaries.
- 3) The regulatory environment has altered since 2009 so it needs bringing up to date

A **WRF Governance working party** has started work in looking at this issue with a view of providing recommendations to the WRF Steering Group. Once agreed this will lay out the requirements for a revised joint venture once the WRF Plan has been agreed in December 2020.

Options

2.25 Option 1- For Kirklees to pass over the responsibility of overseeing the WRF joint venture to another authority such as Leeds City Council. This is likely to delay the management of the “Trees for Climate” programme as no other Authority has requested to do this.

Option 2 – Pass over the management of the “Trees for Climate” programme to the Community Forest Trust (CFT), a WRF signatory based in Manchester. The CFT will be employing more staff for the WRF and HEYwoods as part of this programme. However, the WRF Joint venture is a local authority-based agreement and it is expected that the a/c body should be a local authority. Passing over management to the CFT could be viewed as a significant shift away from the current structure of the WRF.

Option 3 – Do nothing and not be part of the “Trees for Climate” programme. This would provide significant reputational risk to Kirklees, in the light of its committed to tackling climate change and its 18 years standing as the WRF accountable body. It would also undermine the national programme given WRF is providing up to 25% of the land outputs.

#### Cost breakdown

- 2.26 The full £640million Nature for Climate fund announced in the March 2020 budget to create an additional 30,000 hectares in England by 2025, has yet to be fully costed and allocated. It is not expected to be signed off by Treasury until Autumn this year. The England’s Community Forests has submitted a proposal for creating 6,000 hectares. This includes 1500 hectares for the White Rose Forest. This is likely to be a substantial figure for our geography and it will be the responsibility of Kirklees Council to fulfil the role of accountable body. The details of the bid have not been confirmed nor made public.

Before the capital element of the fund is detailed and signed off, we understand that DEFRA wish to provide revenue support for the England’s Community Forest network to develop the capacity of the partnership to build their respective pipelines. This information is not publicly available.

#### Timescale

- 2.27 The Nature for Climate fund is set to run for the rest of this Parliament. ie up to 2025.

#### Expected impact/ outcomes, benefits & risks

- 2.28 Should the “Trees for Climate” proposal be supported, this investment will provide the necessary resources for core WRF partners to develop the WRF pipeline with 150 hectares by March 2021. ie 10% of our 1500 hectares minimum target for the “Trees for Climate” programme.

It will provide partnership capacity to run the WRF Delivery Pathway across North and West Yorkshire.

#### Key Risks

- 1) Not securing the full “Trees for Climate” capital programme for 6,000 hectares

- 2.29 DEFRA have openly supported community forestry with the development of the Northern Forest. We have the support of the Forestry Commission. Support for community forests and the Northern Forest is also in the DEFRA’s 25 Year Plan for the Environment. However, until it is signed off by Treasury, then the “Trees for Climate” programme cannot be guaranteed. This risk will be managed by only spending any received external revenue support on existing staff. No new staff will be recruited until the 5-year Nature for Climate capital programme has been sign off.

- 2.30 If the Nature for Climate Capital programme is not signed off by Treasury in the Autumn, the WRF Plan will reduce its expected outputs for the first 5 years to reflect the level of capital funds that are available. These include existing Forestry Commission grants, Woodland Trust Morewoods (for small scale private planting), Trees for Cities and other corporate based offers and the second phase of Grant from DEFRA Northern Forest programme which has two years to run.

- 2.31 Funding for the existing Major Projects Service WRF team will in part be derived from a full costs recovery approach to these existing programmes
- 2) Securing the capital programme but not securing and delivering a full pipeline of projects
- 2.32 Our key landowners Local Authorities/Yorkshire Water/National Trust have identified significant potential land opportunities over the next 5 years subject to funding being available. WRF Partners have currently estimated approximately 2600 hectares across North and West Yorkshire. This is still an outline figure based on partner experience and some preliminary scoping work. The WRF target for the “Trees for Climate” programme is set at 1500 hectares. Well within our initial estimates.
- 2.33 Risks will be minimised by ensuring that the “Trees for Climate” programme has adequate professional support including project management, legal, financial for both Kirklees WRF Major Projects team but also with relevant WRF partners who have aspiration and opportunity to add to the pipeline .
- 2.34 Financial exposure will be minimised as payments to individual WRF partners are likely to be based mainly on outputs delivered, evidenced, and audited. DEFRA via Cheshire West and Chester Council may provide funds or a proportion of the agreed funds, ahead of delivery. The Council will only provide limited upfront funding in specific circumstances with appropriate contractual safeguards following guidance from Legal and Finance. This will minimise risks to the Council as accountable body.
- 2.35 The Council will mirror the conditions that DEFRA, via Cheshire West and Chester Council, might set out in the Section 31 grant agreement in back to back agreements with each WRF Partner or Local Authorities. Payments will only be made when Kirklees has drawn down funds from Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 2.36 Landowner agreements with 3<sup>rd</sup> party landowners will be based on contractual arrangements approved and used by the Forestry Commission. This will allow Kirklees Council to clawback grants on failed schemes.
- 3) Limited forestry skills pool
- 2.37 If “Trees for Climate” is successful, WRF will be advertising over a relatively short period of a few months a number of project managers who will be required to lead and co-ordinate multi-partner projects that focus on landowner engagement, land management design and delivery. This will also be occurring at the same time in our fellow community forest partnerships in Hull and East Yorkshire, Manchester City of Trees and Mersey Forest. Concerns have been raised as to whether that number of skilled and experienced rural and urban forestry-based project managers are available in the jobs market.
- 2.38 The mitigation for this risk is to work with partners in Yorkshire to undertake group recruitment and secondly to target individuals with the appropriate transferable skills from different sectors.
- 4) Forestry Commission Capacity
- 2.39 The expected uplift in tree planting schemes will require more capacity in the Forestry Commission to undertake public register processing, possible Environmental Impact Assessments. Delays of just a few weeks can seriously impact on whether a given scheme can get planted by the end of March (tree planting only occurs from November to March).

2.40 Conversations have been had with the Forestry Commission regionally and nationally and it is hoped that they will also undertake recruitment to help fulfil their regulatory duties.

#### 5) Impacts of Covid -19

2.41 The normal operations within Local Authorities and other WRF partners have been seriously impacted by the lockdown. These include group planning and design sessions, WRF Steering Group meetings, consultation timetable, site visits /travel, as well as budgetary pressures.

2.42 This is a risk to all programmes in all sectors. Our mitigation is to propose that the WRF “Trees for Climate” programme, should it be signed off by Treasury in the Autumn, be part of the **West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan**. That is to reflect the benefits of community forest investment in our urban infrastructure. Green urban environments reduce pollution and promote uptake of active travel/recreation as well as attract and retain business investment into a region.

#### Evaluation

2.43 All the revenue investments will need to demonstrate direct benefits to the capacity of the WRF Partnership to set targets , unlock new planting schemes for the pipeline, and revise the WRF joint venture and its partnership structures to effectively manage and maintain a productive WRF Delivery Pathway.

2.44 Contracts between Kirklees and other WRF partners for revenue funding will have clear outputs related to our overall requirement to delivery the expected 1500 hectares in North and West Yorkshire.

2.45 The current suggestion is that the WRF Steering Group will set up a Management Board to oversee the implementation of the WRF Plan and to monitor progress on its contracts with partners in developing the pipeline.

2.46 The details of the contracts have yet to be determined but will reflect the outputs in the contract from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

#### Sustainability

2.47 The sustainability of the WRF’s element of the “Trees for Climate” programme will be determined by the success of the full 5 year capital programme being signed off by the Treasury as part of the wider Nature For Climate fund announced in the March budget.

2.48 The purpose of this report is to have the necessary key decisions in place to prepare for that eventuality.

#### Services & agencies involved

2.49 Support for these four key decisions will empower the Kirklees Major Projects Service to work with legal, finance and human resources to set up the appropriate mechanisms to act as an effective accountable body across North and West Yorkshire for the “Trees for Climate” programme.

2.50 For “Trees for Climate” investment on Kirklees own land, it will allow Kirklees Streetscene, as part of the Kirklees WRF Group, to set new standards in urban and community tree planting. There is an opportunity for Kirklees to offer the WRF a flagship project called Castle Hill Wildwood to establish native woodlands and associated habitats across this iconic landscape in close partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

- 2.51 In the wider District , through existing partnership structures we can direct significant investment into our upland catchment notably with Yorkshire Water and National Trust but also work with 3<sup>rd</sup> party landowners through the River Connections team and the Colne Valley Tree Society to ensure that we can target woodland creation in the Holme and Colne sub- catchments. This work will include partnership working with the Environment Agency and the Calder Rivers Trust.
- 2.52 The key defining approach of the WRF partnership is having a multi-disciplinary approach to design. Kirklees Council can take the raised profile within the WRF partnership to demonstrate best practice for both urban and rural community forestry. In practical terms, this means bringing other disciplines and agencies into the design process as soon as an area of land is identified by the landowner for long term land management use change.
- 2.53 A key challenge through this multi-disciplinary design approach is to integrate woodland creation with wider biodiversity priorities. Kirklees Council could take a lead in ensuring that Biodiversity Net Gain calibrations reflect this design led approach.
- 2.54 Securing the “Trees for Climate” programme will enable Kirklees, as its accountable body, to play a significant role with other WRF Partners on the WRF Funders’ Group. This working party is made up of tree funding organisations including the Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust, West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The aim is to ensure that every well design woodland creation project can be funded by one or more suitable funding sources.

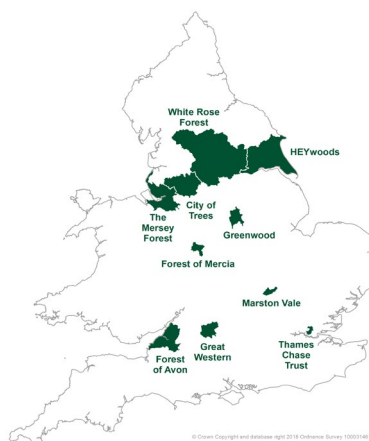
### **3 Implications for the Council**

#### Working with People

- 3.1 In the WRF Plan Consultation Draft it states “Community Forestry is the process of widening and deepening our communities’ involvement with and connection to the planning, planting and management of trees and woodlands”
- 3.2 For Kirklees owned land, Streetscene will involve the local community and its representatives to fully understand how best to convert land in the long term over to trees and woodlands, including if this is even appropriate. Well-designed urban treescapes and woodlands, take into account community usage as well as providing opportunities for carbon sequestration, landscape improvement, improving air quality and biodiversity. Integrating access into urban woodlands is an essential prerequisite to good design. There will be a need to involve schools and communities in the identification of planting sites, collecting suitable tree seeds for growing, planting and aftercare. Urban woodland to be effective needs a regular and longterm approach to maintenance eg litter and formative pruning. Should the Nature for Climate fund be successful, Kirklees will be able to “stack and match” various tree planting funds including its own, to deliver 15 year maintain packages for its community woodlands. This can be achieved with the help of the WRF Funders’ Group

#### Working with Partners

- 3.3 The WRF is a joint venture agreement with 30 plus signatories including 9 local authorities. It requires partnership working to function.
- 3.4 Nationally, Kirklees has represented the WRF on the England’s Community Forest Network and therefore worked with other community forests across the country to present a business case for the Nature for Climate fund. This puts Kirklees Council at the forefront of the development of community forestry. These national conversations have included DEFRA, Natural England and the Forestry Commission.



3.5 Trans regionally, Kirklees Council represents the Leeds city region (White Rose Forest) on the Northern Forest Board so conversations are ongoing with the Community Forest Trust (based in Manchester), The Woodland Trust and the other 3 community forests Mersey forest, Manchester City of Trees and Heywoods. The working relationship with HEYwoods (Hull and East Yorkshire) has intensified over the last 2 years. We are currently, looking at jointly developing a Pan - Yorkshire campaign called “**Trees for Yorkshire**”. This would allow us to promote our offer to landowners across West, North and East Yorkshire. Furthermore, we wish to extend (a phase 2 of the WRF carbon Study see above) the BlueSky Digitised coverage of trees and woodland to include North and East Yorkshire. This will enable us to have a fuller understand of the community forests potential to sequester carbon in the Yorkshire landscape. (NB South Yorkshire region does not have a Community Forest)

3.6 Regionally, Leeds city region local authorities have all set up District WRF Groups to help coordinate the implementation of the WRF Plan via the WRF Delivery Pathway locally. In addition to this, other organisations interested in tree and woodland creation have joined the joint venture. These include Tillhill Forestry Ltd, Forest Carbon Ltd, Westwood Landscapes Ltd, Yorkshire Dales National Park, River Connections Ltd, Zero Carbon Harrogate and the United Bank of Carbon (charitable trust working through University of Leeds). This growing partnership will want to support the collaboration between WRF Partners and the private business and independent sector. Once the Major Projects Service have secured an additional project manager (External Relations), work will begin on revising and managing the WRF website. The website has a donation facility which allows funding support to be directed to partner projects. It will also provide opportunities for businesses and community groups to join in planting and aftercare projects such as through “1000 tree challenge” events

Place Based Working

3.7 Kirklees Council provides a Geographic Information System platform called Kompass for its partners to understand the spatial qualities of a given project site. Data sets are mapped to indicate for example if a given place if planted with trees might help reduce flooding, strengthen biodiversity corridors or improve air quality where it matters. This background spatial information provides a starting point for the multi-disciplinary design process.

3.8 Our priorities for land search include a Leeds city region wide dataset called Green Streets which shows areas of deprivation (worst 10%), areas of key employment sites and the key route network transport corridors that link them. Targeting planting opportunities in these areas will greatly contribute to positive economic and health outcomes.

Climate Change and Air Quality

3.9 The WRF Carbon Group is currently undertaking a Leeds city region wide study to look at the carbon sequestration potential of the White Rose Forest landscape as well as what is current being sequestered by the existing 12 million trees in the White Rose Forest. A key driver for the

Nature for Climate fund announced in the 2020 budget was to use woodland creation to reduce by 10% the UK's residue CO2 emissions. The results of the study will provide Kirklees Council and the other authorities of the Leeds city region an evidence base to set realistic targets for sequestering CO2 in the landscape. This will not in itself reduce the need to decarbonise the economy but it is a part of the solution that offers a range of other benefits.

- 3.10 The other benefits include improving air quality through the carefully selection of tree species along transport corridors. The wrong trees in the wrong place can over time make air quality worse so there is a need to apply the Green Streets principles during the design process.
- 3.11 The WRF Plan is a stated part of the Kirklees Climate Emergency response as approved November 2019 Cabinet.

#### Improving outcomes for children

- 3.12 The WRF partnership are looking to secure the funding for a **Trees for Learning** project co-ordinator for the Leeds city region. This post will support local WRF partners and local authorities in working with schools and their pupils to plant trees and woodland on school grounds and on local greenspaces. This work will include some learning about the importance of trees to human well being and nature as well as understanding what trees need to grow well.

#### Human Resources

- 3.13 All costs incurred to Kirklees as the accountable body for this "Trees for Climate" programme will be recouped from the DEFRA Nature for Climate grant should it be secured.

At this stage, the staff support will include contributions for

##### Major Projects Service

WRF Project Director (in post)

4 project managers and officers with skills in the areas of GIS, communications, finance and project management funded by a mix of core revenue and full costs recovery from external funds

##### Streetscene

Woodland creation officer (50% costs contribution)

- 3.14 Other revenue support for WRF partners will be subject to procurement rules. Initial advice from the Kirklees Procurement team for the potential of year one revenue support has suggested that there are a number of viable routes available to the Major Projects Service.

#### Legal

- 3.15 Advice from Legal Services has been received. The different elements have been teased out and informed the request for the Authorities in this report.

Legal will need to have an input into

- (i) A proposed grant agreement between DEFRA and Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) re capital expenditure re WRF (and other projects within the Northern Forest);
- (ii) The entering into a grant agreement re capital expenditure with CWAC (in its role as accountable body to DEFRA) re (a) Kirklees Council's role as a accountable body to CWAC for the WRF and (b) as a grant recipients for capital projects taking place on Kirklees Council land as part of the

- (iii) Kirklees Council as accountable body entering into capital grant agreements with the other parties to the WRF project;
- (iv) Kirklees Council as accountable body entering into grant agreements (15-20 in number) with non-local authority landowners for the planting of trees etc;
- (v) A variation to the existing WRF project agreement to provide for the substitution of the existing WRF Project plan (and I believe to provide for additional parties to join the project)

Item (i) - (Advice re DEFRA revenue expenditure grant agreement)	:	Completed and sent to Cheshire West and Chester
Item (ii) - (Entering into revenue expenditure grant agreement with CWAC)	:	8 July
Item (iii) – (Entering into revenue expenditure grant agreements with WRF partner local authorities)	:	Shortly after item (ii) is completed
Items (iv) & (v) – Entering into capital expenditure grant agreements with CWAC)	:	Autumn 2020
Item (vi) - Entering into capital expenditure grant agreements with WRF partner local authorities	:	Shortly after item (v) is completed
Item (vii) – Entering into third party grant agreements	:	TBC but clear after item (v) has been completed
Item (viii) – Revised Project Agreement	:	Cabinet authority to be sought in September and October to principle of revision of project plan and to enter into a revised project agreement – January scheduled to be when revised project completes
Items (ix) to (xi) – “renewal of grant agreements and third party grants	:	Each year during the duration of the White Rose Forest Project

Project Duration -Assuming the “Trees for Climate” capital programme is secured there will be instructions each year (2021/2 onwards) for:

- 1) A “renewal” of all the revenue grant agreements – both between Kirklees Council and CWAC and between Kirklees Council (as accountable body) and the other parties. (Strictly speaking the grant agreements will not be renewed as the revenue granted will change taking into account inflation changes in public expenditure profiling etc);
- 2) A “renewal” of all the capital grant agreements - both between Kirklees Council and CWAC and between Kirklees Council (as accountable body) and the other parties. (Strictly speaking the grant agreements will not be renewed as the capital granted will change taking into



account both DEFRA's priorities in the taking forward of the Northern Forest and the priorities within the WRF project);

- 3) Third party grants to non-local authority landowners (probably in the region of 15 – 20 per annum) to fund capital projects.

3.16 It is likely that if the “Trees for Climate” capital programme is secured over the 5 years of this Parliament, then there will likely be a need to secure the ongoing legal input into the project. Costs for this will be taken from the capital programme.

If the revenue costs are secured for this year, then the legal costs will be covered for revising the joint venture in early 2021.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

3.17 No.

3.18 The targeting, design and consultation work of urban tree planting schemes will provide overwhelming positive impacts for our priority communities. The multi-disciplinary design approach will ensure that any negative impacts are reduced.

For Forestry schemes over 2 hectares schemes will automatically require an Environment Impact Assessment.

## 4 Consultation

### Consultation on WRF Plan and Trees for Climate programme

Consultee	Name	Date	Comments
<b>National</b>			
Forestry Commission	Chris Waterfield	Ongoing	Positive support helping to shape WRF Carbon Study
DEFRA	Tim Hughs/Stephen Pendlington	Ongoing	Positive support helping to understand what Government are looking to achieve with Nature for Climate
Woodland Trust	Simon Mageean	Ongoing	Woodland Trust Director for the Northern Forest – Positive looking to compliment various funding streams
<b>Regional</b>			
Forestry Commission Yorkshire and Humber	Crispin Thorn	28 <sup>th</sup> April/Ongoing	Regular meetings held to discuss how the proposed Trees for Climate programme would be implemented within the WRF area as part of joined up package of landowner support. Issues identified include nature of contracts with landowners and the capacity of the Forestry Commission to process WRF schemes through the public register and Environment Impact assessment
Natural England	Victoria Manton	29 <sup>th</sup> January	Requesting support from Natural England for the Guiding Principles for Clough Woodland in the South Pennines. Positive outcome Natural England will sign Principle in July.

WRF Steering Group		30 <sup>th</sup> January	All day WRF Planning workshop with all key local authorities and partners present
Community Forest Trust	Iain Taylor	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Looking to secure increased role of CFT in WRF partnership including as a/c body for the proposed Trees for Yorkshire team- Positive
DEFRA Network	Jon Follows / Luke Hemming/Chris Marshall	6 <sup>th</sup> February	Regional DEFRA team. Positive outcome.
WRF Districts Chairs Group	Chair Polly Cook Head of Sustainability Leeds CC	14 <sup>th</sup> February	All the WRF leads from the District WRF Groups met to review draft WRF and agreed to support WRF Carbon study. Very Positive
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	CEO Rachel Brice	17 <sup>th</sup> February	YWT a leading WRF signatory. Positive outcome agreed to support WRF Plan and to focus on developing an exemplary project at Stirley Farm with Kirklees Council
Landscapes for water in the upper Calder catchment including Yorkshire Water, National Trust	Geoff Lomas, Craig Best	27 <sup>th</sup> February	Agreed to put forward upper calder catchment projects as part of WRF Plan. Identified need for extra resources in this sensitive landscape
York City Council	Cllr Paula Widdow	28 <sup>th</sup> February	York CC new WRF signatory. Very positive agreed to support WRF Plan including setting up a Landscapes for water project for the S.U.N.O catchment in North Yorkshire
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Noel Collings	3 <sup>rd</sup> march	Positive. WYCA minded to join WRF joint venture and to help co-ordinate funding bids across the city region
Calderdale Council	Moy Cash	12 <sup>th</sup> march	Agreeing landowner engagement approach in Calderdale and to integrate Green Streets into their development processes
North Yorkshire County Council	Liz Small/Hugh Clear-Hill/Matt Millington	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Positive, NYCC minded to join WRF and support WRF Plan.
WRF Carbon Group	University of Leeds/Leeds CC et al	16 <sup>th</sup> April	Positive. Shaping Carbon study to reflect needs of the local authorities target for carbon emission reductions on land available
Woodland Trust	Simon Mageean and Nick Sellwood	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Looking for role of WT within WRF plan as part of Northern Forest project. Positive
<b>Kirklees District</b>			
Kirklees WRF Group	Angela Blake Chair includes Sue Proctor and Richard Hollinson	7 <sup>th</sup> April/Ongoing	Full briefing on Nature for Climate bid. Positive outcome. Karl Battersby aware and supportive.
	Rob Dalby	Ongoing	Positive, update on proposed investment into Streetscene for woodland creation on Kirklees land

Portfolio leads	Cllr Mather and Graham Turner	1 <sup>st</sup> June	Very Positive. Desire for Kirklees to take a strategic lead in the Leeds city region.
	Cllr Rob Walker	ongoing	Very positive. Discussions included shaping investment in wider Kirklees District.
Legal services	Mark Nicholson Susan Hadfield	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Detailed discussion on legal implications of Trees for climate programme in relation to Kirklees Council as a/c body for WRF. Advised and drew up 4 key Decision Notice. Provided response to draft DEFRA contract which was forwarded to Cheshire West and Chester
Finance	Lynda Booth David Baxter	ongoing	Helping to shape requirements for receiving and distributing rev and capital grants to WRF Partners.
Procurement	Ben Hodgson	12 <sup>th</sup> June/ongoing	Advised on procurement options for the expected Rev grant from DEFRA

In addition to this, a WRF Plan draft consultation has been circulated to all WRF signatories and the comments received will inform the next version of the Plan.

## 5 Next steps and timelines

- 1) Respond to the expected contract from Cheshire West and Chester Council to secure any revenue funding expected July 2020 as laid out in the table above under legal implications for Kirklees Council.
- 2) Major Projects Service will lay out a procurement plan to distribute the revenue grant to WRF partners as laid out above.
- 3) Monitor progress of the Nature for Climate fund and report back to Council once we get confirmation of the 5-year capital programme expected in the Autumn.

## 6 Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 The Officer recommends that the Cabinet grant authority to Kirklees Council as the accountable body for the WRF, for the four key decisions in respect to the "Trees for Climate" grant and revising the joint venture agreement namely
- (i) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements to receive both revenue and capital funding from Cheshire West & Chester (as the accountable body for the "Trees for Climate" programme) re White Rose Forest Project – both in Kirklees Council's capacity as the accountable body for the White Rose Forest and also as a grant recipient;
  - (ii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with the other parties to the White Rose Forest Project (from time to time) re both revenue and capital funding;
  - (iii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with third party landowners who are not party to the White Rose Forest Project joint venture agreement;

- (iv) An authority for Kirklees Council to vary the existing joint venture project agreement/enter a new joint venture project agreement for the White Rose Forest Project upon completion of the White Rose Forest Plan expected December 2020.

6.2 The Officer recommends that the Cabinet grant authority to Kirklees Council to take a leadership role across the geography of the White Rose Forest joint venture to deliver the White Rose Forest Plan as a way of tackling the climate emergency and a support a “green” economic recovery.

## **7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s recommendations**

7.1 The Cabinet Portfolio Holders recommends that the Cabinet grant authority to Kirklees Council as the accountable body for the WRF, for the four key decisions in respect to the Nature for Climate grant and revising the joint venture agreement namely

- (i) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements to receive both revenue and capital funding from Cheshire West & Chester (as the accountable body for the Trees for Climate programme) re White Rose Forest Project – both in Kirklees Council’s capacity as the accountable body for the White Rose Forest and also as a grant recipient;
- (ii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with the other parties to the White Rose Forest Project (from time to time) re both revenue and capital funding;
- (iii) An authority for Kirklees Council to enter into grant agreements (in its capacity as accountable body) with third party landowners who are not party to the White Rose Forest Project joint venture agreement;
- (iv) An authority for Kirklees Council to vary the existing joint venture project agreement/enter a new joint venture project agreement for the White Rose Forest Project upon completion of the White Rose Forest Plan expected December 2020.

7.2 The Cabinet Portfolio Holders recommends that the Cabinet grant authority to Kirklees Council to take a leadership role across the geography of the White Rose Forest joint venture to deliver the White Rose Forest Plan as a way of tackling the climate emergency and support a “green” economic recovery.

## **8 Contact officer**

Guy Thompson Partnership Manager White Rose Forest  
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## **9 Background Papers and History of Decisions**

n/a

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**Service Director responsible**

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