

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Virtual Meeting - online

Tuesday 30 June 2020

Dear Member

A meeting of Council will take place remotely on Wednesday 8 July 2020 at 5.30 pm.

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

The following matters will be debated:

Pages

1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

To agree and authorise the Mayor to sign the Minutes of Council held on 12 February 2020.

1 - 10

4: Declaration of Interests 11 - 12

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

5: Elected Member Attendance at Meetings 13 - 16

To consider that the requirement for an Elected Member to attend a relevant number of qualifying Council meetings be relaxed until 7 May 2021.

Contact: Julie Muscroft, Head of Legal, Governance and Commissioning

6: Key Discussion : Covid 19 - Community Experiences 17 - 20

Council will discuss Councillors' experiences in working with the Voluntary Sector, Partners and Communities in responding to the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

(Briefing Note – Kirklees Community Response to Covid -19 is attached)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 5(5), the Key Discussion shall commence no later than 7.00pm.)

Contact: Richard Parry, Strategic Director – Health and Care

By Order of the Council



Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 12 February 2020**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Mumtaz Hussain) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Gulfam Asif	Councillor K Allison
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor N Dad
Councillor Richard Eastwood	Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Charlotte Goodwin	Councillor Eric Frith
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor David Hall	Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead
Councillor Lisa Holmes	Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Erin Hill	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Christine Iredale	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor Lees Hamilton	Councillor Aleks Lukic
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Terry Lyons	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Richard Murgatroyd
Councillor Peter McBride	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Nigel Patrick
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Mohammad Sarwar
Councillor Kath Pinnock	Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Kath Taylor	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Rob Walker
Councillor Harpreet Uppal	Councillor Michael Watson
Councillor Lesley Warner	Councillor Habiban Zaman
Councillor Paul White	

104 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Council Monitoring Officer reminded Council of the restrictions applying to voting under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 1992, in respect of Agenda Item 5 (Minute No.108 refers).

The Mayor referred to a charity event being held on 29 February and encouraged all Members to attend and support the event.

105 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mahmood Akhtar, Martyn Bolt and John Taylor

106 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of Council held on 15 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

107 Declaration of Interests

In regards to Agenda Item 5 (Minute No.108 refers); (i) A table of granted dispensations was tabled (attached). (ii) Further to the table submitted, Councillor Paola Antonia Davies and Councillor Habiban Zaman had been granted dispensations as property owners.

108 Budget 2020/2023

It was moved by Councillor Pandor and seconded by Councillor Turner, that;

(i) General Fund Revenue

- the draft Revenue Budget 2020-2023 be approved, as attached at Appendix A
- the forecast levels of statutory and other Council reserves, as set out at Appendix Bii, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves be approved (paragraph 2.17 refers)
- a further reassessment of reserves requirements be undertaken at year end and reported to Members as part of the 2019-2020 financial outturn and rollover report (paragraph 2.17.8 refers)
- the Council's continued participation in the North and West Yorkshire business rates pool for 2020-2021 be noted and that approval be given in principle to the new arrangements for the 2020-2021 pool, as set out at Appendix I, with authority being delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) in conjunction with the Service Director (Finance), to finalise the new arrangements with the City Solicitor of Leeds City Council (paragraph 2.3.6 refers)
- the Council Tax requirement for 2020-2021 be approved (Appendix G refers)
- the Council's Statutory S151 Officer's positive assurance statement be noted (paragraphs 3.3.1 – 3.3.21 refer)
- the Council's Statutory S151 Officer be given delegated authority to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire

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and Rescue Authority and Parish Councils, should these be received after 12 February 2020 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

(ii) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.15-2.21 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.22-2.31 and Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision/MPR) be approved (paragraphs 2.32-2.36 and Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the Investment Strategy (non-treasury investments) (Appendix E refers) be approved

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2019-2025 be approved (Appendix A)
- the Capital Strategy (including Prudential Indicators), as detailed at Appendix F, be approved

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2020-2023 be approved (appendix A refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves, as set out at paragraph 2.19.7, be approved

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor R Smith and seconded by Councillor Holmes by way of AMENDMENT, that;

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	£k	£k	£k
DEVELOPMENTS			
Recycling/Climate Change/Waste Strategy			
· Bulky Waste Collection: better service)			
· Improving tip conditions and accessibility)			
· Fly-tipping enforcement)	100	100	100
· Recycling in schools, recycling education)			
· Feasibility: single-use plastic ban	20	0	0
· Further action to address air pollution and climate change	0	750	750
Transport Infrastructure			
· Roads/signs maintenance devolved to ward members	250	250	250
· Flockton Bypass feasibility study	150	0	0
· Investment in CCTV	50	50	50
Other Revenue Initiatives			
· Book Fund	25	25	25
Total Developments	595	1175	1175

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Add extra capital finance required		40	240	480
Limit council tax increase in year 1 to 1%		1808	1861	1915
		2443	3276	3570
CAPITAL				
Extra Road resurfacing		3000	3000	3000
Capitalise Transformation Team		1000	1000	1000
Total Capital Developments		4000	4000	4000
SAVINGS/EFFICIENCIES				
· Convert Democracy Commission to task & finish group		-20	-20	-20
· Cease Trade Unions support costs		-125	-125	-125
· Double target for Council-wide efficiencies		-500	-1000	-1500
Re-Capitalise Transformation Team		-1000	-1000	-1000
Use of uncommitted (contingency) MRP		0	-1929	-925
Defer planned MRP release to reserves by one year		-798	798	0
Total Savings/efficiencies		-2443	-3276	-3570
Total revenue effect		0	0	0

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Greaves and seconded by Councillor Lyons by way of AMENDMENT, that;

GENERAL FUND REVENUE	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
school buses	100	100	100
ward based revenue fund +£30k per ward	690	690	690
youth provision in school	250	250	250
financial assistance for community libraries	60	60	60
kirklees youth council	50	50	50
extend village library opening to 25 hrs pw	40	40	40
capital financing costs	60	360	720
total revenue	1250	1550	1910
Funded by :			
apply uncommitted (contingency) MRP in-year		-800	-910
defer MRP transfer to reserves to later years	-250	250	
re-capitalise transformation costs	-1000	-1000	-1000
total funding	-1250	-1550	-1910
Revenue effect	0	0	0

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GENERAL FUND CAPITAL	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
re-capitalise transformation costs	1000	1000	1000
town & villages fund (£10.5M over 10 years)	2000	2000	2000
local road/footway fund (£11.5M over 5 years)	2300	2300	2300
schools climate change education project	300	300	300
private sector hard to treat homes	400	400	400
total capital	6000	6000	6000
<u>HRA</u>			
Retirement Living Schemes - request for service to explore potential future capital investment in these schemes			

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Lee-Richards and seconded by Councillor Cooper by way of AMENDMENT, that;

<u>Developments - General Fund</u>				
REVENUE		20/21	21/22	22/23
Kirklees climate commission (£100k per annum over 5 yrs)		100	100	100
Community action climate projects		1500	1500	
renewable energy (electricity)		45	45	45
Global covenant of mayors		40	40	40
capital financing costs		37	222	432
total revenue		1722	1907	617
CAPITAL		20/21	21/22	22/23
New Build Passivhaus support scheme (£4m over 4 years)		1000	1000	1000
Private sector hard to to treat homes fund (£4m over 4 years)		1000	1000	1000
Assumed £2m external funding offset (£2m over 4 years)		-500	-500	-500
Schools Climate change education project (£5m over 5 years)		1000	1000	1000
Conversion to electric vehicles project		200	0	0
Transformation Team re-capitalisation		1000	1000	1000
total capital		3700	3500	3500
Funded by :		20/21	21/22	22/23
Transformation Team Re-Capitalisation		-1000	-1000	-1000
Defer release of MRP transfer to reserves		-483		483
Apply uncommitted (contingency) MRP in-year		-239	-907	-100
		-1722	-1907	-617

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Capital Developments - HRA	20/21	21/22	22/23
HRA - carbon reduction fund	2000	2000	2000
Funded by :			
HRA general reserves (sinking fund)	-2000	-2000	-2000

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Lawson and seconded by Councillor Marchington by way of AMENDMENT, that;

Developments - General Fund			
REVENUE	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
free large item collection (1 year pilot)	170		
Young People engagement	100		
Capital financing costs	48	285	345
total revenue	318	285	345
CAPITAL	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
Highways - roads	2000		
Highways - pavements	1000	1000	1000
Electric Vehicle Scheme	1500		
Skateboard park	250		
total capital	4750	1000	1000
Funded by :	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
defer uncommitted MRP transfer to reserves to later years	-318	318	
apply uncommitted (contingency) MRP		-603	-345
	-318	-285	-345

The Conservative Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor R Smith, and seconded by Councillor Holmes, on being put to the vote, was LOST.

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Bill Armer, Donna Bellamy, Donald Firth, Charlotte Goodwin, Michelle Grainger-Mead, David Hall, Lisa Holmes, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Aleks Lukic, Bernard McGuin, Nigel Patrick, Elizabeth Smaje, Richard Smith, Kath Taylor, Mark Thompson and Michael Watson. (16 votes)

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AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Karen Allison, Gulfam Asif, Aafaq Butt, Cahal Burke, Andrew Cooper, Nosheen Dad, Paola Antonia Davies, Paul Davies, Richard Eastwood, Eric Firth, Charles Greaves, Steve Hall, Erin Hill, James Homewood, Mayor (Mumtaz Hussain), Yusra Hussain, Christine Iredale, Manisha Kaushik, Viv Kendrick, Musarrat Khan, John Lawson, Susan Lee-Richards, Fazila Loonat, Gwen Lowe, Terry Lyons, Naheed Mather, Andrew Marchington, Peter McBride, Richard Murgatroyd, Alison Munro, Darren O'Donovan, Shabir Pandor, Carole Pattison, Mussarat Pervaiz, Amanda Pinnock, Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock, Mohammad Sarwar, Cathy Scott, Will Simpson, Anthony Smith, Mohan Sokhal, Graham Turner, Sheikh Ullah, Harpreet Uppal, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Paul White, Habiban Zaman. (50 votes)

The Independent Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Greaves and seconded by Councillor Lyons, on being put to the vote, was LOST.

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Karen Allison, Andrew Cooper, Charles Greaves, Susan Lee-Richards, Aleks Lukic, Terry Lyons and Paul White. (7 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Bill Armer, Gulfam Asif, Donna Bellamy, Aafaq Butt, Nosheen Dad, Paul Davies, Donald Firth, Eric Firth, Charlotte Goodwin, Michelle Grainger-Mead, David Hall, Steve Hall, Erin Hill, Lisa Holmes, James Homewood, Mayor (Mumtaz Hussain), Yusra Hussain, Manisha Kaushik, Viv Kendrick, Musarrat Khan, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Fazila Loonat, Gwen Lowe, Naheed Mather, Peter McBride, Bernard McGuin, Richard Murgatroyd, Darren O'Donovan, Shabir Pandor, Nigel Patrick, Carole Pattison, Mussarat Pervaiz, Amanda Pinnock, Mohammad Sarwar, Cathy Scott, Will Simpson, Elizabeth Smaje, Richard Smith, Mohan Sokhal, Kath Taylor, Mark Thompson, Graham Turner, Sheikh Ullah, Harpreet Uppal, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Michael Watson and Habiban Zaman. (49 Votes)

ABSTAINED: Councillors Cahal Burke, Paola Antonia Davies, Richard Eastwood, Christine Iredale, John Lawson, Andrew Marchington, Alison Munro, Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock and Anthony Smith (10 Votes)

The Green Party Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Lees-Richards and seconded by Councillor Cooper, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the decision was taken by Recorded Vote as follows;

FOR: Councillors Karen Allison, Cahal Burke, Andrew Cooper, Paola Antonia Davies, Richard Eastwood, Charles Greaves, Christine Iredale, John Lawson, Susan Lee-Richards, Terry Lyons, Andrew Marchington, Alison Munro, Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock, Anthony Smith and Paul White (16 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Bill Armer, Gulfam Asif, Donna Bellamy, Aafaq Butt, Nosheen Dad, Paul Davies, Donald Firth, Eric Firth, Charlotte Goodwin, Michelle Grainger-Mead, David Hall, Steve Hall, Erin Hill, Lisa Holmes, James

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Homewood, Mayor (Mumtaz Hussain), Yusra Hussain, Manisha Kaushik, Viv Kendrick, Musarrat Khan, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Fazila Loonat, Gwen Lowe, Aleks Lukic, Naheed Mather, Peter McBride, Bernard McGuin, Richard Murgatroyd, Darren O'Donovan, Shabir Pandor, Nigel Patrick, Carole Pattison, Mussarat Pervaiz, Amanda Pinnock, Mohammad Sarwar, Cathy Scott, Will Simpson, Elizabeth Smaje, Richard Smith, Mohan Sokhal, Kath Taylor, Mark Thompson, Graham Turner, Sheikh Ullah, Harpreet Uppal, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Michael Watson and Habiban Zaman. (50 votes)

The Liberal Democrat Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Lawson and seconded by Councillor Marchington, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the decision was taken by Recorded Vote as follows;

FOR: Councillors Karen Allison, Cahal Burke, Andrew Cooper, Paola Antonia Davies, Richard Eastwood, Charles Greaves, Christine Iredale, John Lawson, Susan Lee-Richards, Aleks Lukic, Terry Lyons, Andrew Marchington, Alison Munro, Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock, Anthony Smith and Paul White. (17 Votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Bill Armer, Gulfam Asif, Donna Bellamy, Aafaq Butt, Nosheen Dad, Paul Davies, Donald Firth, Eric Firth, Charlotte Goodwin, Michelle Grainger-Mead, David Hall, Steve Hall, Erin Hill, Lisa Holmes, James Homewood, Mayor (Mumtaz Hussain), Yusra Hussain, Manisha Kaushik, Viv Kendrick, Musarrat Khan, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Fazila Loonat, Gwen Lowe, Naheed Mather, Peter McBride, Bernard McGuin, Richard Murgatroyd, Darren O'Donovan, Shabir Pandor, Nigel Patrick, Carole Pattison, Mussarat Pervaiz, Amanda Pinnock, Mohammad Sarwar, Cathy Scott, Will Simpson, Elizabeth Smaje, Richard Smith, Mohan Sokhal, Kath Taylor, Mark Thompson, Graham Turner, Sheikh Ullah, Harpreet Uppal, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Michael Watson and Habiban Zaman. (49 votes)

Whereupon the Substantive Motion was put to the vote, CARRIED and it was therefore **RESOLVED**;

(i) General Fund Revenue

- the draft Revenue Budget 2020-2023 be approved, as attached at Appendix A
- the forecast levels of statutory and other Council reserves, as set out at Appendix Bii, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves be approved (paragraph 2.17 refers)
- a further reassessment of reserves requirements be undertaken at year end and reported to Members as part of the 2019-2020 financial outturn and rollover report (paragraph 2.17.8 refers)
- the Council's continued participation in the North and West Yorkshire business rates pool for 2020-2021 be noted and that approval be given in principle to the new arrangements for the 2020-2021 pool, as set out at Appendix I, with authority being delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) in conjunction with

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- the Service Director (Finance), to finalise the new arrangements with the City Solicitor of Leeds City Council (paragraph 2.3.6 refers)
- the Council Tax requirement for 2020-2021 be approved (Appendix G refers)
- the Council's Statutory S151 Officer's positive assurance statement be noted (paragraphs 3.3.1 – 3.3.21 refer)
- the Council's Statutory S151 Officer be given delegated authority to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and Parish Councils, should these be received after 12 February 2020 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

(ii) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.15-2.21 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.22-2.31 and Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision/MPR) be approved (paragraphs 2.32-2.36 and Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the Investment Strategy (non-treasury investments) (Appendix E refers) be approved

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2019-2025 be approved (Appendix A)
- the Capital Strategy (including Prudential Indicators), as detailed at Appendix F, be approved

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2020-2023 be approved (appendix A refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves, as set out at paragraph 2.19.7, be approved

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the decision was taken by Recorded Vote as follows;

FOR: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Gulfam Asif, Aafaq Butt, Nosheen Dad, Paul Davies, Eric Firth, Steve Hall, Erin Hill, James Homewood, Mayor (Mumtaz Hussain), Yusra Hussain, Manisha Kaushik, Viv Kendrick, Musarrat Khan, Fazila Loonat, Gwen Lowe, Naheed Mather, Peter McBride, Richard Murgatroyd, Darren O'Donovan, Shabir Pandor, Carole Pattison, Mussarat Pervaiz, Amanda Pinnock, Mohammad Sarwar, Cathy Scott, Will Simpson, Mohan Sokhal, Graham Turner, Sheikh Ullah, Harpreet Uppal, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, Habiban Zaman (34 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Karen Allison, Bill Armer, Donna Bellamy, Cahal Burke, Andrew Cooper, Paola Antonia Davies, Richard Eastwood, Donald Firth, Charlotte Goodwin, Michelle Grainger-Mead, Charles Greaves, David Hall, Lisa Holmes, Christine Iredale, Vivien Lees-Hamilton, John Lawson, Susan Lee-Richards, Aleks

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Lukic, Terry Lyons, Bernard McGuin, Andrew Marchington, Alison Munro, Nigel Patrick, Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock, Elizabeth Smaje, Anthony Smith, Richard Smith, Kath Taylor, Mark Thompson, Michael Watson, Paul White (32 Votes)

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

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Name of meeting: Council

Date: 8 July 2020

Title of report: Elected Member Attendance at Meetings

Purpose of report: To seek agreement from Council that the requirement for an Elected Member to attend a relevant number of qualifying Council meetings be relaxed for a period until 7 May 2021.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Jacqui Gedman – 23 rd June 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 23 rd June 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 22 nd June 2020
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Shabir Pandor /Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Group Leaders

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1** This report seeks agreement by members that for the period until 7 May 2021 the provisions of section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972 shall not apply. This is as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and the difficulty that some members may have in attending qualifying meetings during this period.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1** Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to Elected Member attendance at meetings. It provides that if a Member fails to attend a qualifying meeting for a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a Member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.
- 2.2** At Council Procedure Rule 25 - Failure to Attend Meetings it provides as follows:
- (1) In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor attends no meetings of the Authority for six months the Chief Executive will tell the Council (unless the Member has been granted leave of absence by the Council). The Council will consider whether the absence was caused by some reason approved by them. If they are not satisfied about the cause of the failure, the Member will cease to be a Member of the Council.
- (2) For the purpose of this Rule a meeting of the Authority shall include:
- * the Council, Cabinet or any Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel; or
 - * any Joint Committee or Joint Board which has Council functions delegated to it;
 - * any other body at which the Member represents the Council.
- 2.3** As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, physical meetings of committees, sub-committees and Full Council have been cancelled which may mean in many circumstances that some Members of Council may not be able to attend a qualifying meeting within the six-month period through no fault of their own.
- 2.4** Council is therefore asked to agree that the absence of a Councillor from meetings of the authority which would ordinarily lead to their disqualification as a Councillor shall be authorised to 7 May 2021 in order that any Members not having the opportunity to attend a qualifying meeting prior to and during the period of the Pandemic are not at risk of inadvertent disqualification.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Not applicable.

3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable.

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Not applicable.

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

5. Next steps and timelines

5.1 Members will not face disqualification for failure to attend sufficient council meetings during the current pandemic.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

6.1 Members are asked to agree that the absence of a Councillor from qualifying meetings of the authority which would ordinarily lead to their disqualification as a Councillor shall be authorised to 7 May 2021 in order that any Members not having the opportunity to attend a qualifying meeting prior to and during the period of the Pandemic are not at risk of inadvertent disqualification.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Julie Muscroft – Service Director – Legal, Governance & Commissioning
Telephone: 01484 221000
Email: julie.muscroft@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable.

10. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft – Service Director – Legal, Governance & Commissioning

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Council Briefing Note Kirklees Community Response to Covid -19

Given To:	Council
Strategic Director:	Richard Parry - Strategic Director Health and Care
Produced By:	Carol Gilchrist – Head of Local Integrated Partnerships
Date:	8 July 2020

Emergency Response

In response to the C-19 pandemic a community emergency response (CER) for the Kirklees District was established on 19th March 2020. This rapid response saw the mobilisation of partners/services from across the council, councillors, the wider system, voluntary and community groups and individual volunteers.

The CER system was primarily about ensuring that citizens of Kirklees were kept safe and well and protected from C-19. National government guidelines were being issued daily and as the country went into lockdown the CER focused on protecting the most vulnerable with basic essentials to keep them safe and protect life, such as food, medicines, and other essential items.

The council established an emergency telephone line and online facility for citizens to seek help and advice. Across the district one hundred and thirty local mutual aid groups mobilised adding a huge capacity of neighbourhood level support.

There have been nine voluntary sector 'Anchor' organisations who have coordinated local efforts and linked directly to the council and health/care systems.

As the C-19 pandemic deepened and the initial few weeks of the intense rapid response began to gain rhythm, a broader support offer was developed which has begun to look at social isolation, mental health support, focused support for vulnerable adults, children and families and a developed offer for BAME communities.

A placed based model operated across the whole of the district and the CER was closely aligned to ward councillor's work and engagement, operating seven days a week.

Staff were re-deployed to the emergency effort to support food banks, telephony, triage and new pathways were developed for prescriptions, food, welfare, grants, funding and direct front line support.

In addition, IT, performance and intelligence, public health, policy and partnerships, communications and transformation have all led critical work streams to establish an effective CER.

Community Response

Kirklees Council Data

To date a total number of 3359 requests for help have been received into the council between 25 March and 19 June 2020. Of these, almost 1 in 3 (31%) were from people aged 70 years or over.

The highest number of requests came from people in the Newsome ward (249), followed by Cleckheaton (248). The ward with the highest rate of requests was Cleckheaton (14.3 requests per 1000). The most common type of support requested by people aged 70+ years was with shopping (can afford to pay for essential items) and for people aged 18-49 years it was shopping (cannot afford to pay for essential items).

An important caveat of the data is that 30% of people requesting help did not disclose their ethnic background when asked. However, we do know that, for 18-49 year olds, 1 in 3 people from Black, Asian, Mixed or Other ethnic groups (BAME) requested support with paying household bills, much more than the 1 in 6 White British people; and 1 in 7 BAME people requested support to find advice or information, much more than the 1 in 14 White British people.

We also know that of the 3359 people who requested help, 10% of them had a child aged under 18 years in the household; 87% of them were self-isolating; 44% did not have anyone they could ask for help; and 17% of them did not have enough food for 3 days.

Support for people requiring collection and delivery of prescriptions into the council prescription pathway has been 769 individuals.

Our data shows that the volume of requests has gradually decreased over time. In April the average number of requests per day was 54.5; in May this was 23.6 and in June to date this has reduced to 14.5. Requests have been received more frequently on weekdays and more commonly between 9am and 3pm.

Over 1400 local people responded to the council call for volunteering. These volunteers supported right across the district and some were signposted to the neighbourhood mutual aid groups and the community anchors.

Financial Support

In order to meet the challenges at a ward level, a decision was taken to increase ward member budget from £20k to £50k per ward. Flexed and adapted guidelines were put in place for existing grant programmes to meet the C-19 response and uplifted funding for foodbanks to cover their surplus spend.

Food and Welfare

Food and welfare provision has been a critical aspect of the community response with existing and new food banks supporting thousands of individuals. The three main foodbanks have seen an increased take up of a third from the same period last year. Approximately sixty food banks are now operating across Kirklees.

A new Food Network has been established in partnership with the three main foodbanks and it is providing advice, support and guidance and helping to coordinate food supply across the district.

Inequalities

The pandemic has shone a light on inequalities, across the country and here in Kirklees. When early data began to emerge nationally about the disproportionate impact C-19 was having on black and minority ethnic, (BAME) communities, the community response acted quickly.

The council sought to contact all community organisations who have a reach into those communities and developed an engagement plan to ensure that this population group were getting the support they needed. Community groups have stepped forward and have provided intense support and this has been particularly impactful for those residents who were socially isolated and those with underlying health conditions.

Social Isolation and Loneliness

Overall, 44% of people requesting support from the community response helpline said that they had no family or friends to help them

Amongst White British groups:

- 61% of 18-49 year olds, 56% of 50-69 year olds, 40% of people aged 70+ years

This is similar to the pattern amongst BAME groups: 54%, 44% and 34% respectively).

This work has been an ongoing priority for Kirklees prior to C-19 and the pandemic has meant that more people have experienced social isolation and loneliness.

In Kirklees we have had 19,175 people who have been shielded. Of those shielded, we know 618 (18%) of the people requesting help through the community response wanted to have someone to talk to. We also know that 29% of people who are on the shielded patient list compared to 14% of people not on the shielded list asked for help with someone to talk to via the community response.

Through the helpline we identified a number of people who were digitally excluded and work was carried out to rectify this enabling access to the digital world.

Commissioning work within the voluntary and community sector through the loneliness partnership has been extended to support a befriending scheme via telephone, this is in addition to the telephone befriending service offered within the libraries service.

Place Based Working

An important part of the place-based working programme is the development of a cross partnership operating model whereby staff (both culturally and operationally) begin to undertake their roles in a more place-based way.

To a degree the Community Emergency Response has provided an opportunity to accelerate the development of the operating model and begin to test some of the initial principles, albeit in response to an emergency situation. This provides an opportunity to inform the next steps whilst being mindful that the Community Response teams by no means reflect the entirety of a place-based working operating model.

Furthermore, the ECR has accelerated planned work to revisit our strategic relationship with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Work is now taking place to refresh the VCS Strategy across the partnership footprint, with a stronger focus on a place based approach, economic recovery and in particular making a virtue of the experience and learning over the last 3-4 months.

Our approach to citizen engagement is in the process of being refined as we have stronger regard to the segmented experience of the impacts of the Covid19 pandemic on different groups of people and communities of interest in Kirklees. This will form part of the work of the cross partnership Citizen Engagement Reference Group moving forward.

Next Steps

The community response system will remain in place as long as it needs too, albeit with a reduced workforce to reflect the need. We have put measures in place to ensure we have the resilience to re mobilise should we need to if we see a large spike in Covid-19 cases locally.

We are working on a plan with the anchor organisations and the mutual aid groups to ensure we effectively harness the community capacity that has been developed over the past twelve weeks.

We are working closely with lead councillors to ensure that we adapt our community response in a way that addresses issues at a ward and place level taking account of the current strategies we have in place such as place based working, poverty and cohesion.

Place-Based Working: development of prototypes and approaches to practice based on learning from Covid-19 community response

We've given the cross-district picture, but each community is different and we're conducting an evaluation that will help us to future plan based on feedback we've received, asking the following questions:

- How did you find accessing the Community Response Hub? (Navigation of the form, contacted in a timely manner, telephone discussions with workers etc.)
- What was your overall experience of using the Community Response Hub? (Empathy, listening, holistic, understood my circumstances etc.)
- What outcomes were achieved from the support given by the Community Response Hub?

We're also surveying our volunteers to understand their experiences and to ensure that we maintain the volunteer capacity for other areas, for example some volunteers have been provided with opportunities and have taken them up, to support leaving care young people

Recommendations

That Council be asked to discuss Councillor's experiences in working collaboratively with the voluntary sector and other partners, within the communities they represent, to support people through the Covid-19 pandemic.