

Public Document Pack



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

Julie Muscroft

The Democracy Service

Civic Centre 3

High Street

Huddersfield

HD1 2TG

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Andrea Woodside

Email: andrea.woodside@kirklees.gov.uk

Monday 10 January 2022

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Cabinet

The **Cabinet** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **3.00 pm** on **Tuesday 18 January 2022**.

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".

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:-

Member	Responsible For:
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Leader of the Council
Councillor Paul Davies	Cabinet Member – Corporate
Councillor Eric Firth	Cabinet Member – Town Centres
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Cabinet Member - Children (Statutory responsibility for Children)
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care
Councillor Naheed Mather	Cabinet Member – Environment
Councillor Peter McBride	Cabinet Member – Regeneration
Councillor Carole Pattison	Cabinet Member - Learning, Aspiration and Communities
Councillor Cathy Scott	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member - Housing and Democracy
Councillor Will Simpson	Cabinet Member – Culture and Greener Kirklees

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of Cabinet

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

2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 10

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 November 2021.

3: Declarations of Interest

11 - 12

Cabinet Members will be asked to advise if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or participating in a vote upon the item, or any other interests.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items will be considered in public session, however, it shall be advised whether Cabinet will consider any matters in private, by virtue of the reports containing information which falls within a category of exempt information as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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.

6: Questions by Members of the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5), the period allowed for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

7: Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet will receive any questions from Elected Members.

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

8: Kirklees school funding arrangements for financial year 2022-23 13 - 34

To consider Kirklees' School Funding arrangements for financial year 2022-23.

Wards affected: all

Contact: David Baxter – Finance Manager (Schools)

9: Enhanced Lettable Standard Review, the Lettable Standard and the Home Starter Fund 35 - 58

To consider the Enhanced Lettable Standard pilot and new universal lettable standard.

Wards affected: all

Contact: Sarah Clayton – Head of Neighbourhoods

10: Highways 2 year Capital Plan for 2021/22 and 2022/23 59 - 70

To consider the Highways 2 year detailed Capital Plan 2021-22 and 2022-23 and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement update.

Wards affected: all

Contact: Phillip Waddington – Group Engineer, Highways & Operations

11: Non-Transport Function Borrowing Regulations 71 - 76

To consider the regulations to provide the Combined Authority with the power to borrow for non-transport related functions.

Wards affected: all

Contact: Julie Muscroft – Service Director, Legal Governance and Commissioning

12: Relocation of Council's indoor market in Huddersfield 77 - 84

To consider the provision of alternative accommodation for the market traders in Queensgate to vacant shops or containers within Huddersfield Town Centre.

Wards affected: Newsome

Contact: Chris Cotton – Strategic Lead for Markets

13: 2021-22 Mid-year Corporate Performance and Impact Report 85 - 156

To receive the 2021-22 Mid-year Corporate Performance and Impact Report.

Wards affected: all

Contact: Mike Henry – Head of Data and Insight

14: Calculation of Council Tax Base 2022-23 157 - 168

To consider the various tax bases for the financial year 2022/23 in connection with the Council Tax.

Wards affected: all

Contact: Steve Bird – Head of Welfare and Exchequer Services

15: The Arcade, Market Place Dewsbury - Lease

169 -
194

To consider the future lease / management arrangements for The Arcade, Dewsbury.

Wards affected: Dewsbury East

Contact: Peter Thompson – ER Project Manager

16: 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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

17. The Arcade, Market Place Dewsbury - Lease

195 -
200

(Exempt information relating to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). 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).

To receive exempt information in relation to Agenda Item 15.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 16th November 2021

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Musarrat Khan

95 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Khan.

96 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 21 September 2021, 5 October 2021 and 12 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

97 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

98 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda Item 19 was exempt from publication (Minute No. 113 refers).

99 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

100 Questions by Members of the Public

No deputations or petitions were received.

101 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“When will the public see the results of the public consultation on the new museum for Huddersfield?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Simpson).

Question from Councillor Bolt

“With regards to transparency, why is there a problem in getting information from your Council. In September, following a scrutiny meeting, I asked for a copy of a report which had been published and referred to, and I have had many exchanges since then. To date, approaching midway through November, despite several requests for the report relating to fire safety, which has many recommendations, so far the report hasn’t been published despite decisions being made. Why is it being withheld?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy (Councillor Scott).

Question from Councillor Munro

“Please can you tell me what your plans are for the pupils who are being educated at the former ACS site following the disclosure that building works are delayed at King James’ due to scarcity of materials?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“In 2018 residents were told that Kirklees had released plans to beat Leeds Road’s busiest bottle necks in a scheme which was described as dynamic, transformational and crucial. How are works going with regards to that?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“With regards to street cleaner leaf and street rubbish collections and the use of black bin bags, have we given thought to a policy given what we are trying to achieve through climate change and the waste strategy to stop using ordinary plastic bin bags for street rubbish collection?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“In preparation for Dewsbury Riverside, in 2013 we were told that Dewsbury was going to get a ring road to relieve congestion around Ravensthorpe. How is that progressing?”

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

102 Outcome of Call in Review of Cabinet Decision in relation to A62 Cooper Bridge Improvement Corridor

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillor Bolt and Councillor Smaje).

Cabinet received a report which which set out the outcome of a Scrutiny Call In Review of the Cabinet decision of 12 October 2021 regarding the A62 Cooper Bridge Improvement Corridor.

The report advised that the Scrutiny Panel had assessed the call in notice against specific areas of focus and had concluded that the report and information submitted to the meeting of Cabinet should have been clearer in regards to the clarity of the business case and which issues would be determined as part of the process for agreeing the full business case. The Panel also identified that further clarity was needed in the report's recommendations, particularly in regards to the delegations to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), and that a summary should have been provided with regards to the options that had been considered and the process that had been followed to discount up to 30 options.

The Panel agreed that the matter should be referred to Cabinet with recommendations for amendment and a number of learning points, as set out at para. 2.4 of the considered report.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel, as set out at para. 2.4 of the considered report, be accepted.

103 A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme

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

Cabinet received a report, pursuant to the meeting of the Economy and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel held on 2 November 2021, which had recommended the submission of additional information to inform Cabinet's decision regarding the A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme. The report sought the approval of Cabinet to (i) agree in principle to the scheme (ii) authorise the Council to accept and spend funding to work up the WY+TF A62 to Cooper Bridge scheme

Cabinet - 16 November 2021

to full business case and (iii) agree in principle to land acquisition as part of a land assembly.

The report outlined information regarding (i) the strategic fit/alignment with local plans and emerging local area masterplans (ii) business case development (iii) the outcomes of the scrutiny call-in process (iv) the delegated authorisation sought by the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) (v) options considered and the preferred option proposed and (vi) existing issues, journey time benefits, modelling and land requirements.

The report set out an anticipated timeframe for the scheme, with works commencing in 2024 and completion scheduled during 2026. Cabinet were advised that a further report would be submitted to seek authority for Compulsory Purchase Orders as required.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the scheme, as set out within the considered report be agreed in principle.
- 2) That the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) be authorised to submit the outline business case to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on the basis of the scheme as set out within the report.
- 3) That authorisation be given to the Council accepting and entering into any agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for funding to work up the A62 to Cooper Bridge Scheme to full business case stage.
- 4) That the Council be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to incur expenditure in the working up of the scheme to full business case stage if the Council's application to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for funding is successful.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements that may be necessary to work up to the A62 to Cooper Bridge Scheme to full business case, including the funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into the grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the A62 to Cooper Bridge full business case stage and any other relevant agreements and documents to which the Council is party.
- 7) That authorisation be given to the acquisition of land in principle as part of a land assembly.
- 8) That the design team's commitment to undertake further appraisal of contentious elements of the scheme and work with and place shape the scheme with residents and businesses be noted.
- 9) That it be noted that land acquisitions will commence subject to funding approval of the outline business case.
- 10) That it be noted that a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in order to secure authority to make Compulsory Purchase Orders in relation to the scheme, where necessary, and prior to full business case submission to present the final scheme.

104 Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement Programmes

(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 to receive grant funding in respect of Home Office Afghanistan Refugee Programmes. The report advised that the Afghan Citizen Relocation Scheme would provide a route to safety for those at risk and set out those that would be prioritised within the scheme, along with a suggested approach. Paragraph 4 of the report outlined key considerations and challenges which included capacity and housing issues and the Council's commitment to the Refugee Resettlement Programme.

Cabinet noted that the proposed approach would be a phased approach to building towards the minimum fair share allocation numbers to effectively manage the impact upon resources and partnerships and that the Kirklees fair share was estimated to be 79 individuals.

The Funding Instruction for local authorities in support of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy was appended at Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the receipt of grant funding related to Afghanistan Refugee Programmes, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 22.4, be endorsed.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Children and Families), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Learning, Aspiration and Communities), to approve any changes to the approach and allocation of resources or adjustment to the number of families or individuals accommodated, within financial regulations as specified by Home Office funding Regulations, as set out at Appendix A, and the fair share allocation principle.
- 3) That any future changes to the programme be delegated to the Strategic Director (Children's Services), within the parameters of financial and contractual procedure rules and any future Home Office Guidance relating to changes, based upon consideration and recommendations from the Tactical Group.
- 4) That, pursuant to (3) above, any significant delegated decisions be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- 5) That it be acknowledged that a longer term approach is being developed to manage resource implications in order to ensure that adequate resources to respond are in place, including housing, welfare and exchequer.
- 6) That the Council's ongoing engagement with regional and national bodies to managing any challenges arising from Home Office requests be endorsed.

105 Kirklees Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 2025

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

Cabinet received the updated Kirklees Youth Justice Plan 2021-2025. The report advised that the plan provided an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service and set out details of performance over the past year, along with priorities for the coming four years. It was noted that the Youth Offending Partnership had a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan but a longer term vision had been set, in line with the financial plan and strategic priorities, to cover the period 2021-2015.

Cabinet were asked to submit the Plan to Council on 18 November 2021 with a recommendation of approval. It was noted that, subject to approval, the plan would be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with the direction of the Secretary of State. Cabinet were advised that the plan and strategic priorities would be reviewed regularly and updated to reflect any changes that may impact upon priorities and delivery of services.

RESOLVED – That the Youth Justice Plan 2021-2025 be endorsed and submitted to the meeting of Council on 17 November 2021 with a recommendation that (i) the plan be approved and (ii) authority be delegated to the Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection) to make any minor updates to the plan within the 2021-2025 period of the plan.

106

Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 2 for 2021-22

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillor D Hall and Councillor J Taylor).

Cabinet received that Corporate Financial Monitoring Report, Quarter 2, 2021/2022 which set out financial information for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Plan. Cabinet were advised that the Council's revised General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2021/2022 was £320.9m and that the budget included planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £1.8m. The report indicated that there was a forecast overspend of £1.2m against the £320.9m revised budget at Quarter 2, which equated to 0.4%, and that there had been a net reduction of £0.4m in the forecast overspend position since Quarter 1. Information regarding headline variances, including Covid impacts, were set out at paras. 1.3 to 1.8 of the considered report.

The report provided a breakdown of budget information by service area, along with information on (i) General Fund Reserves (ii) the Collection Fund (iii) Housing Revenue Account (iv) Capital and (v) 2021/22 capital scheme budget proposals.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in regard to the General Fund (i) the Forecast Revenue Outturn position at Quarter 2 be noted (ii) the forecast year end position on corporate reserves and balances at Quarter 2 be noted and (iii) it be noted that the regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2021/2022 will be reported to Cabinet as part of the quarterly financial monitoring cycle.
- 2) That the Collection Fund forecast position as at Quarter 2 be noted.
- 3) That the Housing Revenue Account position and forecast year-end reserves position at Quarter 2 be noted.

- 4) That, in regards to Capital, (i) the Quarter 2 Capital Monitoring Position 2021/2022 be noted (ii) approval be given to the re-profiling across years of the Capital Plan (appendix 6 refers) (iii) approval be given to £483k self-funding within the Kirklees Active Leisure Capital Plan towards the invest to save Phase 2 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, as detailed within the report (iv) approval be given to a £350k grant allocation from MHCLG and that authority be delegated to the Head of Technology to progress works on increasing the level of Council cyber security and resilience as appropriate and (v) approval be given to a £85k match fund grant to Marsden Mechanics Trust as part of a lottery fund bid to be drawn down from the Regeneration and Greening of Smaller Towns and Villages Capital Plan programme line.

107 Youth Places to Go - Capital Grant Scheme 2022-23

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a proposal to establish a capital grants scheme time limited to 2022-2023 which would support Voluntary Community Sector organisations working with children and young people in supporting the Council to meet its statutory duties. The Youth Places to Go Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the report set out a proposed service model which included the establishment of a capital and revenue grant scheme for third sector voluntary youth service providers to fund the development and expansion of local community youth facilities and services across the whole of Kirklees. Cabinet noted the proposal to create a central location in both Huddersfield and North Kirklees and to explore the need for a mobile scheme for those living in rural and hard to reach children and young people.

Cabinet noted the proposed timescale for the project, which aimed to begin awarding capital grants from April 2022 onwards.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the proposal, as detailed within the report, be endorsed and that approval be given to the allocation of a maximum amount of £1m capital funding to set up a Youth Places to Go capital funding scheme for a time of limited duration, the financial year 2022 to 2023 in line with the VCSE Investment Strategy, to be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Children's Services) to design and implement the capital grant scheme and award grant agreements in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.
- 3) That authorisation be given, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, to a broad scheme as set out at Appendix 3 and for the Strategic Director (Children's Services), in consultation with Senior Leadership Team and relevant Cabinet Members, to develop a detailed scheme to be used by a grant panel to recommend grants for approval.
- 4) That, pursuant to (3) above, the Strategic Director (Children's Services) be authorised to amend details of the scheme in consultation with Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet Members.

108 Netherton and South Crosland Neighbourhood Forum Approval and Neighbourhood Development Plan Area Designation

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the designation of Netherton and South Crosland Neighbourhood Forum, and of the Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning. The report advised that Netherton and South Crosland Neighbourhood Plan Forum had applied to have the Forum designated for the purposes of producing a neighbourhood development plan, and also for the designation of the neighbourhood area. Cabinet were requested to give approval to both the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and the Neighbourhood Area.

The report advised that the applications met legal requirements and that the applications had been publicised for a period of 6 weeks, during which 9 representations were received. The Forum and Area applications were set out at Appendix B of the report.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the designation of Netherton and South Crosland Neighbourhood Plan Forum and Neighbourhood Area, as outlined at Appendix C, for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

109 Household Support Fund

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out proposals to provide assistance to households in most need of support, in accordance with issued Government guidance. The report advised that a national Household Support Fund of £500m was to be made available from 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, to which the Council was entitled to a share of £3.702m. Cabinet noted that the funding would enable, in collaboration with partners, support to be given to families with children, and other households in need. It was noted that participants would be identified through the Local Welfare Provision Scheme and that this approach would take advantage of existing administration and delivery mechanisms.

It was noted that the funding was a one off contribution for the 2021-2022 financial year, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003, Section 31.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the £3,702,823 Household Support Fund government grant being allocated to support financially vulnerable families and individuals in accordance with the requirement that (i) a sum equivalent to at least £50 per means-tested Free School Meal child be provided to schools and colleges in order that they can provide a voucher for food and fuel for the December holiday (ii) a sum equivalent to at least £25 per means-tested Free School Meal child be provided to schools and colleges in order that they can provide a voucher for food and fuel for the February holiday and (iii) the balance of funding available, estimated to be £2.05m, be allocated to the Local Welfare Provision budget to support the meeting of additional

support for food, fuel and other essentials in accordance with the grant determination and guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

- 2) That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health) and the Service Director (Children's Services), in consultation with Cabinet Member (Corporate Services) and Service Director (Finance), to further amend the indicative resource allocations across interventions as set out within the report to ensure full utilisation of the £3.7m Government funding to 31 March 2022.

110 Dewsbury Town Park

(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 scope and preferred concept design for Dewsbury Town Park. The report advised of the proposal to create a significant new piece of public realm in the heart of Dewsbury which would significantly improve the town centre and that the preferred option encompassed Longcauseway, Memorial Gardens and the site of the Customer Service Centre. The site and boundary of the proposed new park was set out at Appendix 1 to the report. Cabinet were advised that the new park would have the flexibility to cater for a variety of events, including live performances and festivals, and aimed to facilitate unrestricted movement whilst combining routes to shops, pathways and cycleways.

A proposed timeframe indicated that construction would commence in 2024 with completion taking place by 2025.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the physical scope and the preferred design concept of the Dewsbury Town Park, as set out within the considered report, specifically the inclusion of the site of the Walsh building (Customer Service Centre) and associated car park within the scope of the scheme.
- 2) That the allocation of £7.5m capital resources to fund the project be approved.
- 3) That approval be given to the progressing of detailed signs.
- 4) That approval be given to the principal of relocating the services currently delivered from the Walsh Building (Customer Service Centre) to another location within Dewsbury Town Centre, and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to approve the detailed plans and implementation.
- 5) That the intention to carry out further public consultation during 2022 on the detailed plans and proposals for the project be noted.
- 6) That approval be given to the principle of acquiring the land for the Town Park and if necessary by using Compulsory Purchase Order Powers.
- 7) That approval be given to progressing legal procedures necessary to implement the Town Park, including road closures and traffic regulation orders.

- 111 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 1: Strategic Outline Case**
(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillor D Hall, Councillor Munro and Councillor J Taylor).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the development of the Cultural Heart programme as part of the wider Huddersfield Blueprint. The report set out the strategic case for the Cultural Heart and sought approval to enable progress to be made to the next stage of work and Gateway 2, the outline business case. The report provided a breakdown of the components of both Gateway 1, the strategic outline case, and gateway 2, the outline business case, which was scheduled for July 2022.

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 19 (Minute No. 113 refers) prior to the determination of this Agenda Item).

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given for the scheme to be progressed in accordance with the proposals and recommendations in the strategic outline case to gateway 2, within the agreed funding limits approved at the meeting of Cabinet on 22 June 2021.
- 2) That, pursuant to (1) above, authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to deliver the programme to gateway 2 – outline business case.

- 112 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.

- 113 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 1: Strategic Outline Case**
(Exempt information relating to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or third party (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that the disclosure of the information would adversely affect those third parties including the Authority and therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the rights of an individual or the Authority, 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 17 (Minute No. 111 refers).

KIRKLEES COUNCIL			
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC			
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS			
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: Cabinet
Date: 18th January 2022
Title of report: Report seeking approval for Kirklees' School Funding arrangements for financial year 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

- To set out the Kirklees schools funding arrangements for 2022-23 in terms of:
 - a. Specific funding factors to be used and the relative weightings and values of the funding factors.
 - b. Exceptions applications to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and approvals given.
 - c. Central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block of funding, the Central School Services Block, and the Early Years Block.
 - d. De-delegation arrangements for mainstream maintained schools (De-delegated funds are a **deduction from a school's budget share** and are held centrally to fund relevant services. De-delegation can only apply to maintained primary and secondary school budgets for mainstream maintained schools)
- To request that the Cabinet approve the outline details of the Kirklees school funding formula for 2022-23 for submission to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by their deadline of 21st January 2022.

Key decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes, the schools funding distribution affects all schools in every ward in Kirklees
Key decision - is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Yes Private report/appendix: No
The decision - is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Mel Meggs 10 January 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston 10 January 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director – Legal, Governance & Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft 10 January 2022
Cabinet member portfolio • Children's Services	Cllr Carole Pattison Cllr Viv Kendrick

Electoral [wards](#) affected: All Wards

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

GDPR: There is no personal data contained within this report.

1. Summary

This report sets out the arrangements that have been consulted upon for the funding of local schools and academies for the funding year 2022-23. The main elements which require Cabinet approval are: -

- The specific funding factors to be used and the relative weightings and values of the funding factors.
- To note any exceptions applications to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and approvals given.
- Central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block of funding, the Central School Services Block, and the Early Years Block.
- De-delegation arrangements for mainstream maintained schools

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background

Dedicated Schools Grant

2.1.1 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding that is provided to Councils to fund statutory school age education (4–16-year-olds). DSG funding is also provided in respect of children and young adults from birth to age 25 having Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND). The DSG also provides funding for free early education and childcare provision for 3- and 4-year-olds and for disadvantaged 2-year-olds. Councils are also allocated some DSG funding to pay for some of the statutory and regulatory duties they have for all pupils educated within the borough.

2.1.2 All four funding blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant – Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central School Services – are now largely determined by National Funding Formula (NFF) calculations. With the exception of Early Years funding, the NFF outcomes are each being phased in over different timescales.

Schools Forum and Council responsibilities for DSG

2.1.3 Every local authority is required to have a Schools Forum to act as the main consultative group on revenue funding issues affecting local schools and related providers. The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 determine the role, powers and responsibilities of the Forum. The local authority proposes and decides upon the shape and effect of school funding arrangements on an annual basis but must consult with the Schools Forum about changes to be made. There is also a requirement to consult annually with the Forum on both High Needs and Early Years funding arrangements.

2.1.4 The Schools Forum also has some decision-making powers enshrined by regulation. The local authority makes an annual proposal, ahead of the new financial year, setting out the central expenditures it plans to make from the Schools Block, the Early Years Block, and the Central Schools Services Block. (Central expenditure from the High Needs Block is formally a Council's executive decision – the Forum is not required to be consulted but it is good practice to keep them regularly informed of developments).

The Forum then decides, through consultation with constituent groups, whether to accept, amend or reject proposals. Similarly, the local authority makes an annual proposal to the Forum, for the schools it maintains, to de-delegate funding from maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools to operate several central budget arrangements.

2.1.5 The maintained primary and secondary school representatives to the Forum decide on the arrangements that will apply for their phase (having consulted their constituencies). In cases where the LA and the Forum cannot reach an agreement on central retention and de-delegation issues the Secretary of State for Education would adjudicate.

Formal submissions to the Education & Skills Funding Agency

2.1.6 Any exceptions requests seeking permission to make minor variations to the operation of the schools funding formula were made before the ESFA deadline of 19th November 2021 (see Section 2.3 below for more details).

2.1.7 The structure of the local 2022-23 schools funding arrangements and factor values used are required to be submitted to the ESFA by 21st January 2022, based upon a pupil dataset provided by the ESFA which is derived largely from October 2021 pupil census information. The return to the ESFA is required to show that political approval has been or will be secured for the funding allocations reported. The submission of the funding figures to the ESFA by 21st January must be regarded as an indicative return until political sign-off is achieved. If amendments are required a second submission would have to be made.

Schools revenue funding issues for 2022-23 discussed with Schools Forum and constituent groups

2.1.8 These included the following: -

- The changes made to the National Funding Formula for schools for 2022-23
- An exception application to the Education & Skills Funding Agency to make variations to how the formula operates at one Kirklees school
- Central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant funding blocks
- De-delegation arrangements for mainstream maintained schools
- High Needs Block funding
- Early Years Block funding

These topics are covered in more detail in sections 2.2 to 2.9 below, with the Forum's recommendations to Cabinet shown at section 3 below.

2.2 MOVEMENT TOWARDS A NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA IN THE 'SOFT' NFF YEARS OF 2018-19 TO 2022-23

2.2.1 The National Funding Formula for Schools began to influence Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block funding allocations with effect from financial year 2018-19. The NFF formula factors and common values have been used to determine DSG Schools Block allocations to local authorities in England since 2018-19. Financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 were described by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as 'soft' NFF years – the NFF would calculate the overall allocation to Councils but how that funding was to then be distributed amongst local schools and academies remained a matter for local consultation and decision.

This 'soft' NFF period was subsequently extended over the 2020-21 period, and now for at least a further year, 2022/23, pending the outcome of the recent Government consultation on the NFF, Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula Government consultation launched date 8th July 2021 with final responses by 30th September 2021.

2.2.2 The government also decided upon a gentle implementation of the redistributive effects of the National Funding Formula calculation. Whilst those local authorities and their schools gaining from the change to the NFF are being allowed to benefit from significant increases to their funding levels, this has not so far been at the expense of those areas of the country where the NFF would deliver a lower level of funding than before.

2.2.3 Instead, minimum cash floor increases have applied in the last four funding years to ensure that all schools receive at least some level of increase in funding per pupil over that period. By 2021-22 this protection led to Kirklees Council receiving a Schools Block funding settlement which was higher (£5.4m) than the figure determined by the pure application of the NFF calculation. For 2022-23 NFF factor values increase by an average of 3% in comparison to 2021-22 and this should see the overall amount of cash protection for local schools reduce again.

2.2.4 Prior to the start of 2018-19 schools were consulted on how, whether and to what extent to move to the National Funding Formula factors and values. It was decided to adopt the NFF in Kirklees with effect from 2018-19. Making this move, it was felt, would make transparent the level of any temporary cash protection included within the Budget Share allocation to each school and would help schools to consider what the potential implications of a hard NFF allocation could eventually mean for them.

2.2.5 Having taken the decision to adopt the National Funding Formula factors and values from 2018-19, the Council will once again largely use the declared NFF factor values in distributing budget shares to school for funding year 2022-23. Please see Appendix A for a comparison of how the funding factors and values have changed over the five-year starting point of 2018-19.

2.3 EXCEPTIONS APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY:

Adjustment to one School's Minimum Funding Guarantee baseline to address an historic element of overfunding

- 2.3.1 A disapplication request has been submitted in connection with the ongoing process of removing an identified element of over-funding at a maintained primary school. Ashbrow School was formed from the technical closure of Ashbrow Junior School and the expansion of the age range of Ashbrow Infant & Nursery School to then admit the displaced pupils of the Junior School. The amalgamation took place in September 2012.
- 2.3.2 This was before the ESFA introduced a mechanism to transition to a single school lump sum payment in cases of a school amalgamation. The timing meant that the school's baseline funding effectively continued to include the effect of two lump sum payments ever since and this over-stated position has been made worse by growth in the school's roll number from 261 pupils in 2012 to 407 pupils in 2021
- 2.3.3 The Schools Forum requested at the close of financial year 2018-19 that further investigation of Ashbrow School's funding level be undertaken, given the school's exceptional level of accumulated cash reserves. As a result of that investigation and subsequent discussions with the head teacher and chair of governors of the school, disapplication requests were submitted for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 seeking permission to amend the school's funding baseline.
- 2.3.4 To give the school time to adjust its expenditure plans it was proposed to adjust the baseline to produce a funding outcome which removes one quarter (approx. £64,000) of the identified element of overfunding over each year of a four-year phasing period. The disapplication request for 2022-23 seeks permission to make another reduction to the school's funding as the fourth step of four in the process of returning the school's funding to a more customary level.

[At the time of writing this report the Education & Skills Funding Agency has yet to indicate a decision on this disapplication request].

2.4 DE-DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAINSTREAM MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (see Appendix C)

- 2.4.1 Annual proposals on de-delegation are made by the local authority to maintained primary and secondary schools. The ESFA only permits de-delegation against a number of specified headings. The maintained primary and secondary schools representatives to the Forum formally decide on de-delegation issues on behalf of their phase.

2.4.2 The de-delegated budget arrangements proposed for 2022-23 are: -

- Schools contingency
- Free school meals eligibility checks
- Maternity, paternity and adoptive leave costs
- Trade union facilities time *
- Public duties
- International new arrivals service *
- School Improvement Commissioning *

[* Schools Forum receives additional, regular monitoring reports in prioritised areas].

2.4.3 De-delegation arrangements for 2022-23 for the primary sector were agreed with the maintained primary and secondary school representatives to Schools Forum at their meeting on 7th January 2022. [Please refer to Appendix C below for details of the 2022-23 de-delegation deductions].

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2022-23

2.5 DSG Schools Block

2.5.1 The 2022-23 per pupil units of funding (PUF) for the DSG Schools Block settlement are £4,686 per primary pupil and £6,016 per secondary pupil. These rates represent a 2.45% and 2.72% increase respectively on 2021-22. The ESFA requires that at least 80% of this funding block is allocated via pupil-led factors.

2.5.2 The confirmed Schools Block allocation for Kirklees for 2022-23 has increased by £6.1m (£326.14m in 2020-21 to £332.24m for 2022-23) as below:

Kirklees Council - Dedicated schools grant (DSG) 2022/2023					
Total Primary Schools	Total secondary schools	Total Premises factor	Growth funding	Total schools block	Total schools block (After NDR deduction)
£173,926,690	£154,440,660	£5,475,101	£1,442,334	£335,284,785	£332,237,913

2.5.3 The Schools Block funding factors to be used in the 2022-23 funding allocation to schools will largely be those prescribed by the National Funding Formula (see Appendix A below for a list of these funding factors and values).

2.5.4 In addition to the above the ESFA have also announced an indicative supplementary grant of £12 million split between Schools Block £9.6 million and High Needs £2.4 million. The schools block supplementary grant is expected to go towards supporting the delivery of the Governments pledge to raise new teacher starting salaries to £30,000 and the additional funding allocated in 2022/23 includes funding compensation for public sector employer costs (including schools) for Health and Social care levy uplift from April 2022.

2.5.5 On the 19th November 2021 School forum agreed a Schools Block Transfer of £1.6 million High Needs to support a range of investment measures as part of the broader Kirklees SEND transformation agenda.

2.6 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING 2022-23

2.6.1 The settlement for 2022-23 totals £53.85m before deductions as shown in the table below:

Kirklees Council High Needs DSG Block Allocation

16th December 2021

Total high needs block before deductions	Mainstream Academies Pre-16 special educational needs places funded at £6,000	Special Academies Pre-16 special educational needs places	Special Academies Post-16 special educational needs places	Special Academies Pre-16 alternative provision places	Alternative provision academies and free schools Further education (FE) and independent learning provider(ILP) places	Total high needs block after deductions
53,849,152	624,000	1,630,000	240,000	1,060,000	3,282,000	47,013,152

Total high needs block <u>after deductions</u>	Supplementary Allocation	Total high needs block including Supplementary Allocation <u>after deductions</u>
47,013,152	2,408,307	49,421,459

Total high needs block <u>before deductions</u>	Supplementary Allocation	Total high needs block including Supplementary Allocation <u>before deductions</u>
53,849,152	2,408,307	56,257,459

2.6.2 Ongoing revisions to the national budget for the High Needs National Funding Formula have resulted in Kirklees being allocated £53.85 million for High Needs in 2022-23 (**before deductions**) – a £5.03 million increase on 2021-22 (£48.82 million allocated December 2020) equivalent to a 9.3% increase. Including the supplementary grant this allocation this increases to £56.26million or an increase, assuming no ‘pro-rata’ deductions, of 15.2%.

2.6.3 The uncapped level of Kirklees’ revised high needs NFF outcome is £62.01 million.

2.6.4 As reported extensively in previous Council budget reports, the Council is carrying a significant DSG deficit on its balance sheet. At year end 2020/21 it was £25.1million and it is expected to increase to at least £35 million by the end of financial year 2021/22. This is not a sustainable position for the Council and is an issue that is covered in more detail in the Council's annual budget report for 2022/23 and future years, to be considered at Cabinet on 1 February 2022 and Budget Council on 16 February 2022.

2.6.5 Schools Forum on 19th November 2021 agreed a funding transfer of 0.5% (the maximum allowable for a decision by Schools Forum) of £1.6million from the Schools Block to the High Needs block for 2022/23. The intention is that the funding will support a range of investment measures as part of the broader Kirklees SEND transformation agenda.

2.6.6 The Council has now entered a Safety Valve intervention programme, support for Local Authorities with Large DSG Deficits. The process will look at how Kirklees control the DSG deficit and reach an in year balance (as a minimum) on your DSG, and how quickly.

How Kirklees will contribute to the reduction of the historic deficit, in addition to reaching an in-year balance.

How Kirklees will ensure that the plan is deliverable and will be managed as it is implemented.

A clear explanation of the financial support the authority needs from the DfE to eliminate the historic deficit over the period of the agreement. This could include, if necessary, a request for some funding to help implement the proposal, as well as funding to eliminate the deficit directly, although we would not expect this to constitute a significant element of the total financial support requested.

the timetable for these discussions to be as follows: -

- November/December 2021 – introduction meeting to take place between DfE and Kirklees, in which we will introduce you to the Safety Valve programme and ask that your authority presents to the team the reasons for your deficit and existing plans for reducing this.
- January/February 2022 – detailed discussions to take place between DfE and Kirklees, in which Kirklees's plans to bring its high needs budget back into in-year balance and tackle the deficit will be explored and challenged. The DfE negotiation team (consisting of ex-CFO financial advisers, DfE SEND advisers and colleagues from the department) will be able to provide feedback as proposals are developed. An initial proposal must be submitted to the DfE team by close of play on 10th February. The DfE team will review this and provide feedback to your authority before the end of November.
- February 2022 – revised proposals from Kirklees to be submitted by 24th February. We will hold a final meeting with your authority and confirm whether your proposals are sufficient for us to recommend to Ministers, and an indication of the likely support from the DfE.

- February/March 2022 – DfE to put recommendations regarding agreements to Ministers, with the intention of returning to authorities by mid-March 2022. No agreement will be final until we have received Ministerial confirmation.
- As indicated above, agreements will need to be signed off rapidly in time for a first tranche of additional grant to be paid at the end of March.

2.7 EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING 2022-23

- 2.7.1 The Government have announced that additional funding is being invested in the early years entitlements worth £160 million in 2022-23, £180 million in 2023-24 and £170 million in 2024-25, compared to the current financial year. Nationally from 2022-23 there will be £20 million extra in 2023-24 and £10 million extra in 2024-25 which reflects changes in the population of two, three-and four-year olds over the next three years. The government says the increase reflects cost pressures such as the minimum wage increase and inflation.
- 2.7.2 The Early Years' National Funding Formula values have increased in comparison to 2021-22 – the hourly funding rate for 3- & 4-year-olds has risen from £4.44 to £4.61 and the hourly funding rate for disadvantaged 2-year-olds has also increased from £5.36 to £5.57. Within the 2022-23 Early Years Block allocation there are some variations associated with changes to overall numbers of children.
- 2.7.2 The hourly funding rates in 2022-23 for all local authorities will increase by £0.21 an hour for the two-year-old entitlement and, for the vast majority of areas, by £0.17 an hour for the three-and four-year-old entitlements. Although this adds further investment to early years, Kirklees along with approximately one third of other local authorities will still receive the lowest funding base rates for two, three-and four-year olds from April 2022. Details of the consultation process and timeline regarding the funding formula can be found in Appendix D.
- 2.7.3 Funding for the universal (base) 15 hours free nursery offer, looks at this stage to be stable with total numbers of children very similar to this time last year but the number of disadvantaged 2-year-olds has reduced by just over 100 part-time equivalent pupils in comparison to year. However, the funding for the extended 15 hours entitlement for children of eligible working families has again increased, this time by around 231 pte children. The total allocation of the Early Years block for 2022-23 is £28.31 million (in 2021-22 the allocation was £29.31 million).

Early Years Funding: 3–4-year-olds:

- 2.7.4 All 3 and 4 year olds are eligible to 570 hours each year of free early learning, usually taken as 15 hours each week during school term time, up to starting in school reception. This is a universal entitlement for all children.
- 2.7.5 An additional 15 hours, referred to as the extended entitlement, is available to eligible working families with 3 and 4 year olds.
- 2.7.6 The Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate for Kirklees in 2022-23 is £4.61. It is proposed that the increase will be used to maximise the base rate passed on to providers taking account of any changes to the deprivation rate (see below).

Supplements and additional factors

- 2.7.7 The funding rate for the Early Years Pupil Premium will increase from £0.53 to £0.60 per hour per eligible child, and the Disability Access Fund from £615 to £800 per eligible child per year. The supplementary funding hourly rate for maintained nursery schools will also increase by 3.5% equivalent to the three-and four-year-old funding rate increase.
- 2.7.8 Nationally there have been no changes to the permitted supplements therefore no changes are being proposed to the Kirklees supplements other than consideration to increasing the deprivation funding rates. The reasons for reviewing deprivation funding rates are twofold, firstly the transition to using the 2019 deprivation indices in the local funding formula means many providers will receive less deprivation funding. Secondly, there is evidence that the pandemic has had a greater impact on families living in the most deprived areas. Three options have been modelled for the provider consultation, 1) no increase, 2) 50% increase, 3) 100% increase. The impact of each model is illustrated in the table 2 below.

Table 2 Early Years Provider Modelling Options

	Number of providers receiving less deprivation funding	Number of providers receiving more deprivation funding	Number of providers with no change to deprivation funding	Value of largest decrease	Value of largest increase
Model 1	133	154	24	-£4,000	+£1,500
Model 2	37	270	4	-£1,500	+£2,900
Model 3	23	288	0	-£600	+£5,000

435 providers are registered to deliver the free entitlements, out of which 311 providers have received deprivation funding in the current year.

Early Years funding for disadvantaged 2-year-olds

- 2.7.9 Eligible 2-year-olds are entitled to 570 hours each year of free early learning, usually taken as 15 hours each week during school term time.
- 2.7.10 The Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate for Kirklees in 2022-23 is £5.57. It is proposed that the increase will be used to maximise the base rate passed on to providers.

2.8 Central School Services Block

- 2.8.1 Kirklees has been allocated £35.07 for every 4 to 16 year-old pupil attending schools and academies in the borough (an increase from the £33.02 rate received in 2021-22). A sum of £136,320 has then been added to reflect historic annual pension commitments charged to the DSG. Kirklees has applied to the ESFA to once again have this sum protected at the 2021-22 rate of £170,400, as our commitments are higher than the previously protected sum. This has yet to be approved by the ESFA.
- 2.8.2 A breakdown of budget provision supported by the CSSB can be found at Appendix B below. A significant portion of the CSSB relates to funding for the range of statutory and regulatory duties (which used to be supported by Education Services Grant) the Council has for all local pupils whether educated in maintained schools or academies.
- 2.8.3 The **Central School Services Block** within the DSG allocates funding to Councils for a range of statutory and regulatory duties relating to all pupils within the authority no matter what type of school they attend. Although this funding comes directly to the Council, Schools Forum has the responsibility for making an annual decision about the budget provision in response to local authority proposals. The allocation for 2022/2023 is shown in below:

Kirklees Council Central school services block (CSSB) 2022/2023			
CSSB Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Historic commitments	Total central school services block
£35.47	62,786.50	£136,320	£2,363,358

- 2.8.4 The only retained central funding **within the DSG Schools Block** is related to (pre-16) pupil growth. Local authorities can propose to operate both a **Pupil Growth Fund** and a **Falling Rolls Fund** and can also propose to retain funding to deal with the consequences of pupil growth. The Schools Block settlement includes a formula-based assessment of growth funding for each local authority. The Forum again has an annual decision to make about the operation of these funding elements and the level of funding set aside for them.
- 2.8.5 The Pupil Growth Fund meets pre-opening costs for any new schools opened in response to a basic need for places; supports schools experiencing a mid-year growth in pupil numbers that is of sufficient scale to trigger a new class arrangement and the Fund can also support primary schools struggling to meet the requirements of the KS1 class size regulation. Growth Fund support is only ever given where a school cannot afford to meet the additional costs concerned from its own resources. [From 2019-20 the Forum agreed to discontinue the operation of a Falling Rolls Fund].

- 2.8.6 Central budget provision can also be retained within the Early Years funding block up to a maximum of 5% of the annual Early Years block total. Kirklees' level of retention is significantly below this at 2.6%. Most of the amount retained funds the Free Early Education Funding and Childcare Sufficiency Team, the Early Years Outcomes Team and provides a contribution to the SEN Support Team. These teams ensure statutory functions are met which include administration of the free entitlement funding to early years providers, ensure there are sufficient, high quality early years and childcare providers and offer support to providers for children with SEN.
- 2.8.7 It is not proposed to change the central retention amount within the Early Years Block budget for 2022-23 however consultation with the early years sector regarding the funding formula is currently taking place, recommendations are scheduled for consideration at the Schools Forum meeting on 4th February 2022.
- 2.8.8 The detail of Central School Services Block budgets and growth provision within the schools funding block were agreed with Schools Forum, at their meeting on 7th January 2022. Central retention within the Early Years Block budget for 2022-23 will be the subject of consultation with all providers over the next few weeks and is scheduled for consideration at the Forum meeting on 4th February 2022. [Please refer to Appendix B below for details of the retained budgets].

3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 DSG SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA FROM KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM

- i) To note the ESFA-approved exceptions application.
- ii) To note the consultative process undertaken in collaboration with head teachers through the Kirklees Schools Forum to agree the details of the Kirklees funding formula.
- iii) To support the decisions, in principle, relating to central budgets and de-delegated budgets for 2022-23 and acknowledge the systematic monitoring of the expenditure and impact by Schools Forum.
- iv) To approve, in principle, the final details of the Kirklees' school funding formula for 2022-23 submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency by the 21st January 2022 deadline.

4 Implications for the Council

- **Working with people**

The Schools Forum continues to support schools working collaboratively to effectively manage resources, particularly focussing on early intervention and prevention, reducing inequalities, and overcoming barriers to learning for children in their communities.

- **Working with Partners**

Through Schools Forum the Council works in partnership with local maintained schools, academies, and other providers to try to ensure the optimum distribution of dedicated schools grant within Kirklees. The Schools Forum includes representation from the Private, Voluntary and Independent nursery and childcare sector and post-16 provider representation.

- **Place-based working**

The schools funding allocation recognises that the needs of different communities within Kirklees vary widely. The allocation contains additional need funding factors to target support towards children from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds and directs additional funds to support children in their first three years in the school system who have English as a second language.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

There are no direct implications for climate change and air quality.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

Schools Forum seeks to ensure that the fairest approach to funding across the schools system is in place, particularly at a time when financial pressures for schools are increasing. Maximising resources for teaching and learning, alongside the role that schools play in supporting children and their families and the wider community is crucial in ensuring that children have the best start in life.

- **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions**

The schools system is funded by the Council's annual Dedicated Schools Grant funding allocation under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 and is managed in accordance with the Schools and Early years Finance (England) Regulations 2012 which, amongst other things, requires the Council to consult the Schools Forum on certain matters when determining the school funding formula for 2022-23 and the terms and conditions of the ring-fenced grant. The council must consider the outcome and take into account the responses from the consultation before making any decision.

In carrying out its functions the council must comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010 before exercising any decision on a particular policy or strategy namely it must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not.

5 Consultees and their opinions

The Education and Learning Partnership Board sits alongside Schools Forum as a 'sister' consultative group. The two operate together in a complementary approach to work in partnership with our schools and settings. The Forum Chair is a member of the Education and Learning Partnership Board. The work of each body is supportive of a single strategic oversight of the system.

Schools Forum consults with school groups through Kirklees High School Head teachers, Primary Head teacher groups and School briefings. Non-school members from the early years' private, voluntary, and independent sectors, trade unions, and the Post 16 sector ensure consultation and feedback from their representative groups. Current discussions are focussed on the decisions required by the ESFA for the funding year 2022-23.

The Early Years Reference group consists of representatives from all sectors of the childcare market. This group consider proposals for the Early Years Funding Formula and monitors spending of the Early Years Block. The views of this group are reported to Schools Forum.

Updates for the Portfolio Holders for Children's Services are provided regularly.

6 Next steps and timelines

Schools Forum will continue to help shape schools funding arrangements at their meeting on 7th January 2022, prior to the deadline for submission of the school funding allocations for 2022-23 to the ESFA on 21st January 2022.

Based on the ESFA funding timeline, it is expected that the local authority will inform maintained schools of their 2022-23 budget shares by 28th February 2022. The ESFA will inform academies of their budget allocations for the academic year 2022/23 by the 31st March 2022.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

Members are asked to approve the following in accordance with the arrangements as set out in this report that have been consulted upon with School Forum for the funding of Local Schools and Academies for the funding year 2022-23:

1. Approve Schools Forum recommendations following the consultative process undertaken in collaboration with head teachers, through Schools Forum, to determine the ongoing local approach to the distribution of DSG Schools Block funding for 2022-23 and the fifth year of a 'soft' National Funding Formula approach.
2. Note the exceptions application made to the ESFA and subsequently approved.
3. Approve the submission of the schools funding formula to the ESFA for 2022-23.

4. Approve proposals for central budgets and de-delegated budgets 2022/23 as set out in this report and the accompanying Appendices.

8 Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

To note the changes to schools funding arrangements for 2022-23, the fifth year of 'soft' application of the National Funding Formula, leading up to the full introduction of the National Funding Formula for Schools from April 2024 subject to ongoing response to consultation.

To note the ongoing local consultation with schools and other providers to ensure an appropriate local response to national funding formula developments.

To support the officer recommendations above, and to thank Schools Forum members for their work.

9 Contact officer:

David Baxter
Finance Manager (Schools)
01484 221000
david.baxter@kirklees.gov.uk

10 Background papers and history of decisions

The following key reference documents are available on the GOV.UK website. Other, related documentation is also available on these web links.

1. Schools Funding 2022-23

[Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK](#)

2. Early Years Funding 2022-23

[Early years funding: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Kirklees Early Years Funding Formula Proposals 2022-23](#)

3. High Needs funding 2022-23

[High needs funding arrangements: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK](#)

4. A link to the Cabinet report on the Kirklees Schools funding formula for the previous year, 2021-22 is provided below.

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 26th January 2021, 3.00pm Kirklees Council](#)

11 Service Directors responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders
Service Director - Learning & Early Support
Directorate for Children and Young People
Civic Centre 3
01484 221000
jo-anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk

Eamonn Croston
Service Director, Finance
Civic Centre 3
01484 221000
eamonn.croston@kirklees.gov.uk

Appendix A: How the National Funding Formula factor values have changed since their adoption in 2018-19

Funding factor	NFF values per pupil 18-19	NFF values per pupil 19-20	NFF values per pupil 20-21	NFF values per pupil 21-22	NFF values per pupil 22-23
Primary basic per pupil	£2,747	£2,747	£2,857	£3,123	£3,217
Key Stage 3 per pupil	£3,863	£3,863	£4,018	£4,404	£4,536
Key Stage 4 per pupil	£4,386	£4,386	£4,561	£4,963	£5,112
Primary Free School Meals Ever 6	£540	£540	£560	£575	£590
Sec'y Free School Meals Ever 6	£785	£785	£815	£840	£865
Primary current FSM	£440	£440	£450	£460	£470
Secondary current FSM	£440	£440	£450	£460	£470
Prim IDACI Band F	£200	£200	£210	£215	£220
Prim IDACI Band E	£240	£240	£250	£260	£270
Prim IDACI Band D	£360	£360	£375	£410	£420
Prim IDACI Band C	£390	£390	£405	£445	£460
Prim IDACI Band B	£420	£420	£435	£475	£490
Prim IDACI Band A	£575	£575	£600	£620	£640
Sec'y IDACI Band F	£290	£290	£300	£310	£320
Sec'y IDACI Band E	£390	£390	£405	£415	£425
Sec'y IDACI Band D	£515	£515	£535	£580	£595
Sec'y IDACI Band C	£560	£560	£580	£630	£650
Sec'y IDACI Band B	£600	£600	£625	£680	£700
Sec'y IDACI Band A	£810	£810	£840	£865	£890
Primary Pupil Mobility			£875	£900	£925
Sec'y Pupil Mobility			£1,250	£1,290	£1,330
Primary English as an Additional Language	£515	£515	£535	£550	£565
Sec'y English as an Additional Language	£1,385	£1,385	£1,440	£1,485	£1,530
Primary low prior attainment	£1,050	£1,022	£1,065	£1,095	£1,130
Secondary low prior attainment	£1,550	£1,550	£1,610	£1,660	£1,710
Minimum per pupil check Primary	£3,300	£3,500	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265
Minimum per pupil check Secondary	£4,600	£4,800	£5,000	£5,415	£5,525
School Lump Sum *	£110,000	£110,000	£114,400	£117,800	£121,300

*In previous funding years Kirklees' locally set lump sum amount has been set slightly higher than the NFF value (£123,282 in 2018-19, £120,814 in both 2019-20 and 2020-21). This was the only way available to allocate the cash protection funds remaining after the required funding floor increases had been satisfied. 2021-22 and 2022-23 sees the lump-sum being allocated at NFF value.

**Appendix B: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT: CENTRAL BUDGET
RETENTION 2022-23 [for mainstream maintained schools and academies]**

1) Growth funding within the Schools Block

Budget provision	£	Notes
Pupil Growth Fund	600,000	Supports mid-year basic need pupil growth of sufficient scale to trigger a new class arrangement. Also supports schools struggling to meet the KS1 class size regulation. PGF is only allocated where a school cannot address the issue from its own budget resources
Future pupil growth	600,000	The Schools Block allocation includes an element of funding towards the cost of future pupil growth within the system. For 2022-23, the balance of the growth funding needs to be retained by the LA to support those schools in the system affected by planned changes to address demand for pupil places in the area, e.g., new schools growing by one year group per annum, schools asked to vary their admission number to take in additional pupils in a 'bulge' class arrangement. The amounts have been kept at the same level at 2021-22.
TOTAL	£1,200,000	

2) The Central School Services Block

Budget provision	£	Notes
Servicing of Schools Forum	31,000	
Pupil Admissions Service	401,900	
School Organisation & Planning	139,600	
School Reorganisation Support	292,000	
Historic DSG pension commitments	136,320	Application to ESFA to protect at £170,400. No confirmation yet.
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers	36,300	
National Copyright Licence charge	347,783	Forum approval is not required
(Former Education Service Grant retained duties) Per pupil allocation to the Council in respect of statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees	978,455	
TOTAL	£2,363,358	

3) Funding retained within the Early Years Block

Budget provision	Proposed £	Notes
Early Learning and Childcare	585,000	Free Early Education, Childcare Sufficiency and Early Years Outcomes Teams – funding to providers, free entitlement place sufficiency, supporting standards of delivery
Back office / management costs	71,200	Finance, payroll, HR, Legal, IT etc
Inclusion Support	40,400	Contribution to the Inclusion Officer team
Miscellaneous	12,000	Contribution to admissions, maternity, union duties etc
TOTAL	£708,600	

The proposed Early Years Block retention is 2.6%, well within the 5% level permitted by the government.

Consultation arrangements on the 2022-23 Early Years funding formula are outlined in Appendix D.

Appendix C: DE-DELEGATION 2022-23 [Maintained Mainstream Schools only]

Budget	Primary per pupil	Secondary per pupil	Notes
School Contingency	-£13.29	-£16.65	Used to correct funding errors, support schools facing emergencies, pick up costs it would be unfair to ask schools to meet, one-off financial interventions in schools in financial difficulty to help them secure necessary savings.
Free school meals eligibility checks	-£1.03	-£1.29	Customer & Exchequer service checks to identify children eligible to claim free school meals – helps schools maximise their deprivation-related funding
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	-£29.32	-£29.32	Central payment of salary costs during these leave periods so the school only pays the replacement costs
Trade union facilities time	-£5.72	£0.00	Pays for the release from schools of local TU officials to manage casework (competence, attendance, disciplinary etc) involving school staff
Public duties	-£0.16	-£0.20	School cover costs re staff on jury service, appearing as witnesses in court proceedings, serving as magistrates, serving as governors at another school etc
International new arrivals	-£1.58	-£1.98	Support to schools dealing with language-related issues of children admitted from different parts of the world
School Improvement Commissioning	-£4.50	-£12.01	Supports improvement interventions in schools – appropriate support to schools for the cost of implementing improvement action plans, brokering school-to-school support by meeting the cost of releasing staff from other schools to work with the school in need of support.
TOTALS	-£55.60	-£61.45	

The above picture of per pupil de-delegation is unchanged from financial year 2021-22. The pattern of de-delegation for the primary sector shown in the above table was agreed by the maintained school representatives to the Schools Forum on 7th January 2022.

Appendix D: Meeting Schedule

Consultation meetings with Schools Forum, Headteacher groups and Early Years Providers

Schedule

Consultation focus	Meetings	Meeting date	ESFA response date
Schools block and Central schools services block Implications of National Funding Formula for the Council and schools from 2022-23	Consultation by email with schools	w/c 6 th December 2021	21 st January 2022
	Schools Forum	7 th January 2021	
	Schools Funding paper to Cabinet	21 st January 2022	
Early years block	Online survey	16th December 2021 to 13th January 2022	25 th February 2022
	Virtual briefing sessions	5 th and 6 th January 2022	
	Early Years and Childcare Reference group	18 th January 2022	
	Schools Forum	4 th February 2022	

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Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 19th January 2022
Title of report: Enhanced Lettable Standard Review, the Lettable Standard and the Home Starter Fund

Purpose of report

To report the outcome of the review of the Enhanced Lettable Standard pilot and propose a new universal lettable standard for all empty homes to better meet tenant needs

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Key Decision- Yes published 03/12/21
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Dave Shepherd (23/12/21)
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Eamonn Croston (24/12/21)
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft (23/12/21)
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Cathy Scott

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

GDPR has been considered when preparing this report and there are no implications.

1. Summary

The Lettable Standard

1.1 As part of the ambition to enable some of our most vulnerable tenants to have the best possible start to their tenancies, the Council asked KNH to pilot the Enhanced Lettable Standard (ELS) which started in January 2020.

1.2 The ELS provides full decoration, new carpets, and new blinds to applicants meeting specific criteria. Prospective tenants at the point of being matched to a property also had a choice of colour schemes for the fittings.

1.3 Households applying for housing who fell into the following groups could benefit from the enhanced standard:

- Care leavers,
- Existing tenants who are downsizing,
- People moving into a Retirement Living Scheme,
- People moving from a Domestic Violence Refuge,
- People moving from KC temporary accommodation.

1.4 In addition, any applicant moving into a council tenancy for the first time can apply to access to the Home Starter Fund (HSF). This is a package of standard items of furniture and appliances which are provided as one-off items to the tenants that are unable to access furniture from other provision up to the value of £2000. It will support those applicants that meet one of the following criteria:

- Care leavers
- Moving from KC provided Temporary Accommodation with no furniture,
- Fleeing domestic abuse,
- New tenants in receipt of a means tested benefit – Job Seekers Allowance, Income support, Employment Support and Support Allowance, Universal Credit, Guarantee Pension Credit.
- New tenants on the maximum rate of Council Tax support.

1.5 The learning from the ELS Pilot has provided the opportunity to evaluate the impact of an improved standard for new tenants and how this impacted on their satisfaction at viewing as well as within the early months of settling into their new home.

1.6 The implementation of the ELS pilot has also meant that clearer comparisons can be made with the existing Lettable Standard that applies to all other properties where the tenant does not meet the ELS criteria outlined in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 above.

1.7 Prior to the ELS scheme, all new tenants were allocated £37.50 per room where decorating was of a poor standard. Whilst the Tenancy Agreement does require the outgoing tenant to leave the property in good decorative order, this is not always the case. Ageing plasterwork, layers of wallpaper and woodwork paint can often make a full

re-decoration a daunting task. The feedback from many customers is that this allowance is often well below the cost incurred by a new tenant when decorating.

- 1.8 The tenant is only able to decorate their home after the start of the tenancy which for many is after they have moved in. Many find this difficult and awkward since they have to do this to work around furniture and normal family life at a time when they are still settling in.
- 1.9 Also, many have found the cost of doing so can add to the financial pressures on being a new tenant when they are balancing the costs of moving, paying rent, new household expenses, as well as decorating their new home.
- 1.10 One of the learning points has been the agreed ELS criteria does not include customers that have an assessed medical need, and, therefore, doesn't include customers that are least likely to be able to decorate independently.
- 1.11 In delivering the ELS there was additional work to undertake given the condition of some of the properties. This meant applicants having to wait longer to be rehoused, and at times, there were also complications in aligning the works where a property was not originally offered to a household who met the criteria for ELS but then subsequently being offered it after another applicant refusing the offer after viewing.
- 1.12 As the awareness of the scheme has increased over the last 2 years, the feedback from applicants and tenants that have not met the criteria is they feel they have received a lesser quality of home from the Council.
- 1.13 The review of the pilot has taken into account:
- The existing stock condition and the under-investment since the decent homes funding ended
 - The satisfaction from those who were in receipt of the ELS as well as the feedback from those who didn't receive the enhanced standard
 - The impact on waiting times of the time taken to complete the additional work and the variability based on individual circumstances.
 - The impact on those in the most need of being rehoused having to wait longer due to additional work applying.
- 1.14 These factors have led to the consideration of an improved standard for all new lets. It is therefore proposed that all new lettings be fully redecorated enabling many more households to benefit from an improved standard, whilst those who are most vulnerable can access additional support from the continuation of the Home Starter Fund.
- 1.15 Not only does it improve the experience for new tenants, but it also improves the condition of the council's assets as any failing plaster or layers of old paintwork will be picked up as part of the repair work before letting to a new tenant. For the current standard no decorating is completed, failing plaster often comes to light when the customer moves into the property and begins stripping paper from wall to start decorating resulting in a high volume of plastering works for new customers in the early part of their tenancy. This change therefore reduces the need for additional repair work once let and will improve the customer's experience as well as improving the potential for new tenants to successfully sustain their tenancy.

- 1.16 Ensuring all new tenants receive the improved standard will enable new streamlined ways of working by putting tenants and communities first and as the experience grows the council will be able to improve the experience of applicants by reducing waiting times.
- 1.17 The review of the ELS also led to the council reviewing its approach to capital replacements across all new lettings and not just those that were let to those in priority need. Where a property needs a large replacement, like kitchens or a bathroom, these works will be carried out once the new tenant has moved in. This will enable tenants to settle into their new home and have a choice about how they wish it to look by enabling the tenant to move in, settle and familiarise themselves with their space and have choice around design, layout and colour schemes. This has not been offered to date as works have been carried out during the void period.
- 1.18 This will be based on a firm commitment to the new tenants that work will be completed within 3 months of them moving in. The only exceptions to this are where these items do not need renewing or where there is a planned programme of replacements scheduled for within 12 months of the start of the tenancy.
- 1.19 The proposed new Lettable Standard will ensure that every new tenant will benefit from a newly decorated home where decoration is needed and that those applicants who are more vulnerable receive additional support through the Home Starter Fund. This will enable them to have a smooth start to their tenancy and help them to feel proud, settle into their home and neighbourhood and manage a successful tenancy.

Home Starter Fund (Provision of furniture, White Goods and Carpets)

- 1.20 The Home Starter Fund benefitted 385 households (30% of new tenants) with an average spend per household of £1,168 since the start of the pilot to March 2021 helping some of the most vulnerable tenants in setting up their home. It removed a significant financial burden for those that would otherwise have been without basic furniture provision for long periods whilst they saved or struggled to access items from elsewhere. This has supported people to have furniture and equipment so they can live comfortably in their new home and make it their own.
- 1.21 It is proposed that where the tenant meets the eligibility criteria for the HSF, carpets and blinds may be accessed as part of this scheme, where needed.
- 1.22 The proposed amended criterion for the HSF is:
- Care leavers,
 - Moving from council provided Temporary Accommodation with no furniture,
 - Moving from Domestic Violence Refuge/Supported Housing.
- 1.23 Households will also be able to access the following items:
- Bed with mattress – single or double
 - Cot including mattress
 - Table and chairs
 - Sofa

- Electric Cooker including fitting
- Washing machine
- Fridge/Fridge Freezer
- Single wardrobes with drawer
- Carpets, Curtains or Blinds

Conclusion

This proposal ensures that tenants moving into a Kirklees council property get a consistent standard of home through a universal Lettable Standard and that additional support is provided to the most vulnerable households through the HSF.

It should be noted that whilst the lettable standard applies to all council properties, including those under the 'Excellent Homes for Life' PFI contract, these homes are generally of a better decorating standard due to their age. The Contractor makes good any damage to decorating before they are relet.

2. Implications for the Council

Working with People

Throughout the ELS pilot consideration has been given to the feedback from customers. There are many examples of the positive impact that the enhanced standard has had on the households at the start of their tenancy. However, there has also been feedback of some dissatisfaction with the variances in standards and the impact that has on individuals who are not eligible under the current criteria.

This had led to the proposal to improve the offer for all new tenancies, whilst still having an additional tailored offer to the most vulnerable customers through the provision of the Home Starter Fund.

Working with Partners

Collaborative work with partners continues in order to support the most vulnerable tenants to improve outcomes. The new standard will offer opportunities to local businesses and the supply chain and once procured will enable a strong partnership to develop with the successful contractor.

Place Based Working

Kirklees as a place is made up of different communities and the diversity of its communities is one of its key strengths. Place based working recognises that the needs of Kirklees residents and communities vary widely and that by improving the standard of our homes we prioritise the needs of communities to have good quality housing. This proposal benefits those who are most likely to have lower incomes and live in some of Kirklees' most deprived neighbourhoods and estates. In addition, the home starter fund provides additional support for those who need it.

Climate Change and Air Quality

We will work with contractors to ensure the materials and modes of travel mitigate the worst impacts on the climate and that waste is managed well.

Improving outcomes for children

Families with children moving into Kirklees Council Homes will benefit from moving into attractive homes and contribute to well-being. In addition, those young people leaving care will be able to apply for the Home Starter Fund which will complement other financial support they may get to settle into their first independent home and create the conditions to have a better chance of sustaining their tenancy successfully.

Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resource)

Procurement for the new Lettable Standard and the Home Starter Package will comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and duty of Best Value.

The costs associated with the proposed enhanced lettable standards and Starter Homes Fund are budgeted for within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), subject to Cabinet approval.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) - An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out - see Appendix A.

In taking this decision, the Council's public sector equality duty must be taken into account under the Equality Act 2010. It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Relevant legislation is as follows:

The Landlord and Tenant Act 1985, section 11

Implies a term into tenancy agreements for less than seven years that the landlord shall keep in repair:

- the structure and exterior of the dwelling
- the installations for the supply of water, gas, electricity and sanitation
- the installations for the supply of space heating and water heating and
- the communal areas and installations associated with the dwelling (section 11 as amended by section 116 of the Housing Act 1988), where these are controlled by the landlord.

The Act also provides that the standard of repair necessary will vary depending on the 'age, character, and prospective life of the property and its location']

The Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018

The Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018 (HFHHA 2018) adds sections 9A-9C to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985. These impose a statutory obligation and an implied covenant on the landlord of a property in England to ensure that it is fit for human habitation on the grant of the tenancy and remains so for the duration.

Defective Premises Act 1972, Section 4

A landlord may have an implied statutory obligation to repair under section 4. The landlord has a duty to take such care as is reasonable in all the circumstances to see that the tenant and anyone else who may be affected are reasonably safe from personal injury or damage to property caused by a relevant defect which has arisen or continues due to the landlord's failure to carry out its obligations to maintain and repair the premises.

Financial Implications.

Enhanced Lettable Standard

The existing enhanced lettable standard was first set up in February 2020 to run as a pilot for 12 months costing £2.1m, providing decorations, carpets and blinds and was intended to support 423 tenancies from priority groups. A budget of £1.1m was also provided for issuing furniture packs, which was to be awarded based on an assessment criteria, where the aim was to support vulnerable tenants to sustain their tenancies. Due to the pandemic and lockdown, the pilot was extended and supported by a revenue budget totalling £10m over five years reducing at 2% per annum over the five-year period to 2024-25. An additional revenue budget resource of £54m over the life of the business plan will be required, but can be supported by the additional income from the increase in rents approved by Cabinet on 14th December and from additional borrowing.

Estimated cost for new Lettable Standard, decorating to all void properties.

Average number of homes relet per year	Average cost per property to decorate only	Estimated rent loss per property of time to decorate	Total cost to deliver decoration as a standard for <u>all</u> voids/re-lets
1658	£1310	£71.18	£2,289,969
Less savings from decoration Allowance currently provided			£203,400
			£2,086,569*

Estimated cost to deliver the ELS to all voids (Decoration, Carpets and Blinds)

Total Voids	Total cost to decorate all voids	Total cost to provide carpets to all voids	Total cost to blinds to all voids	Estimated rent loss per property	Total cost to Dec, carpets and blinds to all voids
1658	£2,171,980	£1,085,386	£790,702	£362,985	£4,411,053*

Costs associated are plastering during void repair is expected to increase for the Empty Homes Repair teams but decrease for Responsive repairs with this work being moved to being completed whilst the property is empty.

There is already budget provision for elements of plastering associated capital works and following asbestos surveys that are complete for every void.

Home Starter Fund

Total Spend of providing the Home Starter Fund was £449,645 for 2020/21. This provided furniture to 30% of new tenants (385 households) with an average spend per household of £1,168. The HSF is provided once the tenant moves in so there is no rent loss associated with delivering this scheme.

Please note, for 20/21 we saw a reduction of 30% in the number properties becoming void. Based on 'normal' pre covid volumes this is likely to be higher.

The proposed criterion for the HSF targets our most vulnerable tenants with a wider offer including the provision of carpets and blinds.

**Please note all costs are based on estimated costs associated with current contract for delivery in 2021, contracts will be procured February 2022 and may be subject to change.*

4. Consultees and their opinions

4.1 The most frequent feedback from new tenants is that the existing lettable standard is too basic and needs reconsidering to be more aligned to the enhanced standard.

4.2 The Enhanced Lettable Standard pilot has found that this standard in general was positive for new tenant households who qualified for the Standard. However, as this was not universally applied it led to complaints from other new tenants who struggled to decorate their (or their relatives) new home.

4.3 The most common and disruptive repair for new customers is the requirement for replastering works, after they have moved in and start to redecorate themselves. The new standard will remove this inconvenience and support tenants to get a good start.

4.4 The most frequent request for new customer improvements are adjustments and changes to a new kitchen that do not accommodate their existing white goods and choice for design. The new standard will enable a kitchen design to take into account the tenant's requirements.

5. Next steps and timelines

5.1 Carry out appropriate procurement exercise for decoration, carpets, and blinds in conjunction with Corporate Procurement and award contract late January 2022.

5.2 Apply the new Lettable Standard (full version Appendix B), that includes new decoration to all empty properties being vacated from the beginning of February 2022.

5.3 Implement new Home Starter Fund Criteria for all applicants moving into a Kirklees Tenancy from the beginning of February 2022.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Cabinet is recommended to:

6.1 To approve amendments to the Lettable Standard Policy to reflect the proposed new standard to support an improved experience for all of the Council's new lets from the beginning of February 2022. A copy of the proposed amended Lettable Standard is attached as Appendix B. [This includes the new approach to capital replacements set out in paragraph 1.18 and 1.19 of the report.] This will ensure that each household moving into a council home will have a good standard of decoration in their new home.

6.2 Approve the continuation of the Home Starter Fund for the most vulnerable in Kirklees from the beginning of February 2022 in accordance with the criteria outlined in paragraph 1.23. This will ensure that the most vulnerable people are supported to start their new tenancy with quality furniture and fittings to enable them to have the best start.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

7.1 Portfolio Holder Cllr Cathy Scott agrees with the Officer recommendations outlined in paras 6.1 and 6.2.

7.2 Portfolio Holder Cllr Cathy Scott would like a review to be done in the next 6-12 months to measure if the changes have had a positive impact on the sustainability of tenancies.

8. Contact officers

Sarah Clayton
Head of Neighbourhoods– Kirklees Council
Tel 01484 221000
Email Sarah.Clayton@Kirklees.gov.uk

Emma Teal
General Manager- Empty Homes
Tel 01484 221000
Email emma.teal@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

10. Service Director responsible

Naz Parkar Service Director Homes and Neighbourhoods

Appendices

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix B – Revised Lettable Standard

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EIA STAGE 1 – SCREENING ASSESSMENT

PROJECT DETAILS

Name of project or policy:	
Lettable Standard, Enhanced Lettable Standard and Home Starter Fund review	
Directorate:	Senior Officer responsible for policy/service:
Neighbourhoods	Sarah Clayton
Service:	Lead Officer responsible for EIA:
Empty Homes	Emma Teal
Specific Service Area/Policy:	Date of EIA (Stage 1):
Empty Homes	29.11.21

Brief outline of proposal and the overall aims/purpose of making this change:

Improve Lettable Standard to include decorating and plastering where required to all empty homes prior to property being let.
Remove 'downsizing' and 'RLS' lets from the criteria for the home starter fund eligibility criteria, mitigate impact through Homefit where applicable. And removal of 'new KC' tenancy criteria and to mitigate this risk through use of YP fund and charitable organisations

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Theme	Calculated Scores						Stage 2 Assessment Required
	Proposal	Impact	P + I	Mitigation	Evidence	M + E	
Equalities	6	3.6	9.6	0	2	2	No
Environment		3.9	3.9	0	4	4	No

NATURE OF CHANGE

WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSAL?	Please select YES or NO
To introduce a service, activity or policy (i.e. start doing something)	NO
To remove a service, activity or policy (i.e. stop doing something)	NO
To reduce a service or activity (i.e. do less of something)	YES
To increase a service or activity (i.e. do more of something)	YES
To change a service, activity or policy (i.e. redesign it)	YES
To start charging for (or increase the charge for) a service or activity (i.e. ask people to pay for or to pay more for something)	NO

WHAT LEVEL OF IMPACT DO YOU THINK YOUR PROPOSAL WILL HAVE ON...	Level of Impact Please select from drop down
Kirklees employees within this service/directorate? (overall)	Neutral
Kirklees residents living in a specific ward/local area?	Neutral
Please tell us which area/ward will be affected:	All KC tenants
Residents across Kirklees? (i.e. most/all local people)	Positive
Existing service users ?	Neutral

Each of the following groups?		Please select from drop down
(Think about how your proposal might affect, either positively or negatively, any individuals/communities. Please consider the impact for both employees and residents - within these protected characteristic groups).		
...age	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...disability	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...gender reassignment	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...marriage/ civil partnership	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...pregnancy & maternity	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...race	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...religion & belief	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...sex	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...sexual orientation	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral
...those in poverty or low-come	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Very Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral

...unpaid carers	What impact is there on Kirklees employees /internal working practices?	Positive
	What impact is there on Kirklees residents /external service delivery?	Neutral

WHAT LEVEL OF IMPACT DO YOU THINK YOUR PROPOSAL WILL HAVE ON...		Level of Impact	
		Please select from drop down	
Kirklees Council's internal practices ?		Very Positive	
Lifestyles of those who live and work in Kirklees?		Positive	
Practices of suppliers to Kirklees council?		Positive	
Practices of other partners of Kirklees council?		Positive	
Each of the following environmental themes ? (Please select from the drop down list)			
	People	Partners	Places
...clean air (including Climate Changing Gases)	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
...Clean and plentiful water	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
... Wildlife and habitats	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
...Resilience to harm from environmental hazards	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
... Sustainability and efficiency of use of resources from nature	Positive	Positive	Positive
	Score: 1	Score: 1	Score: 1
...Beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
... Resilience to the effects of climate change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2
...Production, recycling or disposal of waste	Positive	Positive	Positive
	Score: 1	Score: 1	Score: 1
... Exposure to chemicals	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
	Score: 2	Score: 2	Score: 2

HOW ARE YOU USING ADVICE AND EVIDENCE/INTELLIGENCE TO HELP YOU?

Please select YES or NO

Equality Themes

Have you taken any specialist advice linked to your proposal? (Legal, HR etc)?	Yes
...employees?	No
Do you have any evidence/intelligence to support your assessment (in section 2) of the impact of your proposal on...	Yes
...Kirklees residents?	Yes
...service users?	Yes
...any protected characteristic groups?	Yes

Please list your **equalities** evidence/intelligence here [you can include hyperlinks to files/research/websites]:
 Including decorating to all empty properties prior to being let gives only a positive impact across all groups. This reduces the gap in standard of repair for 'vulnerable' groups and non 'vulnerable groups'. A consistent condition of empty homes recognises the wider vulnerability across all groups of customers stratng a tenancy with Kirklees Council. It also reduces the gap between standards provided for private rental and registered social landlord and social housing. The driver for this change is to improve customer satisfaction for all new lets. Complaints and issues with standard are significantly higher for customer not in receipt of the Enhanced Lettable Standard.

	Please select from drop down
To what extent do you feel you are able to mitigate any potential negative impact of your proposal outlined on the different groups of people?	FULLY
To what extent do you feel you have considered your Public Sector Equality Duty?	FULLY

Environmental Themes

Have you taken any specialist advice linked to your proposal?	No
...Kirklees Council practices?	No
Do you have any evidence/intelligence to support your assessment (in section 2) of the impact of your proposal on...	Yes
...resident and worker lifestyles?	Yes
...Practices of Supplier to Kirklees Council?	Yes
...Practices of other Kirklees Council partners?	Yes

Please list your environmental evidence/intelligence here [you can include hyperlinks to files/research/websites]:
 No impact

	Please select from drop down
To what extent do you feel you are able to mitigate any potential negative impact of your proposal on the environmtenal issues identified?	FULLY

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Kirklees Council

Lettable Standard

Revision History:

Version	Date Implemented	Details of significant changes	Document Author
V1	05/03/2018	New Standard- Approved by KNH Board	Asad Bhatti
V2	17/09/2021	New Kitchen-3 Months post relet Compliance- updated Decoration to all	Emma Teal

Lettable Standard

1.0 Policy

- 1.1.1 **The purpose of the Void Standard is to ensure a consistent approach is applied to all void properties**
- 1.1.2 It will set out what tenants can expect when they move into a new home
- 1.1.3 In summary it should be safe, secure, clean and in a condition suitable for tenants to move in to straight away.
- 1.1.4 Only essential repairs will be carried out whilst properties are empty.
- 1.1.5 Major improvements will be carried out as part of the future capital improvement programme.
- 1.1.6 The lettable standard document will be used as the main source of reference by all employees who have a responsibility for ensuring empty properties are fit for letting.
- 1.1.7 The standard will apply to all properties owned by Kirklees Council and properties KNH manage where landlords have agreed that KNH standards will apply.
- 1.1.8 The standard will also apply to all individual units situated within a KNH Retirement Living Scheme.
- 1.1.9 KNH wants to provide good quality housing ensuring.
- 1.1.10 The value of the asset is preserved
- 1.1.11 The property complies with current legislative and regulatory requirement and with good practice across the sector
- 1.1.12 It will identify some areas of discretion and a process for its application.
- 1.1.13 It will assist in reducing the overall relet time of empty properties and will ensure annual targets are met.

2.0 Lettable Standard

Asbestos

- Each void will be surveyed to determine the presence of asbestos containing materials prior to any activity in the property (void surveying or void repairs)
- The survey format will include adequate sampling and an acceptable intrusive survey to satisfy the current regulations; to be determined by the Technical officer (Asbestos)
- Removal of any high-risk contaminants will be organised prior to any activity in the property
- Removal of contaminants will be assessed and instructed by the technical officer (Asbestos)
- Clean air test certificates will be distributed prior to any activity in the property
- In some cases the Safety and compliance team will request to hold a void to carry out intrusive survey to contribute to data held on the asbestos register and to ensure compliance to current regulations; this will be agreed in discussion with Empty Homes Team Leaders.
- Customer can access details of any asbestos in their home by

Water Safety

- All void properties are flushed and/or chemically treated
- All washing machine hot water supply pipework should be cut back to source
- All areas of stagnation i.e., dead legs and blind ends will be removed where reasonably practical to remove.
- Cold water tanks and hot water storage must be compliant with current regulations i.e., close fitting lid and in a clean condition
- Showers will be clean in a scale free condition and is in good working order

Fire Safety

- All fire and smoke alarms in the property will be checked and tested
- Any items that are identified as a risk will be replaced (e.g. Fire Doors).

Fabric of building

- Roofs will be structurally sound and watertight
- Walls will be structurally sound and free from defect
- The property will be free from rising or penetrating damp
- The property will be free from major structural defect
- Rainwater goods will be functional and leak free
- Gullies and grates will be clean and clear

Services

- The property will be supplied with hot and cold water
- There will be adequate switched electrical sockets above worktops and 1 at a low level
- There will be a suitably located working gas or electrical cooking point
- Smoke alarms will be installed on each floor of the property; ground floor hallway and 1st floor landing or hallway
- Heat detection will be installed to the kitchen
- We will install a carbon monoxide detector adjacent to open flued gas appliances
- Each kitchen and bathroom will have a functional mechanical extraction system
- It should have a programmable, modern heating and hot water system that is adequate for your home
- Gas and water services will have accessible isolation valves
- The electrical and gas supplies will be in a safe condition and certificates will be provided.
- All gas fires will be removed and the gas supply capped off whilst the property is empty
- All sockets, switches and light fittings will be in good working order and fit for purpose

Windows, doors & joinery items

- Windows and doors will operate, be secure and watertight. External doors will be secure and of a modern standard with keys. All locks will conform to PAS 24 2016 and BS 6375 parts 1, 2 and 3
- All internal doors will be in place and close freely
- Internal doors will be replaced where we are unable to repair them, with standard 6 panel timber doors.
- Glazed doors will be replaced with non-glazed timber type

Fixtures and fittings

- Kitchen units will be clean and in a good condition
- Worktops will be clean, hygienic and in good condition with mastic sealant to joints between the tiling, worktop and sink
- Kitchens will have a stainless steel sink unit with a plug and chain
- Taps and overflows will be securely fixed, free from blockages and full working order
- Cupboard doors and units will be secure and in good working order
- Walls, internal joinery and ceilings must be fit to be decorated by the new tenant without major repair

Sanitary fittings

- The property will have a suitably located toilet, wash basin, fixed bath or shower
- Showers will have an adequate screen or curtain

- Showers will be clean and functional
- Toilet seats are intact and safely fitted
- Plugs and chains where missing will be replaced
- Plumbing will be installed to allow a washing machine to be connected
- Adequate splashback panels to baths and/or shower
- Sinks will have adequate tiling with clean grout and mastic sealant

Capital Works

- If any capital works are required i.e. a new kitchen this will be replaced within the first 3 months of the tenancy.
- If we install a new kitchen or a bathroom we will fully decorate each room

Decoration

- All properties will be decorated throughout
- Holes to plaster will be filled. Minor holes and cracks will not be repaired and are the new tenants' responsibility e.g. pin holes, screw holes, wall plugs and picture hook holes.
- Rooms affected by mould growth will be treated and decorated
- Sealant or grout will be in place at the joint between sanitary units, work tops and wall tiles. If the sealant or grout is discoloured or dirty it will be removed and reapplied.

Tenant improvements

- Improvements made to the property will be left in good safe condition or they will be removed

Cleaning

- All cobwebs will be removed
- Walls and ceilings will be washed down where necessary
- All kitchen units and fittings will be thoroughly cleaned in order to remove all marks, deposits of grease, mould, dirt and dust with hot water and disinfectant. Where cleaning fails to remove ingrained dirt/marks, stains or where units have been damaged these will be replaced
- The bathroom will be thoroughly cleaned in order to remove all marks, mould, dirt and dust with hot water and disinfectant.
- All tiles will be cleaned and left in a smear free condition
- Floor coverings will be clean, hygienic and without damage
- Mirrors and tiled surfaces will be cleaned and left in a smear free condition
- Sockets, light fittings and switches will be cleaned
- All floors, including stairways and steps will be clear of rubbish, swept and mopped with hot water and detergent
- Woodwork will be cleaned and free from dirt and dust

- All inside and ground floor external windows (where accessible) will be free from dirt and smears after cleaning
- The front and back of radiators (as far as possible) will be cleaned
- All external doors, frames and thresholds will be cleaned
- Sealex sills will be cleaned and drain holes unblocked (where possible)
- The communal area leading to the entrance of any flat which is empty will be cleaned, free from clutter and any potential fire hazards
- Paths up to the property will have been swept to remove loose dirt and rubbish

Clearance

- All waste, rubbish and any of the former tenants' property will be removed from the property, garden and any outbuildings
- Rubbish or former tenants' property will be removed from the loft space
- All polystyrene ceiling tiles will be removed
- Blinds that meet the current HSC regulations i.e. wand stick and snap safe cords will be left in the property

Gardens/outside spaces

- Grass and hedges will be trimmed and in a manageable condition
- Broken or collapsed fencing in other areas will be removed
- Front gates will be secure and functional
- Fencing to the front of the property will be repaired/replaced where required
- Outbuildings will be secure, or removed if they are structurally unsafe
- Outdoor lighting should be functional, adequate and suitably located
- Defective paths, patios, handrails or hard standings will be left in a safe condition
- Drying areas will be clean, accessible and adequately segregated
- Communal bin storage areas will be clean, accessible and adequately segregated
- Cars, boats, caravans or items which are too large or heavy to be manually handled will be removed
- Garden sheds, greenhouses, decking and coal bunkers will be dismantled and removed

Flooring

- Solid floors will be free from serious unevenness and defects
- Floorboards and stairs will be free from major splits, missing sections, defects and insect infestation. Broken floorboards will be replaced.
- Broken floor tiles will be removed
- Kitchens and Bathrooms will benefit from the installation of non-slip sheet vinyl flooring. In the case of an adapted bathroom the non-slip vinyl flooring will be

returned up walls by 150mm to prevent water penetration and damage to the floor structure.

- If the property requires a new kitchen or bathroom, we will install flooring after the replacement within the first 3 months of your tenancy.
- Carpets and flooring that is in good condition that doesn't prevent adequate repair of the property will remain in the property

3.0 Discretionary work

3.1 The Empty Homes Team may decide there are additional items of work that may be required in order to secure an acceptance of a property on first offer. Examples of these are:

- Flooring to be in one or more rooms
- Additional kitchen units may be requested
- Additional kitchen and bathroom tiling
- The removal of adaptations where the property is not let to a person requiring them, and are detrimental to letting the property

3.2 Any agreed discretionary work may be provided whilst the property is empty or after the tenancy has started. This will be agreed depending on the type of work and demand for the property.

3.3 The Empty Homes Team will be able to access the Marketable Standards budget carry out any discretionary work in conjunction with the void repairs budget.

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Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18th January 2022

Title of report:

Highways 2 year detailed Capital Plan 2021/22 and 2022/23 – rollover / reprofile and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) update

Purpose of report:

For Cabinet to approve the updated detailed 2 year Highways Capital Plan for 2021/22 and 2022/23 which includes confirmation of rollover, additional grant monies and re-profile of funding from 2021/22 into 2022/23 and to inform Cabinet of the upcoming City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) grant funding (2022/23 to 2026/2027)

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Spend on capital plan is over £250k in spend
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision - Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Colin Parr 07.01.2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Karl Larrad on behalf of Julie Muscroft 07.01.2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Phil Deighton on behalf of Eamonn Croston 07.01.2022
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Naheed Mather – Environment

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? The report contains no personal data and is GDPR compliant

Page 2 of the report

1. Summary

This report is in two parts,

Part One

To identify and highlight changes to the Highways Capital Plan for 2021/22 since the last report taken to cabinet by Highways on Tuesday 1st June 2021 including

- Any funding rolled over from 2020/21 underspend
- additional grant monies received from DfT
- additional Council self-funding approval since the last report
- re-profiling of some funding from 2021/22 for spend in 2022/23.

Part Two

Update to cabinet regarding the upcoming City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement funding for the next five years 2022/23 to 2026/2027 prior to the Detailed Highways 2022/23 & 2023/24 report being brought to cabinet in the new financial year (After April 2022)

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background

Part 1

- On 1st June 2021 Cabinet approved a standalone baseline 2 year detailed Highways Capital Plan which included a detailed breakdown of spend for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- Since then,
 - the rollover of unspent 2020/21 monies has been approved by means of a report taken by corporate finance to cabinet on 27th July 2021
 - A streetlighting bid for £2.4m additional self-funding for 2021/2022 within the Highways Capital Plan towards the extension of the existing Invest to Save Street Lighting Scheme was approved within the Q1 update by corporate finance which was taken to Cabinet on 31 August 2021.
 - The DfT have also awarded funding to our Urban Traffic Management Control team (Network Management) amounting to £250,000 to be spent on projects over the next two years 2021/22 and 2022/23. (£125k for 2021/22 and £125k for 2022/23) This is additional maintenance funding under the Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance) Specific Determination (2021/22) is provided for traffic signal maintenance and upgrading schemes.
 - Officers have been working to identify programmes of work based on reduced staffing levels across the service, the availability of construction teams and external contractors and as a result have re-profiled some funding into next financial year 2022/23 to suit the new programmes of work.

Part 2

The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) is a collective term for the investment from Central Government for locations where there is a Mayoral Combined Authority. The settlement not only includes new funding for investment in the local transport networks across the mayoral area focused on sustainable transport improvements and initiatives but also the inclusion of previous grant funding such as the Integrated Transport Block (ITB), Highway Maintenance funding and Pothole Action Fund and whilst previously the amount of funding was set for both the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and subsequently each authority within West Yorkshire, the requirement this time was for the WY Mayor and Combined Authority to 'bid' alongside the other 7 City Regions for a proportion of the CRSTS funding for the next 5 years 2022/23 to 2026/27.

Subsequently in July 2021 each of the 5 WY Authorities and WYMCA started a collective piece of work to produce a detailed bid for funding with an ask for each of the various budget areas would be split between each authority as per previous arrangements and individual authority specific bids, which was submitted in September 2021. The WYCA mayor was advised that funding for the area will be in the range £570m (low) to £920m (high) depending on the quality of the bid and the amount of local matched funding (Min of 20%) made available.

In the November budget announcement, the DfT awarded WYMCA £830m over the 5-year CRSTS period, commencing April 2022 and the WYMCA are due to receive £830m of the £920m that was bid for, with WYMCA taking a lead on some of the prioritisation to identify which budget areas the £90m will be 'lost' from.

WYMCA will be submitting a programme business case, including information provided by each of the 5 authorities to DfT by 21st Jan 2022, with the outcome of the process with confirmation of the funding for CRSTS programmes expected in Spring 2022.

As such the current grant budgets shown in appendix A for 2022/23 are provisional based on the assumption of the budgets received in previous years and the re-profiled money from 2021/22.

The details of the CRSTS funding will be finalised and figures updated in the Highways Capital Report that will be taken to Cabinet once a decision from WYMCA has been made, which on current programme will be in the new financial year, after April 2022.

3. Changes to each of the budget areas – from Part 1

The table show in appendix B confirms the funding changes to each of the individual budget areas as an update to the original amounts approved on 1st June 2021, however a high level breakdown for rollover, new funding, and re-profiled funding, is shown below

Maintenance area -	£5,731,220	underspend rolled over from 2020/21
	£2,400,000	additional self-funding approved for Streetlighting
Integrated Transport & Developer contributions -	£695,065	grant underspend rolled over from 2021/22
	£125,000	additional DfT grant for Network Management

The funding re-profiled from 2021/22 into 2022/23 can be seen in orange on Appendix A the detailed 2 year breakdown

Maintenance area -	£4,387,795	funding reprofiled from 2021/22 into 2022/23
Integrated Transport -	£1,338,195	funding reprofiled from 2021/22 into 2022/23

4. Implications for the Council

4.1 Working with People

Schemes will be developed in conjunction with communication, consultation and feedback from the community and their representatives.

4.2 Working with Partners

Maintenance and improvements to the transport network are vital for the development of local businesses and helps develop Kirklees as a quality place where people want to live, work and visit.

4.3 Place Based Working

Programmes are shaped to follow good asset management practice. Sites will be promoted where community access need is greatest e.g., schools, shops, community facilities. Officers will engage with our Councillors and communities to understand their priorities as we develop the programme for Locality based Unclassified Roads Improvements

4.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Within the Integrated Transport Block funding there is an allocation of £115k identified for air quality which will be used on Initiatives to support the council's delivery of the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy. This could include upgrades to traffic management systems to improve air quality at sensitive locations and contribute to continuation of the Eco-Stars Low Emission Fleet Incentive Scheme.

Works within the Integrated Transport Plan will include sustainable alternatives to car use to support the Kirklees' vision to be carbon neutral by 2038.

Some elements of the capital plan by the nature of the works will have a positive impact on climate change, air quality and the promotion of sustainable travel. Examples include work undertaken from the Network Management, Flood Management, Major Transport schemes and an element of the work undertaken from the Safer Roads budget through reducing queues, congestion, road traffic accidents and the improvement of bus journey times.

There is likely to be no additional ongoing impact post roads resurfacing works, however whilst works are taking place the permit scheme helps the council minimise delay and disruption from works, including: a reduction in the average duration of works on permit streets and days of disruption saved through permit application assessments. The reduction in average works days will reduce numbers of works vehicle movements and create less congestion and disruption during works. This will clearly provide a benefit to public transport and active travel journeys. The permit scheme will apply to all schemes delivered on the network so these benefits should not only be realised for the roads resurfacing work, but all works delivered in 2021/22.

The ongoing programme to replace energy inefficient and obsolete streetlights with LED's continues to provide energy and CO2 savings of about 60%, as these streetlights are replaced.

4.5 Improving Outcomes for Children

Investing in our roads and footways infrastructure in and around our district with additional initiatives and improvements through the Safer Roads budget, aims to make our network safer, and improve opportunities for children to enjoy their environment and take opportunities for active travel that a safer network provides, to access their schools and local facilities.

4.6 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

An IIA stage 1 screening assessment was undertaken for the previous report taken on 1st June 2021 and the summary has indicated that no Stage 2 assessment is required.

A revised IIA has been deemed not necessary as the works within the plan remain fundamentally the same and this report is for the purposes of updating the changes to funding.

4.7 Other (eg; Legal /financial or Human Resource)

The detailed plan will be managed and monitored by the service in accordance with Council Financial Procedure Rules that delegates authority to manage the Highways Capital Plan at Service Director level.

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report . Any procurements to implement the highway schemes will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts regulations 2015 and the Council Procurement Rules

5. Consultees and their opinions

This report has been prepared in consultation with Strategic Directors, Service Directors, Heads of Service, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Environment, through discussion at Senior Leadership Team, Portfolio Briefing, and the Executive Team.

Strategic Finance have been consulted and agree with the contents of this report.

6. Next steps and timelines

Highways will continue to manage the delivery of schemes within the Capital Plan by updates throughout the financial year to Cabinet either through detailed reports taken by Highways, the first likely after April 2022 or via updates taken by corporate finance

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Cabinet approves

- The revised detailed 2-year Capital Plan 2021/22 and 2022/23 in the sum of £26,194,532 and £24,106,315 respectively, as shown in Appendix A.
- The delegation of authority to the Service Director Highways and Streetscene in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment to enable future amendments to identified schemes and funding allocation for those schemes, not already identified in this report in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules for the purposes of expediting efficient delivery of this programme.

8. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Cllr Mather was been briefed on the report on 13th December 2021 and has confirmed agreement with the officer recommendations detailed above. The proposals detailed in the paper support the Cabinet Member's Council Plan priority actions of making our roads better, safer and greener.

Cllr Mather noted this is a standard report taken each year rather than a request for additional funding.

9. Contact officer

Phillip Waddington
Group Engineer – Highways & Operations
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: phillip.waddington@kirklees.gov.uk

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet report from 1st June 2021 – found here (item8)
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6703>

Appendix A - Scheme List - Highways 2 year detailed capital plan 2021-22 & 2022-23

Appendix A includes a revised detailed programme of works to be implemented over the next 2 financial years based on the changes to funding allocations (part1) and an assumption of the 2023/24 funding available until the CRSTS assurance process and funding allocations has been finalised.

Appendix B - Highways 2021/22 Outturn and rollover report.

11. Service Director responsible

Wendy Blakeley, Service Director Highways and Streetscene
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: Wendy.Blakeley@kirklees.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Total Planning Allocation
Borrowing
Self/Service Funded
Grant/Contribution
Receipts

50,300,847	26,194,532	24,106,315	50,300,847
22,283,852	11,528,745	10,765,107	22,283,852
0	0	0	0
28,016,995	14,665,787	13,351,208	28,016,995
0	0	0	0

New Schemes added since last approved Capital Plan on 1st June

reprofiled funding highlighted orange

Programme	Capital code	Locality	Ward	Expected total cost of the 2yr project £000's	2021/22 Budget £000's	2022/23 Budget £000's	2 Yr Total £000's
ASSET MANAGEMENT							
1A - Principal Roads							
Principal Road Surfacing Dressing Programme	C.61131				550,000	550,000	1,100,000
Pre Surface dressing patching	C.61132				250,000	300,000	550,000
SCRIM deficient sites	C.62860				150,000	150,000	300,000
A641/A6107 Bradley Bar Kerbing	C.64986	Fixby	Ashbrow			45,000	45,000
A6024 Woodhead Road Landslip	C.65284	Holme Moss	Holme Valley South	132,000		1,300,000	1,432,000
A62 Queensgate, Huddersfield	C.65325	Huddersfield	Newsome			500,000	500,000
A653 Leeds Road, Shaw Cross	C.65442	Shaw Cross	Batley East		400,000	400,000	800,000
A644 Huddersfield Ravensthorpe	C.65441	Ravensthorpe	Dewsbury West		370,000		370,000
A616 Sheffield Road, New Mill	C.65451	New Mill	Holme Valley South		515,000		515,000
A62 Leeds Road	C.64421	Bradley	Ashbrow / Mirfield		1,260,000		1,260,000
A635 Barnsley Road, Flockton	C.65611	Flockton	Kirkburton		120,000		120,000
A651 Bradford Road, Birkenshaw	C.65610	Birkenshaw	Birstall and Birkenshaw		100,000		100,000
footway schemes to be identified						67,706	67,706
				7,159,706	3,847,000	3,312,706	7,159,706
				7,159,706	3,847,000	3,312,706	7,159,706
1B - Roads Connecting Communities							
B & C Road Surface Dressing Programme	C.61178				227,000	250,000	
Pre surface dressing patching	C.61179				250,000	250,000	
B6115 Falledge Ln Footway Scheme	C.65481	Upper Denby	Denby Dale		5,000		
B6117 Hostingley Ln Footway Scheme	C.65482	Thornhill	Dewsbury South		10,000		
C126 Smithy Brook Lane	C.65483	Thornhill	Dewsbury South		9,000		
B6432 Firth Street, Huddersfield	C.64091	Huddersfield	Newsome		10,000	227,000	
Queen Street South, Huddersfield	C.65327	Huddersfield	Newsome			68,000	
C566 Leys Lane Emley/Park Lane Emley	C.65443	Emley	Denby Dale		320,000		
C565 Upper Lane Emley	C.65484	Emley	Denby Dale		150,000		
C629 Geldholt Bank	C.65484	Gledholt	Greenhead		26,000		
B6116 Liley Lane Footways	C.65628	Grange Moor	Kirkburton		45,000		
Roads connecting communities - schemes to be identified					167,052	396,258	
Priority footway programme - schemes to be identified						200,000	
				2,610,310	1,219,052	1,391,258	2,610,310
				2,610,310	1,219,052	1,391,258	2,610,310
1C - Unclassified Roads							
U Road Patching	C.64298				300,000	300,000	
U Road Surface Dressing	C.64299				235,000	200,000	
Longlands Rd/Royd St Slaitth - Resurf	C.65429	Slaitthwaite	Colne Valley		255,000		
Heys Lane, Slaitthwaite Resurfacing	C.65444	Slaitthwaite	Colne Valley		178,000		
Dirker Drive, Marsden Carr & Footway	C.65490	Marsden	Colne Valley		140,000		
Royd St, Milns Carr & Footway Recon	C.65502	Milnsbridge	Golcar		130,000		
Highlands Avenue/Highcroft Cres, Alomondbury	C.65447	Alomondbury	Alomondbury		244,000		
Serpentine Road, Cleckheaton	C.64901	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton		175,000		
Roberttown Lane	C.65432	Roberttown	Liversedge and Gomersal		173,000		
Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike	C.65488	Holmfirth	Holme Valley South		230,000		
Woodsome Avenue, Mirfield	C.65668	Mirfield	Mirfield		50,000		
Sherwood Drive, Netherton	C.65766	Netherton	Crosland Moor and Netherton		55,000		
Hopton New Road, Mirfield	C.65644	Mirfield	Mirfield		140,000		
Thewils Lane, Crosland Moor	C.65808	Crosland Moor	Crosland Moor and Netherton		70,000		
Leymoor Road, Golcar	C.64102	Golcar	Golcar		278,000		
St Paul's Road, Kirkheaton	C.64904	Kirkheaton	Dalton			100,000	
Upper Road, Batley	C.65435	Batley	Batley East		140,000		
Woodsome Estate	C.65809	Batley	Batley West		90,000		
Dark Lane Batley	C.65810	Batley	Batley West		50,000		
Red Doles Lane, Huddersfield	C.65811	Huddersfield	Dalton		100,000		
Carr Top Lane Golcar	C.65812	Golcar	Golcar		5,000	100,000	
Yew Tree Road, Birchenclyffe	C.65813	Birchenclyffe	Lindley		200,000		
Drainage works	C.65814					50,000	
Willow Lane East	C.65815	Hillhouse	Greenhead		125,000		
Greenhill Bank Road	C.65816	New Mill	Holme Valley South		100,000		
Field Lane, Batley	C.65817	Batley	Batley East		140,000		
Brookhouse Lane/Near Bank Shelley	C.65818	Shelley	Denby Dale		200,000		
Cambridge Rd / Clare Hill Resurfacing	C.64893	Huddersfield	Newsome		120,000		
Bradley Mills Road - Resurfacing	C.65449	Bradley Mills	Dalton		83,000	117,000	
Wasp Nest Resurfacing	C.64906	Hillhouse	Greenhead		50,000		
City Fibre Footway Resurfacing	C.65010					10,000	
Oak Road	C.65937	Bradley	Ashbrow		94,085		
Chapel Lane	C.65938	Birstall	Birstall and Birkenshaw		43,886		
Bramwell Avenue / (part) Lowood Lane	C.65939	Birstall	Birstall and Birkenshaw		150,187		
Roslyn Avenue	C.65940	Netherton	Crosland Moor and Netherton		86,881		
School Lane	C.65941	Emley	Denby Dale		119,620		
Victoria Street	C.65942	Clayton West	Denby Dale		90,476		
Princess Road	C.65943	Chickenley	Dewsbury East			332,955	
Edge Road	C.65944	Thornhill	Dewsbury South			282,542	
Moorcroft Rd & Moorcroft Dr	C.65945	Dewsbury	Dewsbury West			236,940	
Priestley Avenue	C.65946	Heckmondwike	Heckmondwike		91,444		
Hollins Avenue	C.65947	Heckmondwike	Heckmondwike		85,083		
The Cobbles (Part)	C.65948	Meltham	Holme Valley North		80,446		
Far End Lane slip road to Woodhead Road	C.65949	Honley	Holme Valley North			17,058	
Sunny Heys Road (part)	C.65950	Meltham	Holme Valley North		36,320		
Sparrow Rise	C.65951	Meltham	Holme Valley North		36,342		
High Lane (Part)	C.65952	Hall Bower	Newsome		98,535		
School Lane	C.65953	Hartshead	Liversedge and Gomersal		71,888		
Lea Road	C.65954	Birstall Smithies	Batley West		152,914		
Acra Lane	C.65480	Meltham	Holme Valley North		70,000		
Back Lane	C.65440	Grange Moor	Kirkburton		45,000		
Falhouse Lane / Fixby Lane	C.65453	Whitley	Dewsbury South			30,000	
Reddisher Road / Waters Road	C.65431	Marsden	Colne Valley			100,000	
Flush House Lane	C.65456	Holmebridge	Holme Valley South			150,000	
Mill Street East	C.65328	Savile Town	Dewsbury South		500,000		
Forge Lane	C.65493	Savile Town	Dewsbury South		750,000		
Cawley Lane	C.65487	Heckmondwike	Heckmondwike		250,000		
Carlinghow Hill Road	C.65485	Batley	Batley West		144,000		
Carr Green Lane Road	C.65486	Rawthorpe	Dalton		15,000		
Fairfields Upper Denby Footways	C.65492	Upper Denby	Denby Dale		92,000		
Spring Lane, New Mill	C.65503	New Mill	Holme Valley South		157,000		
Moorside Road / Moor Royd Horley	C.65957	Honley	Holme Valley North		206,000		
Lea Lane, Netherton	C.65956	Netherton	Crosland Moor and Netherton		70,000		
Proprietary Surfacing Hotspots	C.63979				108,495		
Priority footway programme - schemes to be identified						250,000	
Unclassified Roads programme schemes to be identified						3,179,050	
				3,515,000	1,985,000	1,530,000	3,515,000
				9,642,147	5,716,602	3,925,545	9,642,147
				13,157,147	7,701,602	5,455,545	13,157,147
1D - Structures							
Principal Inspections (80254)	C.61211	Various	Various	300,000	150,000	150,000	
General Inspections (81837)	C.61212	Various	Various	140,000	70,000	70,000	
Un-programmed Inspections (82424)	C.61218	Various	Various	30,000	20,000	20,000	
Structures Interim Measures (80622)	C.61221	Various	Various	5,000	3,000	2,000	
Structures Assessments (2319)	C.61222	Various	Various	90,000	40,000	50,000	
Third Party Liaisons	C.61224	Various	Various	40,000	20,000	20,000	

APPENDIX 1

Abnormal Load Movements (83715)	C.61225	Various	Various	3,000	1,000	2,000	
Asset Management	C.61227	Various	Various	180,000	80,000	100,000	
Wall Surveys (80619)	C.64258	Various	Various	11,000	5,000	6,000	
Retaining Walls	C.61216	Various	Various	550,000	250,000	300,000	
Reactive Wall Maintenance	C.62307	Various	Various	35,000	15,000	20,000	
Minor Structural Maintenance	C.61210	Various	Various	400,000	150,000	250,000	
Bridge Strategy (8170)	C.61217	Various	Various	10,000	5,000	5,000	
Future Design Works (80440)	C.61223	Various	Various	30,000	15,000	15,000	
Thick Hollins Dike Bridge, Meltham (K0039)	C.62517	Meltham	Holme Valley North	260,000		260,000	
Mill Moor Road Culvert, Meltham (K1006)	C.62518	Meltham	Golcar	75,000	10,000	65,000	
Royd St Bridge, Milsnbridge (K0041)	C.64676	Milsnbridge	Golcar	230,000	5,000	225,000	
Willow Lane Bridge, Birkby (K0088)	C.64677	Birkby	Greenhead	170,000		170,000	
Haigh Culvert, Flockton (K1227)	C.64988	Jackson Bridge	Kirkburton	70,000		70,000	
South View Culvert, Jackson Bridge (K1022)	C.64999	Linthwaite	Holme valley South	60,000		60,000	
Lower Clough Culvert, Linthwaite (K1051)	C.65000	Linthwaite	Colne Valley	20,000	20,000	0	
Jack Culvert, Birkby (K1104)	C.65556	Birkby	Greenhead	70,000		70,000	
Queensgate Underpass, Huddersfield (K0252)- Contribution	C.65856	Huddersfield	Newsome	70,000	10,000	60,000	
New schemes to be identified		Various	Various	258,650	19,146	239,504	
				3,107,650	888,146	2,219,504	3,107,650
				3,107,650	888,146	2,219,504	3,107,650
1F Street Lighting Replacement Strategy							
BUDGET HOLDING CODE	C.60911				210,630	40,000	250,630
HMB1568 SLPROGDEVELO	C.60919				136,000	40,000	176,000
Concrete Column Replacement Programme					250,000		
Almondbury 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63892		Almondbury	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Ashbrow 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63893		Ashbrow	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Batley East 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63894		Batley East	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Batley West 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63895		Batley West	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Birstall & Birkenshaw 2021 - LED upgrad	C.63896		Birstall and Birkenshaw	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Cleckheaton 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63897		Cleckheaton	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Colne Valley 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63898		Colne Valley	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Crosland Moor & Netherton 2021 - LED upg	C.63899		Crosland Moor and Netherton	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Dalton 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63900		Dalton	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Denby Dale 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63901		Denby Dale	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Dewsbury East 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63902		Dewsbury East	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Dewsbury South 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63903		Dewsbury South	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Dewsbury West 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63904		Dewsbury West	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Golcar 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63905		Golcar	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Greenhead 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63906		Greenhead	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Heckmondwike 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63907		Heckmondwike	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Holme Valley North 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63908		Holme Valley North	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Holme Valley South 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63909		Holme Valley South	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Kirkburton 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63910		Kirkburton	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Lindley 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63911		Lindley	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Liversedge & Gomersal 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63912		Liversedge and Gomersal	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Mirfield 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63913		Mirfield	136,000	40,000	176,000	
Newsome 2021 - LED upgrade	C.63914		Newsome	136,000	40,000	176,000	
				4,474,630	3,474,630	1,000,000	4,474,630
					250,000		0
				4,724,630	3,724,630	1,000,000	4,724,630
1J - Unadopted Roads							
Schemes to identify					50,000	50,000	
				100,000	50,000	50,000	100,000
				100,000	50,000	50,000	100,000
1K - Locality Based U Road Improvements							
Almondbury Ward							
Holme Avenue, Dalton	C.65654	Dalton	Almondbury	4,070	4,070		
Forest Road, Dalton	C.65655	Dalton	Almondbury	161,518		161,518	
Crest Avenue, Dalton	C.65656	Dalton	Almondbury	14,462	14,462		
Greenhead Avenue	C.65657	Dalton	Almondbury	82,313		82,313	
Manor Park Way j/w Woodlands Rd East , Lepton	C.65658	Lepton	Almondbury	31,680	31,680		
Common End Lane	C.65659	Lepton	Almondbury	80,991		80,991	
Fields Road	C.65660	Lepton	Almondbury	68,723	68,723		
Fenay Drive	C.65661	Fenay Bridge	Almondbury	17,397	17,397		
Ashbrow							
Bradley Boulevard	C.65662	Sheepridge	Ashbrow	341,330		341,330	
Wiggan Lane	C.65663	Sheepridge	Ashbrow	216,920		216,920	
Tubby Lane	C.65664	Fartown	Ashbrow	7,152	7,152		
Brooks Yard	C.65665	Bradley	Ashbrow	7,318	7,318		
Batley East							
Mill Road	C.65717	Batley	Batley East	254,980		254,980	
Upper Mount Street	C.65718	Batley	Batley East	33,264	33,264		
Oxford Street	C.65719	Batley	Batley East	148,500	148,500		
Crossley Terrace	C.65720	Batley	Batley East	11,743	11,743		
Salter Street	C.65721	Batley	Batley East	8,316	8,316		
Batley West							
Fountains Avenue	C.65647	Healey	Batley West	75,625	75,625		
Easby Avenue	C.65648	Healey	Batley West	16,170	16,170		
Abbey Road	C.65649	Healey	Batley West	78,650	78,650		
Tichbourne Street	C.65650	Healey	Batley West	26,276	26,276		
Norfolk Avenue	C.65651	Staincliffe	Batley West	187,000		187,000	
South Bank Road	C.65652	Carlinghow	Batley West	36,850	36,850		
Meadow Close	C.65653	Birstall	Batley West	37,950		37,950	
Birstall & Birkenshaw							
Queen Street, Gomersal - Cllr Ranked 1	C.65722	Gomersal	Birstall and Birkenshaw	71,500	71,500		
Raikes Lane - Dark Lane to Howarth Road	C.65723	Birstall	Birstall and Birkenshaw	200,019		200,019	
Raikes Lane/The Mount - Haworth Road to Field Head Lane	C.65723	Birstall	Birstall and Birkenshaw	132,069	132,069		
Moorland Ave		Birkenshaw	Birstall and Birkenshaw	29,923		29,923	
Grange Ave		Easr Bierley	Birstall and Birkenshaw	23,463		23,463	
Cleckheaton							
Prospect Road	C.65709	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton	104,630		104,630	
Horncastle Street	C.65710	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton	51,485		51,485	
Booth Street	C.65711	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton	125,447	125,447		
Northgate	C.65712	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton	155,326	155,326		
Highfield Terrace	C.65713	Cleckheaton	Cleckheaton	24,316	24,316		
Colne Valley							
Woods Avenue/Woods Mount/ Woods Terrace	C.65714	Marsden	Colne Valley	270,743		270,743	
Low Westwood Lane	C.65715	Wellhouse	Colne Valley	115,964	115,964		
West Slaithwaite Road/Crow Tree Road.	C.65716	Slaithwaite	Colne Valley	308,903	308,903		
Crosland Moor & Netherton							
Midway	C.65700	South Crosland	Crosland Moor and Netherton	251,872		251,872	
Butternab Road (pavements)	C.65701	Beaumont Park	Crosland Moor and Netherton	144,668		144,668	
Yew Green Avenue	C.65702	Lockwood	Crosland Moor and Netherton	83,466		83,466	
Dalton							
Kingston Avenue	C.65703	Dalton	Dalton	189,992		189,992	
Mayfield Ave - Part	C.65704	Dalton	Dalton	47,165	47,165		
Orchard Road Kirkheaton	C.65705	Kirkheaton	Dalton	291,670		291,670	
Denby Dale							
Carr Hill Road, Upper Cumberworth	C.65706	Upper Cumberworth	Denby Dale	397,691	397,691		
Dearne Dike Lane/Broadstone Road, Birdsedge	C.65707	Cumberworth	Denby Dale	144,034	144,034		
Coalpit Lane, Upper Denby	C.65708	Upper Denby	Denby Dale	69,693		69,693	
Dewsbury East							
Moorlands Avenue	C.65692	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	70,312		70,312	
Moorlands Avenue (NORTH)	C.65693	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	62,040		62,040	
Moorlands Avenue (WEST)	C.65694	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	18,167		18,167	
Bywell Road	C.65695	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	86,031	86,031		
Northfield Place	C.65696	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	39,848	39,848		
Swindon Road	C.65697	Eightlands	Dewsbury East	47,121		47,121	
Northfield Road	C.65698	Dewsbury	Dewsbury East	90,090	90,090		
Granville Street	C.65699	Eightlands	Dewsbury East	75,349		75,349	

Highways Capital Plan 2021-22 - January 2022 update		Original Budget 2021-22 (April Decsion)	Rollover from 2020-21	Additional grant November 2021 update	Re-profiled budget November 2021 update	Total revised 2021-22
Maintenance						
Principal Roads	Maint Grant	£2,771,706	-£67,018	£0		£2,704,688
	Pothole Grant	£612,118	£372,509	£0		£984,627
	Challenge Fund Grant	£0	£2,002,685	-£276,000	-£1,569,000	£157,685
		£3,383,824	£2,308,176	-£276,000	-£1,569,000	£3,847,000
Roads Conn Communities	Maint Grant	£1,375,000	£139,052	£0	-£295,000	£1,219,052
		£1,375,000	£139,052	£0	-£295,000	£1,219,052
Local Community Roads	Borrowing	£2,045,000	£50,000	£0	-£110,000	£1,985,000
	Maint Grant	£472,304	£428,133		-£267,000	£383,437
	YWA Payment for scheme	£0	£0	£0		£0
	Pothole Grant	£2,781,877	£2,275,288			£5,057,165
	Challenge Fund Grant			£276,000		£276,000
		£5,299,181	£2,753,421	£26,000	-£377,000	£7,701,602
Locality Based U Road Imps	Borrowing	£5,009,160	£611,795	£0	-£611,795	£5,009,160
		£5,009,160	£611,795	£0		£5,009,160
Structures	General Contribs	£0	£0	£0		£0
	Maint Grant (£1.215 2020-21)	£1,579,000	-£155,854	£0	-£535,000	£888,146
		£1,579,000	-£155,854	£0		£888,146
Street Lighting	Borrowing	£2,000,000	£74,630	£2,400,000	-£1,000,000	£3,474,630
	Maintenance Grant			£250,000		£250,000
		£2,000,000	£74,630	£2,650,000	-£1,000,000	£3,724,630
Unadopted Roads	Borrowing	£50,000	£0	£0		£50,000
	TOTAL MAINTENANCE	£18,696,165	£5,731,220	£2,400,000	-£4,387,795	£22,439,590
Integrated Transport						
Integrated Public Transport	Borrowing	£0	£0	£0		£0
	IT Grant - Bus Hot Spots	£373,072	£0	£0		£373,072
	IT Grant - Air Quality	£115,000	£86,425	£0		£201,425
	IT Grant	£48,000	£102,202	£0		£150,202
		£536,072	£188,627	£0		£724,699
Network Management	Borrowing	£100,000	£0	£0		£100,000
	IT Grant - UTMC Asset Refurb	£391,000	-£120,805	£0	-£46,195	£224,000
	DfT Grant - Traffic Signals Maintenance			£125,000	£0	£125,000
		£491,000	-£120,805	£125,000	-£46,195	£449,000
Cycling & Walking	Borrowing (disabled crossing etc)	£20,000	£4,955	£0		£24,955
	Developer Contribution	£0	£33,971	£0		£33,971
	IT Grant	£167,000	£12,000	£0		£179,000
		£187,000	£50,926	£0		£237,926
Safer Roads	Borrowing	£450,000	£0	£0	-£15,000	£435,000
	General Contributions	£0	£0	£0		£0
	IT Grant / Safer Healthier Streets	£1,944,000	£78,687	£0	-£1,292,000	£730,687
		£2,394,000	£78,687	£0	-£1,307,000	£1,165,687
Flood Mgt & Drainage	Borrowing	£450,000	£0	£0		£450,000
	EA Grant (Kirklees Culverts Prog)	£230,000	£63,056	£0		£293,056
	Developer Contribution	£0	£12,310			£12,310
		£680,000	£75,366	£0		£755,366
Developer Funded Scheme:	Contribs	£0	£422,264	£0		£422,264
	TOTAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT	£4,288,072	£695,065	£125,000	-£1,338,195	£3,754,942
	TOTAL Highways Capital Plan 2021-22	£22,984,237	£6,426,285	£2,525,000	-£5,725,990	£26,194,532

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Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 18th January 2022
Title of report: Non-Transport Function Borrowing Regulations

Purpose of report:

To seek member agreement to consent in principle to the regulations to provide the Combined Authority with the power to borrow for non-transport related functions, set out in the 'minded to' Devolution Deal. To delegate authority to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of each Constituent Council and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the regulations further to any technical issues which may arise.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Affects more than one electoral wards.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No The Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee has agreed that this be exempt from call-in on the grounds of urgency, for the reasons set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Jacqui Gedman 06/01/22
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston 06/01/22
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 06/01/22
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Pandor, Leader of the Council

Electoral wards affected: ALL

Ward councillors consulted: YES

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? YES

1. Summary

- 1.1 The West Yorkshire “minded-to” Devolution Deal was announced as part of the Budget on 11 March 2020. Statutory processes were completed in January 2021, and the mayoral combined authority model was adopted along with additional functions. As part of enacting the Devolution Deal, any future powers pursuant to primary legislation would require separate legislation. This was highlighted in the Cabinet report dated 26th November 2020.
- 1.2 The Government have made a late notification to the Combined Authority (CA) that they are aiming to lay the draft Order for Powers to Borrow for Non-Transport related functions in January 2022 and therefore need consents from all constituent councils and the CA by **20 January 2022**. The CA already has powers to borrow for transport and for police and crime, this power enables borrowing for the other CA functions such as housing, regeneration and net zero carbon.
- 1.3 The Regulations would extend the borrowing powers of three Combined Authorities, South Yorkshire, North of Tyne and West Yorkshire. Currently they are able to borrow only for their transport functions, and in the case of West Yorkshire, for Police and Crime Commissioner functions. If these Regulations are approved and made, these Combined Authorities will be able to borrow for all their functions, subject to a debt cap, agreed with HM Treasury, limiting their external debt. Debt caps have now been agreed for 2021/22 and discussions for 2022 and future years with HM Treasury are likely to begin in the New Year.
- 1.4 Further to the Order and the approvals already provided, this report seeks to:
 - Consent in principle to the regulations to provide the Combined Authority with the power to borrow for non-transport related functions, set out in the ‘minded to’ Devolution Deal.
 - Delegate authority to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of each Constituent Council and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the regulations further to any technical issues which may arise.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Devolution Deal included the provisions for the CA to be given the powers for non-transport borrowing functions.
- 2.2 When the draft Devolution Order was considered and approved by the CA in November 2020, it was reported that the consent of each Constituent Council and the CA would be required to any Regulations giving the CA powers to borrow for non-transport functions, but that this would to be progressed separately, at a later date to the making of the Order, as separate legislation is required.
- 2.3 At 2.6 of the *West Yorkshire Devolution – Consent to Draft Order* report presented to Council 25th November and Cabinet 26th November 2020 states “*The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 sets out statutory processes to be followed before any Order is made. Each aspect has a specific statutory procedure to be followed. In addition, the consent of each Constituent Council and the Combined Authority is required to any Regulations giving the Combined Authority powers to borrow for non-transport functions, however these are to be progressed separately and at a later date to the making of the Order.*”

- 2.4 At the Combined Authority Meeting in October 2021, the debt cap of £248.326 million for 2021/22 as offered by HM Treasury was approved, which was the first stage in the process to enable the non-transport borrowing powers to be agreed. The CA are expecting treasury to contact them in the New Year to start the negotiation for future debt caps.
- 2.5 Government are now finalising the legislation to enable the CA to borrow for non-transport functions. The legislation will be in line with powers already held by other Combined Authorities and there is no facility to make amendments to this. It is expected that the legislation will be laid in parliament in January 2022, the date is not yet known.
- 2.6 A letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities dated 23rd December 2021 request they receive confirmation of consent from the Combined Authority and its constituent councils by **20 January 2022**.
- 2.7 Liaison is underway with Local Authority Officers to enable equivalent approvals to be made by each Local Authority prior to the Order being laid.
- 2.8 Once the CA has received the powers, it will enable borrowing to be undertaken as part of the budget process for non-transport functions, such as housing or tackling the climate emergency. The powers would be used as part of the annual CA budget setting process which is agreed at Combined Authority meeting in February.
- 2.9 The power to borrow is a CA decision and not a mayoral one. The Mayor has the power to raise a precept (and also has a Police and Crime precept) but this is separate to the borrowing powers. The precept can only be used to fund mayoral functions through the Mayors budget. The Mayor has made a decision not to raise a precept in 22/23.
- 2.10 Further details will be provided at future meetings regarding options and proposals as they arise.

3. Implications for the Council

Working with People

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

Working with Partners

The “minded-to” Deal will encourages collaboration on systems, structures and procedures to support the area to make decisions, set strategy and manage delivery across a range of partners in West Yorkshire.

Place Based Working

The “minded-to” Deal put in place appropriate governance structures that reflect the needs and opportunities across the West Yorkshire area and the places within it although there are no direct implications from this report.

Climate Change and Air Quality

As part of the “minded-to” Deal text, the Government welcomed West Yorkshire’s commitment to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. There are no immediate implications on Clean Growth arising as a direct result of the report.

Improving outcomes for children

The “minded-to” Deal includes measures around funding and functions focused on skills and education, including careers advice, apprenticeships and Further Education. There are no immediate implications from this report.

Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

The Regulations would extend the borrowing powers of the Combined Authority. Currently they are able to borrow only for their transport functions and for Police and Crime Commissioner functions. If these Regulations are approved and made, the CA will be able to borrow for all their functions, subject to a debt cap, agreed with HM Treasury, limiting their external debt.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for implementation of the deal. The assessment has taken account of the obligations under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the public sector equality duty). It is not expected that the proposals described in this report will have any adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 As part of the statutory process, a public consultation has been undertaken and the summary of the results were submitted to the Secretary of State before the Order creating the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority was made.
- 4.2 The final Consent to Draft Order was presented at Council 25th November 2020 and agreed by Cabinet 26th November 2020.
- 4.3 The Leader of the Council supports the recommendations.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 5.1 To consent in principle to the regulations to provide the Combined Authority with the power to borrow for non-transport related functions, set out in the ‘minded to’ Devolution Deal.
- 5.2 To delegate authority to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of each Constituent Council and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the regulations further to any technical issues which may arise.

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s recommendations

- 6.1 The Leader of the Council supports the recommendations at Paragraph 5.

7. Contact officer

Julie Muscroft – Service Director, Legal Governance and Commissioning – julie.muscroft@kirklees.gov.uk – 01484 221000

Nick Howe – Policy, Partnerships & Corporate Planning
nick.howe@kirklees.gov.uk - 01484 221000

Karl Larrad – Legal Governance and Commissioning

karl.larrad@kirklees.gov.uk - 01484221000

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

West Yorkshire Devolution – Consent to Draft Order
[DRAFT Cabinet WYDevo Report 26Nov20.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

9. Service Director responsible

Jacqui Gedman – Chief Executive
jacqui.gedman@kirklees.gov.uk - 01484 22100

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Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 18 January 2022
Title of report: Relocation of Council's indoor market in Huddersfield

Purpose of report:

This report requests that Cabinet approves the proposal to provide alternative accommodation for the market traders presently located in Queensgate to vacant shops or containers to be located within Huddersfield Town Centre for an interim period of at least 3 years.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes - this report is likely to result in expenditure exceeding £250K.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Colin Parr - Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change, 5 th January 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	Eamonn Croston - Finance and Accountancy, 6 th January 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – Legal Governance and Commissioning, 6 th January 2022
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Will Simpson - Culture and Greener Kirklees Cllr Peter Mc Bride – Regeneration

Electoral wards affected: Newsome

Ward councillors consulted: Yes, Cllr, Cooper, Cllr Lee-Richards, Cllr Allison

Public or private: Public

GDPR – no personal or sensitive data; or other information covered by GDPR is included in this report

1. Summary

- 1.1 The proposed Cultural Heart project requires the Queensgate Market building to be vacant by 31st August 2022 to enable works to commence.
- 1.2 This report is to seek Cabinet approval to provide alternative accommodation for the market traders presently located in Queensgate to vacant shops or containers to be located within Huddersfield Town Centre for an interim period of at least 3 years until the Northumberland Street Regeneration Project incorporating a new market offer is delivered.
- 1.3 The intention is to minimise the reliance on the use of containers by using any vacant shops that are in close proximity to where the containers are located. The containers will be adapted to be suitable for use by the variety of market traders. The location of where these cabins would be placed is to be agreed. By careful planning of the street units and the vacant shops, it is hoped that the synergies created by the existing provision can be maintained and the whole development can operate as a single offer without leaving some stall holders disadvantaged which will help to build the offer and be ready to move to its ultimate location.

2. Information Required to take a decision

Background

- 2.1 Kirklees Council made a public commitment in June 2019 to create a “thriving, modern-day Town Centre” offering “vibrant, art, leisure and nightlife... thriving businesses and a great place to live” through the launch of its Blueprint. Six areas were identified as being key to the Town Centre Regeneration; the Station Gateway, St Peter’s, Kingsgate and King Street, New Street, the Civic Quarter and the Cultural Heart.
- 2.2 The aim to create a cultural hub (the Cultural Heart) in the town is a key component of the plan. Its location around the Queensgate market and library area is significant as it will anchor footfall in this area and create a cluster of cultural activities that link back to the Town Hall and also the Lawrence Batley Theatre. It will also complement the emerging leisure focus at the Kingsgate centre.
- 2.3 As part of the plans for St Peter’s area, it is intended to amalgamate the market offer in Huddersfield on to the current Open Market site, as part of the Northumberland Street Regeneration Project.
- 2.4 Currently there are a significant number of projects in and around Northumberland Street including the Trans Pennine Upgrade (TRU) which undoubtedly will lead to disruption in the area. It is therefore anticipated that this relocation of the traders would need to be for at least 3 years.
- 2.5 Following the decision to merge both Queensgate and Huddersfield Open Market to create a new market at Northumberland Street, officers have already carried out a programme of rationalisation in respect of the traders at Queensgate Market. There

currently remains 32 stall holders who occupy approximately 10,000 sq ft of retail space (with ancillary storage and car parking).

Relocation of the Indoor Market proposal

- 2.6 A high-quality temporary market will provide a reason for people to continue to visit Huddersfield town centre. This is especially important given the number of construction projects that are going to be active in the town centre over the coming years.
- 2.7 It is important that the Market continues to trade continuously, and the traders are located in close proximity to one another. A temporary closure of the market, could cause significant harm to the proposals planned within the Northumberland Street Regeneration Project as it could lose its core traders and would also create a gap in customer choice available in the town centre.
- 2.8 Officers are now exploring the best location for the market traders to be relocated for the short to medium term in Huddersfield town centre. We would ensure good quality public realm in the area accommodating the relocated market to further enhance the area and create an attractive area for people to visit and use.
- 2.9 Officers will also be looking at where events can be located on a temporary basis in the town centre, further boosting provision on a short to medium timescale while our long term vision for other areas of the town centre are implemented.

Long Term Vision

- 2.10 The intention is for the relocated traders to form the core market offer in the new market as part of the Northumberland Street Regeneration Project.
- 2.11 Experience of other market projects in the U.K. has shown that those Councils which have planned and adequately invested in temporary markets have benefited from the continuation of healthy trading. Those that have not, have damaged the markets in the process of trying to improve them and undermined the whole purpose of the investment.

Cost breakdown

- 2.12 It is anticipated that the fit out of shops and purchase of the containers including adaption for use by traders and enabling works on site would cost in the region of £1.6 million. The Capital costs will be coming from within the capital plan. The capital project is the Northumberland Street Regen Project,

Table 2.1 – Indicative Capital Cost breakdown

Item	Indicative Cost
Containers purchased	£375,000
Containers fit out	£375,000

Shops fit out	£200,000
Enabling works	£250,000
Public Realm enhancements	£150,000
MPE fees (oversee the decant - working with traders and Councils TA's and contractors regarding specifications, programming)	£75,000
Total	£1,425,000
Contingency @ 10%	£1,567,500

- 2.13 The revenue breakdown is detailed below, excludes day to day staffing costs which would be picked up in the existing markets revenue budget.

Table 2.2 – Indicative Revenue breakdown

Item	Indicative Cost
Security	£45,000 p annum
Utilities	Tenant to pay (meters to be incorporated in the fit out)
Waste Management	£30,000 per annum
Marketing, Promotion and activities	£50,000 per annum
Planning, legal, licensing, printing and stationery	£50,000
Vacant shops – rental/rates	£100,000 p annum
Contingency @ 10%	

The cumulative revenue costs based on an interim 3 years period are £725,000.

Timescale

- 2.14 To achieve the proposed timescales for the Cultural Heart development it will be necessary to relocate the market traders in August 2022. The timing of this will also fit with retailers' requirement to be established in their new location ahead of the busier, festive period.
- 2.15 There is a long lead in period to enable the fit out of containers to create appropriate accommodation for the different traders so an order needs to be placed at the earliest opportunity to ensure they are ready for occupation before the end of August 2022, so it does not hold up the delivery of the Cultural Heart project.
- 2.16 Authority is sought to delegate the decision on the details of the decant to the Strategic Director (Environment & Climate Change) who has operational responsibility for the Market. Where vacant shops in third party ownership are involved, authority is sought for the terms of those lettings to be negotiated and agreed by the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning and to agree and complete the legal documentation required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Kirklees Council officers held town centre consultations and workshops in the town centre from July to August 2019. This was based upon the Place Standard approach. Consultation over a 12 week period involved nearly 1,000 face to face interviews with Huddersfield citizens, focus groups, a staffed exhibition in the Piazza, Huddersfield and an on-line Blueprint questionnaire.

We also carried out the market research in Huddersfield to enable us to understand the shopping behaviours and views of communities and help shape the development of proposals to improve the Huddersfield market experience. Over 1000+ people took part and 6 focus groups were carried out. The market research explored:

- The views and opinions on the existing market offer in Huddersfield
- The shopping patterns of communities in the Huddersfield and surrounding area [up to 7 miles radius]
- The views and opinions for a new market offer in Huddersfield for the future.

3.2 Working with Partners

A NMTF (National Market Traders Federation) working group was established 3 years ago, at the Queensgate Market and the Markets Service holds regular meetings with the group to discuss the emerging proposals regarding relocation of the market.

Meetings with their Chief Executive and field officers have also taken place.

3.3 Place Based Working

Kirklees as a place is made up of different communities and the diversity of its communities is one of its key strengths. Place based working recognises that the needs of Kirklees residents and communities vary widely and that, by using intelligence and information, we will allocate resources in the best way possible to achieve the best outcomes for residents. We will work with communities, so we can prioritise local needs and Councillors, using the insight they have about the communities they represent, will be central to this activity.

The development of the Blueprint and the associated Place Standard exercise has already engaged town centre stakeholders, businesses and users to help shape the overall approach to redeveloping Huddersfield Town Centre.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Tackling the climate emergency, reducing emissions and improving air quality are key long-term priorities for the Council to improve the quality of life for our residents and create a borough that is healthier, more sustainable and fairer for everyone.

The Councils policy on the Climate Change Emergency will be considered as part of the next stage in determine where and what the relocated market will consist of.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The Market vision is to create a much more family friendly space with children's activities which will encourage families to spend time together.

3.6 Legal

From a legal perspective there are two possible options to relocate the market which are currently being considered.

One option is to relocate the market as a statutory market temporarily onto surrounding streets /highway (as opposed to relocation onto council owned or controlled land entitling it to use the land for market purposes).

The alternative option is for the Council to follow the procedures in section 3 and schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to formally adopt a statutory licensing scheme for streets in which trading takes place to create licensed streets. This will require market traders to obtain licences or consents from the Council for time limited street trading during the refurbishment of the market.

Officers will consider both options as part of the work now being undertaken agreeing where the relocated market will be located in Huddersfield Town Centre.

It is likely that a Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order will be required under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. In addition the Council will need to consider whether stalls and kiosks placed in the streets will require planning permission.

Where it is proposed that vacant shops are used, and these are in third party ownership, legal input will be required to negotiate and complete any documentation required should those third parties require the Council to be the tenant.

3.7 Financial

The decant has an estimated gross cost of £1.6 million (exc VAT). The costs set out in this report will be met from the Council's Capital Plan. The capital project is the Northumberland St Regen Project

The revenue costs will be met from the Strategic Investment Reserve.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 Since the launch of the Blueprint in 2019, there have been numerous discussions with the traders regarding their accommodation in the Queensgate Market, the implications that the proposed Cultural Heart Project will have and the Council's intention for a new market in the town centre. This has resulted in traders based in Queensgate Market who did not want to be part of the new market project to leave.

- 4.2 Consultations with those directly affected by the proposed decant will be further consulted with, and as required by the requirements of the legislative powers used to implement the temporary market.

5. **Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 If the Officer recommendations are approved, officers will determine the location of the relocated market, seek to procure the acquisition and modification of brand new containers to accommodate the traders. We will minimise the reliance on the use of containers by using any vacant shops that are near to where the containers are located.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

6.1 **Cabinet is requested to:**

- (a) Approve the relocation of the traders currently based in Queensgate Market;
- (b) Approve the required capital funding of £1.6 Million (ex VAT), from the capital plan, for Huddersfield Town Centre as identified in the Council's Capital Plan;
- (c) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director (Environment & Climate Change) to implement the scheme and in conjunction with the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to agree the preferred legal powers to use in this case namely, either the licensed street trading option or alternatively to establish a temporary statutory market and take all necessary steps and actions in accordance with the chosen legal powers and Kirklees's constitutional requirements to implement the proposal.
- (d) Delegate authority to the Service Director for Culture and Visitor Economy to undertake the operational management of the Market, working with the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to agree relevant leases and management agreements as required.
- (e) Delegate the decision on the details of the decant to the Strategic Director (Environment & Climate Change) who has operational responsibility for the Market. Where vacant shops in third party ownership are involved, authority is sought for the terms of those lettings to be negotiated and agreed by the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning and to agree and complete the legal documentation required.

Reason: To enable the decant to be implemented without unnecessary delay.

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

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holders for Corporate, Regeneration and Town Centres recommend that Cabinet:
- (a) Approve the relocation of the traders currently based in Queensgate Market;
 - (b) Approve the required capital funding from the capital plan, for Huddersfield Town Centre as identified in the Council's Capital Plan.
 - (c) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director (Environment & Climate Change) to implement the scheme and in conjunction with the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to agree the preferred legal powers to use in this case namely, either the licensed street trading option or alternatively to establish a temporary statutory market and take all necessary steps and actions in accordance with the chosen legal powers and Kirklees's constitutional requirements to implement the proposal.
 - (d) Delegate authority to the Service Director for Culture and Visitor Economy to undertake the operational management of the Market, working with the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to agree relevant leases and management agreements as required.
 - (e) Delegate the decision on the details of the decant to the Strategic Director (Environment & Climate Change) who has operational responsibility for the Market. Where vacant shops in third party ownership are involved, authority is sought for the terms of those lettings to be negotiated and agreed by the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning and to agree and complete the legal documentation required.

9. **Contact officers**

Chris Cotton – Strategic Lead for Market chris.cotton@kirklees.gov.uk 01484 221000

Sarah Collins – Programme Manager Town Centre Regeneration
sarah.collins@kirklees.gov.uk 01484 221000

10. **Strategic Director responsible**

Colin Parr – Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change

11. **Attachments**

N/A

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18th January 2022

Title of report: 2021-22 Mid-year Corporate Performance and Impact Report

Purpose of report:

The 2021-22 Mid-year Corporate Performance and Impact Report provides Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance and highlights the most significant issues and challenges facing the Council and partners in improving outcomes across Kirklees.

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> ?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director – Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health – 21 st December 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston, Service Director – Finance – 3 rd January 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft, Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning – 5 th January 2022
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Paul Davies

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No personal data within report

1. Summary

The report provides an overview of key activities that contribute to the Kirklees Shared Outcomes and the council's 'efficient and effective' ambition. It distinguishes between how much the council has done, how well, and the impacts and outcomes of activities. The report also provides an update on impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and inequalities (where known).

Due to pressures and additional demands in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is the first corporate performance and impact report produced in 2021/22. Where data, information and evidence are available, the report aims to highlight the direct and indirect impact of the pandemic on the Council and on outcomes across Kirklees.

2. Information required to take a decision

Headline achievements and challenges relating to each outcome are presented in the 'Highlights' section at the front of the report. Cabinet is invited to consider this overview of Council performance and impact in contribution to each of the Kirklees Shared Outcomes and the Council's aspiration to be effective and efficient in the delivery of its services.

3. Implications for the Council

The attached report demonstrates progress in relation to the Kirklees Shared Outcomes. The report provides a high-level overview of performance across council activity including the following areas:

- Working with People
- Working with Partners
- Place Based Working
- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Improving outcomes for children
- Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

4. Next steps and timelines

The next corporate performance and impact report will be produced as an 'end of year' update and primarily focused on the priority actions and deliverables in the Council Plan 2021-23, with a continued focus on understanding and responding to inequalities and demonstrating the quality and impact of Council activity.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

6. It is recommended that the report is noted.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Head of Data and Insight, Mike Henry
Telephone – 01484 221000
Email – Mike.Henry@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

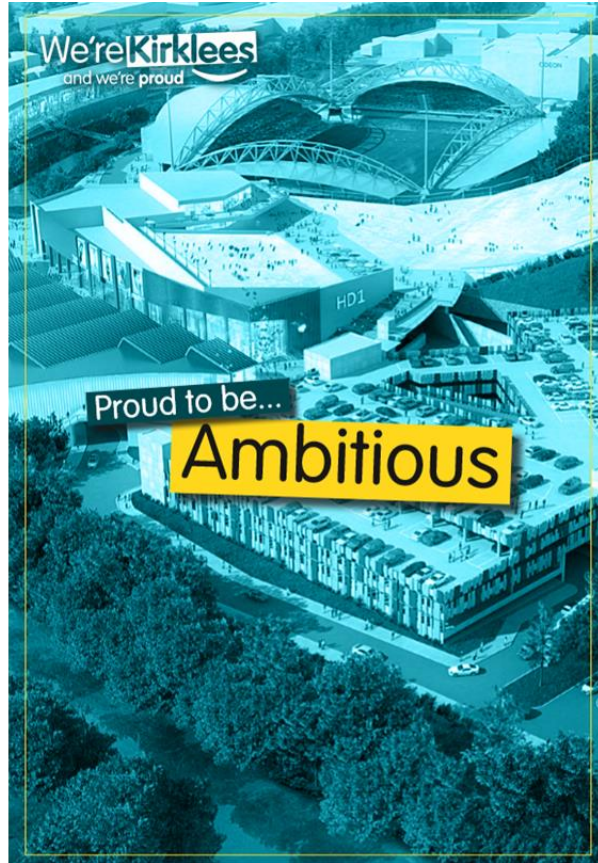
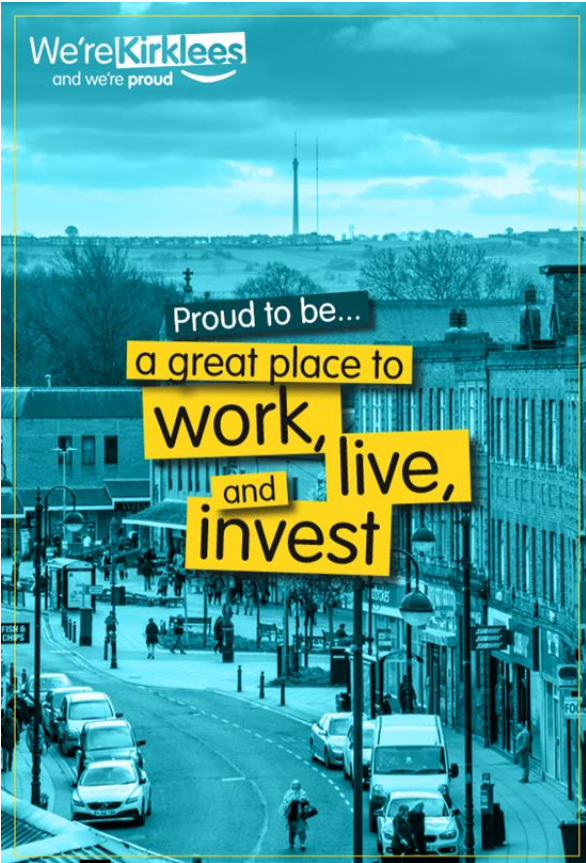
Not applicable

10. Service Director responsible

Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director of Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

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Corporate Performance and Impact Report



Mid-year update 2021/22



Our Vision

Our vision for Kirklees is 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.

Key Highlights

Cross-cutting issues



The impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic** on 'business as usual' remains a consistent theme for many areas of council activity. Recovery is now evident in some areas but this will need to be closely monitored.



Nationally a white paper on **Levelling Up** is expected in 2022 which may provide more clarity on its scope and expectations. Locally our progress towards reducing **inequalities** will need to be closely monitored in all areas of activity.



The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) notes that **Grant funding** for local government will rise by £1.6bn next year but will be frozen after that. The IFS argues that councils will increasingly rely on council tax increases to manage resulting shortfalls.

Best Start

Headline successes & achievements



Launch and implementation of an ambitious hub-based model, '**Kirklees Families Together**', to develop and support place-based Early Support in communities.



The **stability of placements** for children looked after in Kirklees is excellent. We are better than our statistical neighbours and the national average for the percentage of children with 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months and long-term placement stability.



There has been a change in where contacts to the **Children's Services front door** have been directed with higher numbers progressing to Early Support rather than Children's Social Care.

Headline challenges & risks



Timeliness in issuing new **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)** within 20 weeks of the request.



The percentage of all pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the **Early Years Foundation Stage** is lower than national benchmarks.

Well

Headline successes & achievements



Due to the success of the **vaccination programme**, hospitalisations and deaths from **COVID-19** remain relatively low despite an increase in case numbers.



Quit rates resulting from **smoking cessation support** within the Wellness Service are above the national average.

Headline challenges & risks



The number of people suffering from **long Covid** continues to rise. Modelled estimates suggest around 400 new cases per week, with around 1 in 5 of those requiring service support.



Referrals into **adult mental health services** are up by 46% for April-September 2021 compared with this period in 2020, and up by 20% compared with this period in 2019.

Key Highlights

Independent

Headline successes & achievements



Over the last 12 months the number of people receiving homecare has increased by 36% and the hours of support provided has risen by over 43%; reflecting the **increasing complexity of people supported in the community**.



Our reablement services has helped 80% of people referred to regain some **level of independence** following hospital admission or period of ill health.

Headline challenges & risks



Workforce capacity remains a challenge for the Council and our service providers. The mandated Covid19 vaccine policy may exacerbate staffing issues as may the impact of increased infection rates over the winter period.



We are working to assess the impact for Kirklees of the recent government policy changes in terms of the re-introduction of the **CQC inspection regime** and the changes to the **personal care costs cap**.

Aspire & Achieve

Headline successes & achievements



Successful co-production and launch of **Our Kirklees Futures**, a system-wide 10-year strategy for the lifelong learning journey across Kirklees.



Successfully securing £36 million investment in capital build projects, in line with an ambitious **SEND Transformation Plan**, for ambitious re-building of two special schools.

Headline challenges & risks



Low **educational outcomes** in the Early Years Foundation Stage and between young people identified with SEND and their peers.



Exclusions and suspensions for the SEND support and EHCP groups higher than national rates.



The numbers of children **electively home educated** increased in the autumn term, and there is pressure to find appropriate school places for those who are temporarily home educated..

Sustainable Economy

Headline successes & achievements



The rapid deployment of significant resource to **support local businesses** through the pandemic appears to have mitigated against significant business closures and job losses. The Business Growth and Economy service is now transitioning towards **supporting the recovery**, with greater focus on business start-ups and innovation.



Employment and skills support has successfully supported more people into work and exceeded delivery objectives in adult community learning. The Works Better programme and work with partners is placing a greater emphasis on supporting people in work to develop skills and progress careers.

Headline challenges & risks



There remain significant risks to economic recovery. **Businesses** face substantial **cost pressures** whilst many face **challenges recruiting staff**, and household finances remain tight as costs increase faster than incomes for many people.



Funding for **growth & regeneration priorities** is likely to be channelled through competitive bidding processes via West Yorkshire Combined Authority or central government. The council needs to be well placed to successfully secure funding and deliver planned major projects.

Key Highlights

Safe & Cohesive

Headline successes & achievements



COVID “bounce back” – Intensive work undertaken to engage with individuals and voluntary and community sector organisations. Successes included opening of Birkby Library, Community Champions and EU settlement scheme.



Collaborative work to undertake needs assessment relating to domestic abuse connected with Safe Accommodation and development of the **Domestic Abuse Strategy**.

Headline challenges & risks



Disproportionate impact of post COVID **disadvantage** and the possibility of **cohesion issues** with communities feeling marginalised and voices not heard.



Afghan resettlement and Asylum dispersal programmes have created pressures with availability of suitable housing and access to provision for complex support needs.

Clean & Green

Headline successes & achievements



The council reduced its **carbon emissions** by 53.5% in 2019/20 against the 2005-6 baseline, exceeding the 40% target set in 2010 and achieving it early.



Resources and Waste Strategy 2021-30 approved in September and interim waste contract agreed up to 2025.

Headline challenges & risks



The council has no direct control over many areas of activity that contribute to our borough’s carbon emissions. Other key challenges to **achieving net zero** include: energy market volatility, energy inefficient housing and buildings; the funding required to decarbonise these and the currently limited market capacity for delivery of deep retrofit schemes. .



Only 25% of household waste was **recycled** in 2020/21. The rate in 2019-20 was 26.7% - significantly lower than all other LAs in the Y&H region (44.2%) and than nationally (43%).



Total **cost of backlog repairs** on roads and pavements estimated at £259 million. Rises in inflation will have a significant impact on future material costs

Effective and Efficient

Headline successes & achievements



Increased **spend with local suppliers** in Kirklees



The launch of our new **careers site** to support our **recruitment challenges** and help us become an inclusive employer of choice



The continued rollout of **My Space** – a digital tool to enable front-line workers to engage with the Council and access information such as pay details, wellbeing support and Council updates

Headline challenges & risks



Significant **recruitment and retention** challenges – highlighted in a report to the [Personnel Committee](#) in November 2021.



Increased **mental health issues** for Kirklees Council staff

(1) Children in Kirklees have the best start in life



Outcome Definition

The first few years of every child's life help shape the skills they gain and the choices they make throughout their lives. We want children and their families, communities and services to work together to provide positive childhood experiences, support when it is needed and to ensure every child in Kirklees starts school healthy, happy and ready to learn.

Headlines

- The percentage of all pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the Early Years Foundation Stage has consistently fallen below national benchmarking.
- The stability of placements for children looked after in Kirklees is excellent. We are better than our statistical neighbours and the national average for the percentage of children with 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months and long-term placement stability.
- The increased number of support requests over the last year into the Thriving Kirklees Emotional Health and Wellbeing Pathway has led to increased waiting lists for mental health support although evidence shows that the waiting for this service is now gradually reducing.
- The number of referrals to Children's Social Care is stable, albeit significantly lower than the Statistical Neighbour and England averages.
- The number of children starting a Child Protection Plan has been lower overall than the number ceasing a plan, leading to an overall reduction in the number of children on a child protection plan. The rate of those starting a plan is also lower than Statistical Neighbour and England.
- The timeliness of processes in Children's Social Care shows a mixed picture with the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) being above national benchmarking but the timeliness of Children's Social Care Assessments being below national benchmarking.
- There has been a change in where contacts to the Children's Services front door have been directed. The number that have progressed to Early Support has been on a significant increasing trend, whilst the number being passed to Social Care has been more consistent.
- The take up of free early education for two year olds has fallen since the start of the pandemic, although it is now starting to increase again. There is also a similar picture for 3 and 4 year olds.



Population outcome indicators

School readiness: good level of development at the end of Reception

	Kirklees 2019	Statistical Neighbours 2019	Eng. 2019	Y&H 2019	Kirklees Diff to Eng.	National Rank	National Quartile
All children	70%	69%	72%	70%	-2%	114	D
SEN Support	19%	27%	29%	29%	-10%	143	D
EHCP	0%	3%	5%	3%	-5%	113	D

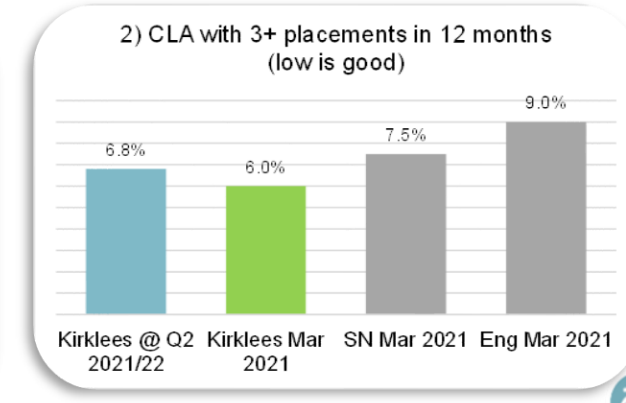
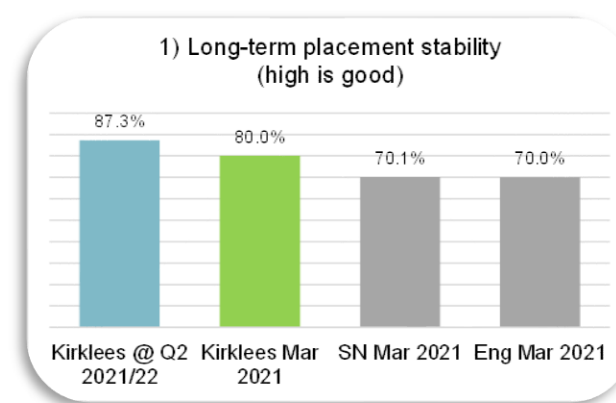
From 2007 – 2012, the percentage of all pupils achieving a **Good Level of Development** (GLD) was consistently higher than national and regional figures. In 2013 a new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile was introduced and from 2015 Kirklees figures have consistently fallen below national. In 2019 the Kirklees figures were in the bottom (D) quartile of all LAs. For all pupils at EYFS there has been a steady fall in the achievement of the Early Learning Goals of Shape, Space and Measure and Numbers and this is the most significant gap when compared with national figures. There is a smaller but significant gap in the achievement of Reading and Writing goals. This is reflected for SEN Support pupils.

Placement stability for our Children Looked After

	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Percentage of children looked after with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	7.2%	6.2%	5.8%	6.8%
Long-term placement stability - same placement for at least two years	80.7%	87.0%	86.8%	87.3%

The **stability of placements for children looked after** in Kirklees is excellent, as measured by two nationally published indicators:

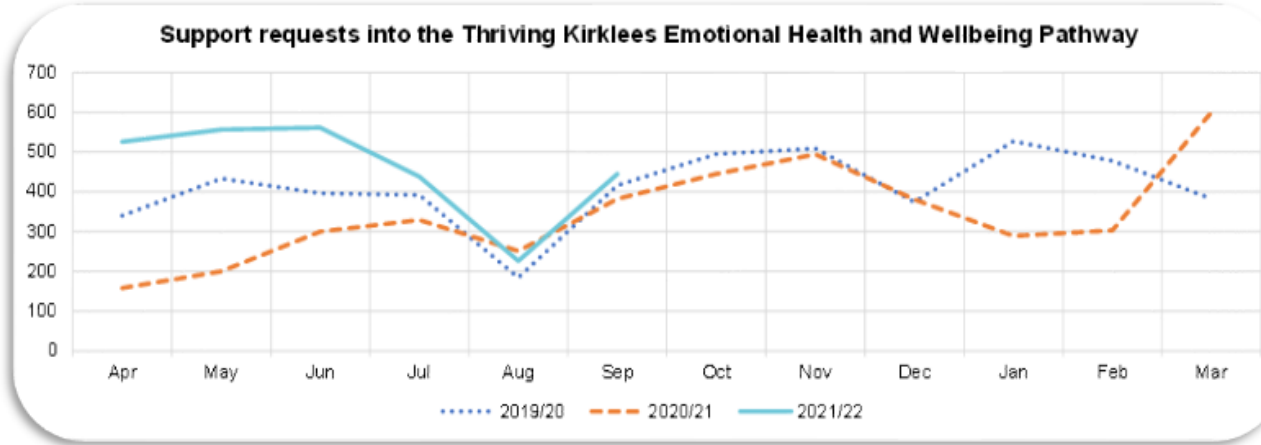
1. The percentage of children and young people that have been in the same placement long-term (2 or more years for those in care over 2 ½ years) is higher than statistical neighbours (SN) and the national average and improving.
2. The percentage with 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months is also better than our statistical neighbours and the national average, although it has increased slightly since the last benchmark date of March 2021.



How much

	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Support requests into the Thriving Kirklees Emotional Health and Wellbeing Pathway	1745	840	2075	1481

The Thriving Kirklees Emotional Health and Wellbeing Pathway (TKEHWP) is the single point of access into children’s mental health services in Kirklees. This is a triage service that is based on professionals’ conversations. Children and young people are then referred to the appropriate service.



The number of referrals into the pathway in Quarter 2 was well below the high seen in Quarter 1.

The chart shows the variation in the number of support requests into the TKEHWP. This is now beginning to follow the trends for previous years as shown in the chart below. However, the increased number of referrals over the last year has led to increased waiting lists for mental health support although evidence shows that the waiting time for this service is now gradually reducing. The Commissioning Team is working with providers to develop additional data on waiting times for all services. Waiting time data is currently available for Generic CAMHS and the Neuro-Developmental pathway (see next slide).



Confident children ready to do well at school and in life (2 of 2)

How well

	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Health visiting – 2 year health check	39%	44%	47%	40%
Average wait in weeks - Generic CAMHS	5	9	8	8
Average wait in weeks - Neuro-developmental pathway	46	71	69	92
Emotional wellbeing scores from Young People's Survey	17.7	-	-	19.9

The total number of children who were due a 2-2½ year old review by a Health Visitor and received their review was on an improving trend until the end of Q1 but reduced slightly in Q2. However, the outcome of 40% was well above the Q2 outcome in 2020/21 of 26%.

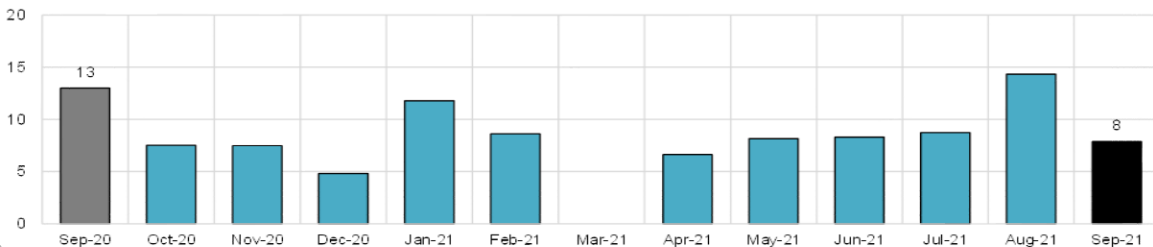
The percentage of children and young people who have accessed services at Northorpe Hall Trust and saw an improvement on discharge (based on paired outcome data) has remained at the high level of 94% at the end of Q2. The outcomes for Specialist CAMHS are more variable, albeit based on much smaller numbers of children and young people. The outcome for Q2 21/22 stood at 72%.

A children's survey used the short version of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) to measure the wellbeing of Kirklees pupils at three time points during the pandemic; individual WEMWBS scores can range from a low of 7 to a high of 35. The average WEMWBS score in July 2021 (19.9) was significantly higher than the average in December 2020 (17.7), but significantly lower than the average in July 2020 (21.9). In comparison, the average WEMWBS score from the 2019 Kirklees Young People's Survey was 22.2.

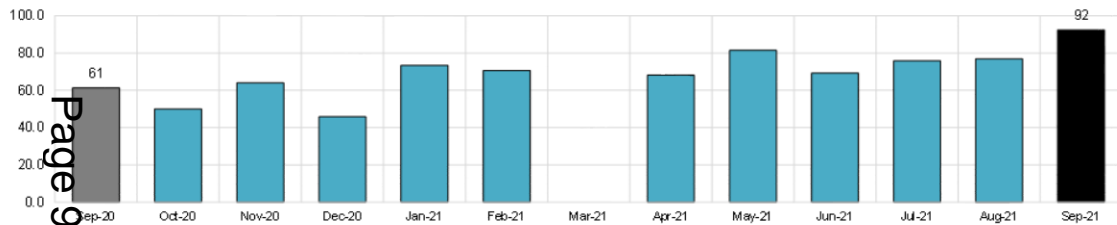
Areas of focus / improvement - The time that children and young people are waiting for Generic CAMHS services was approximately 8 weeks as at the end of September 2021 and for the Neuro-Developmental Pathway it was 92 weeks. Kirklees CCG has recently provided additional funding to increase the capacity within this service provided by CAMHS (SWYPFT) as well as through two external providers (Evolve and Clinical Partners). The additional funding will increase capacity to support in:

- Eating disorders
- Crisis support
- Discharge support
- Neuro development

Generic CAMHS - Average waiting time (weeks)



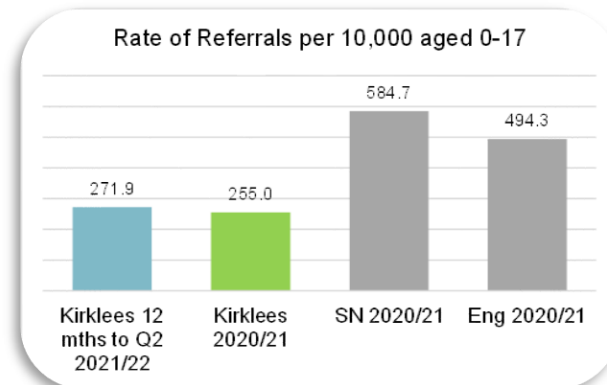
Neuro-Developmental Pathway - Average waiting time (weeks)



How much

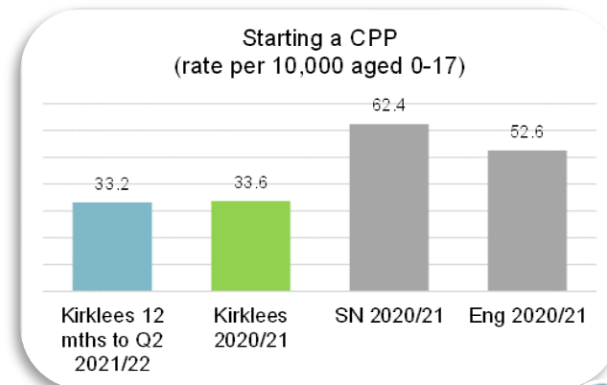
Children's Social Care demand	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Number of referrals	706	646	707	663
Percentage of referrals with Domestic Abuse as the primary presenting issue	20.0%	24.5%	20.2%	22.3%
Number of children starting a child protection plan	72	74	107	79
Number of children ceasing a child protection plan	131	78	82	110
Number of children starting to be looked after	69	34	41	29
Number of children ceasing to be looked after	57	70	56	45

The number of referrals to Children's Social Care in Quarter 2 (663) was similar to that seen in the previous 3 quarters, albeit significantly higher than the 494 seen in the same quarter of 2020/21. However, the rate of referrals (per 10,000 population aged 0-17) is significantly lower than the Statistical Neighbour and England averages from 2020/21 as shown in the chart to the right. The percentage of referrals with domestic abuse as the primary presenting issue has remained fairly consistent at just above the 20% over the last 12 months.



Areas of focus / improvement - We continue to invest and improve our Front Door capacity and staff capability. The quality of contacts has improved although there is still ongoing work to undertake with the team. Weekly analysis meetings with partners are held to ensure decision making takes place safely and appropriately and that we continue to ensure relevant referrals go to Children's Social Work with appropriate alternative pathways for all other referrals. Timeliness continues to be an area of focus. Staff vacancies in the front door have significantly impacted on capacity. Moving forward this should improve as recruitment and placement of new staff is underway and we are hopeful that by January 2022 the front door will be back to full capacity thus enabling a more robust focus on timeliness.

Over the last 12 months, the number of children starting a Child Protection Plan has been lower overall than the number ceasing a plan, leading to an overall reduction in the number of children on a child protection plan. The rate of those starting a plan is also lower than Statistical Neighbour and England averages from 2020/21 when converted to an annual rate per 10,000 aged 0-17. This is shown in the chart to the right.



Areas of focus / improvement - Assurance work is being completed on an ongoing basis, following the identification of this theme within the data. Scrutiny has been applied to plans ending, decision making by the multi-agency partnership, children re-referred following 12 months of a plan ending and any children where plans have ended within a 9-month period. We are reassured that the correct decisions are being made and the appropriate levels of support are being applied to children and families



How well

Children's Social Care timeliness and quality	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Percentage of single assessments authorised within 45 working days	87.5%	85.1%	85.7%	67.6%
Percentage of initial child protection conferences within 15 working days of the start of the S47 enquiry	100.0%	96.3%	83.6%	91.2%
Percentage of CSC cases where the child has been seen or contacted in the last 4 weeks	93.1%	94.6%	91.1%	81.8%
% of Kirklees Children's Homes rated by Ofsted and Outstanding or Good	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%

The timeliness of processes in Children's Social Care show a mixed picture. The percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) that were held within the statutory timescale of 15 working days from the start of the Section 47 enquiry compares well to the 2021 Statistical Neighbours and England averages of 80.2% and 83.0% respectively (good performance is a higher percentage) but there has been a reduction in timeliness of single assessments. There has also been a reduction this quarter in the percentage of children seen or contacted within the last 4 weeks.

With regard to the timeliness of visits, children and their families are seen, risk is identified, and plans put in place to ensure that children are safeguarded. Although the 4-week measure has reduced slightly in September, the timeliness of statutory visits shows a high level of compliance with our practice standards.

In terms of placements for Children Looked After, one of the Kirklees Children's homes was rated as "Requires Improvement" in Quarter 2, reducing this measure to 80% rated outstanding or good.

Areas of focus / improvement - The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days reduced to 67.6% in Quarter 2. This is below both the 2021 Statistical Neighbours average of 89.7% and the England average of 87.6%. Assessment and Intervention teams are focussing on improving the timeliness of 45 day assessments. Systems have been established to ensure time is allowed for quality assurance to ensure assessments can be completed and have manager sign off by day 45.



Child focused activities that support families

How well

	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Take up of free early education by eligible 2 year olds (Termly - end July, December, March)	67%	64%	71%	71%
The take up of Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds.	93%	90%	92%	92%

The free early learning and childcare entitlement is a national scheme which provides free early learning and childcare for all three and four-year-old children and some two-year olds. Children can have up to 15 hours each week for 38 weeks of the year, 570 hours in total. Some providers offer free places during the school holidays where the entitlement is spread across the year by taking less hours each week, supporting working parents during the school holidays and providing consistency for the child.

In September 2017, the entitlement was extended to some working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds so they could receive an extra 15 hours per week of free childcare, (this is known as the extended entitlement). Eligible parents can therefore access up to 1,140 free hours until their child starts a reception class in a school.

The take up rate for two year olds has fallen since the start of the pandemic, although it is now starting to increase again. The Kirklees rate reported in the published under 5's statistics this year is 2 percentage points below the national average. The Kirklees average for Summer 2021 has reached the same level as in Summer 2019 however average take-up levels mask significant variations at ward level.

In terms of 3 and 4 year olds, the take up rate has fallen since the start of the pandemic but is also starting to increase again. The Kirklees rate reported in the published under 5's statistics this year is comparable to the national average. Some wards have lower take-up rates than the Kirklees average, however strategies employed to increase 2 year old take-up in these areas should also impact on 3 and 4 year old take-up.

Areas of focus / improvement - We are focusing on targeted interventions in ward areas with the lowest take-up rates and continue to develop strategies and work with partners to offer support and encouragement to parents with eligible 2-year-olds to take up their free place.



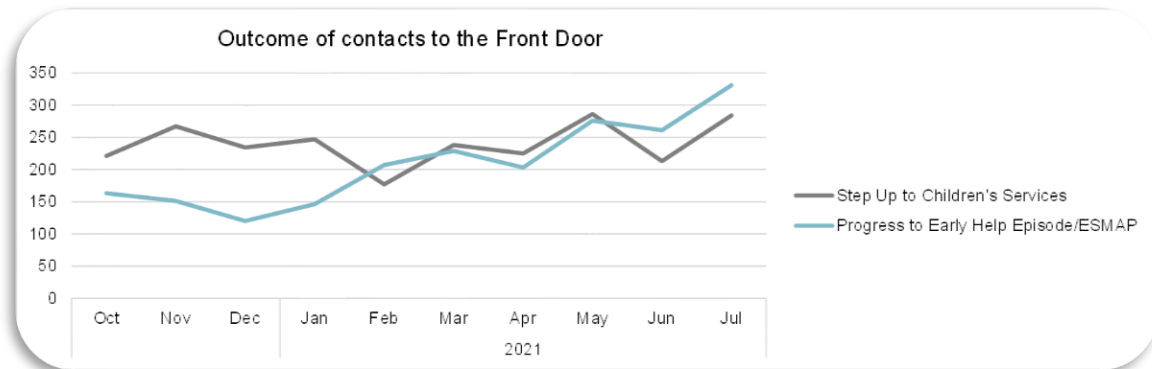
Best Start

As many children as possible staying with their families

How well

Front Door	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Numbers of contacts into the Front Door progressing into Early Support	434	582	740	716
Numbers of contacts into the Front Door progressing into Children's Social Care	722	662	724	678

There has been a change in where contacts to the Children's Services front door have been directed. The number that have progressed to Early Support has been on a significant increasing trend to July, whilst the number being passed to Social Care has been more consistent, as shown in the chart below.



Areas of focus / improvement - Work will be undertaken to focus on whether the improvement activity that has taken place has resulted in improved outcomes for children looked after and to identify what are the key issues that impacted on outcomes. Contributing to greater permanence and timely accessing of early support services has been achieved through Family Group Conference (FGC) service that is a family-led meeting in which the family and friends network come together to make a plan for a child and the promotion of SGOs. We want to continue to improve children's experiences and to secure quality timely permanence with connected family and friends.

Permanence	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Number of children ceasing to be looked after by end reason - Planned return home to parents / other parental responsibility	11	13	11	10
Number of children ceasing to be looked after with the outcome of Adoption, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order	11	22	23	15

The number of children who cease to be looked after and move to family settings has been at a higher level this year. So far in the 2021/22 financial year there have been 22 adoptions compared to 7 at the same point in 2020/21. In the 6 months to the end of Q2, 20% of children ceasing to be looked after have moved to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) arrangement, comparing well to the 2021 England and statistical neighbours averages as shown in the chart to the right.



Impacts of the Pandemic

- The focus of COVID-19 response has been to support and protecting our most vulnerable children. We developed a whole system response bringing together the activities of schools, community engagement teams, voluntary sector partners and volunteers and social care to provide a coherent support offer and maintaining contact with our most at risk young people.
- The response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to show the strength of the partnership working across Kirklees. Summer holiday programmes were organised through our community hubs with buses provided in North and South Kirklees for outreach summer holiday programmes and also to provide drop in and advice
- We have maintained a business as usual philosophy throughout the pandemic to assure ourselves about the safety of our most vulnerable and other children. Robust business continuity planning meant all statutory systems and processes to safeguard and protect children in care remained in place. Children continued to be seen with the method of contact being adjusted as appropriate.
- All children looked after have been contacted by our Children's Rights Team and actively supported. Independent Visitors have remained in contact with children and young people by visiting and using several social media platforms, to maintain relationships and provide independent emotional and practical support to young people.
- COVID-19 has had an impact. We know that educational experience and opportunities have been affected and this disproportionately impacts on our most vulnerable learners. We continue to work with schools and partners to address these concerns as well as keep schools safe at the start of a new academic year.
- Our Children's Homes face significant pressure particularly when permanent staff are affected by COVID. In response to this we have drawn in staff with appropriate experience to support of residential establishments including social workers and other social care staff.

Inequalities

- Children of Mixed ethnicity are significantly over-represented in the Children's Social Care cohort. For example, as at the end of September 2021, 16.2% of Children Looked after were of Mixed ethnicity compared to 5.3% of the Kirklees population aged 0-17.

Next Steps

- Increase the capacity within the service provided by CAMHS (SWYPFT) as well as through two external providers (Evolve and Clinical Partners) via additional funding from Kirklees CCG.
- Recruitment and placement of new staff in the Children's Social Care front door with a view to being up to full capacity by January 2022, enabling a more robust focus on timeliness.
- Establish systems to ensure time is allowed for quality assurance and that Children's Social Care assessments can be completed within statutory timescales.
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers is a priority. We are focussed on recruiting foster carers who can help us to meet our sufficiency needs around placements for older children, children with complex needs, offering long-term placements and emergency placements.
- Under the wider sufficiency agenda, we are in the process of opening a new children's home in Huddersfield to support bringing children back to Kirklees and/or reducing external placements.



(2) People in Kirklees are as well as possible for as long as possible



No matter where they live, we want people in Kirklees to be able to live their lives confidently, in better health and for longer. Preventing problems and supporting people early will help people choose healthy lifestyles and increase physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Headlines

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on people's lives and health since Kirklees saw its first case in March 2020. Since then, Kirklees has had over 67,000 cases and more than 1,000 deaths have been registered where COVID-19 was listed as a contributing factor on the death certificate. Along with the direct impact of the virus, the indirect effects of enforced lockdowns and local restrictions, financial insecurity and access to and availability of health-related services have all impacted on people's physical and mental health.

With the easing of restrictions and the success of the vaccination programme, particularly amongst those most vulnerable to the virus, services are now shifting focus towards recovery from, rather than responding to, the pandemic. However, case numbers remain high in Kirklees and across the country and COVID-19 will add to the usual burden of winter pressures felt by health services that are already very busy across the system.

Current Living in Kirklees (CLiK) Survey

One important source of evidence for the impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of Kirklees residents will be the 2021 CLiK survey. The survey went live on 01 November and includes questions on a range of topics, many directly or indirectly related to health. A total of 43,000 households were randomly selected and invited by letter to take part; in addition, an open online version of the survey was made available to any Kirklees resident aged 16 or above.

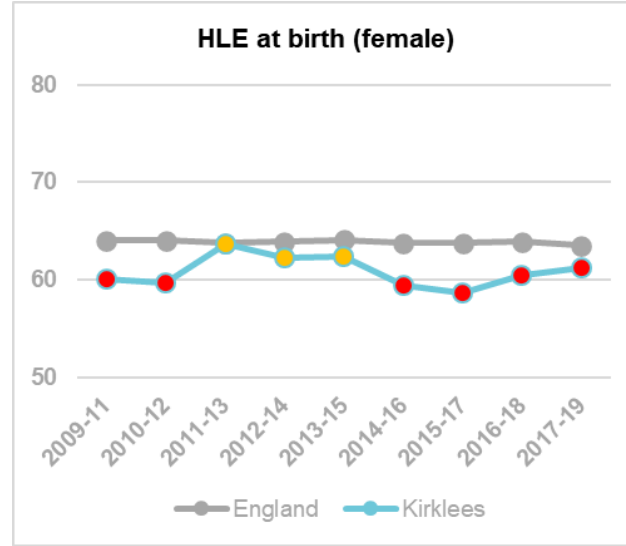
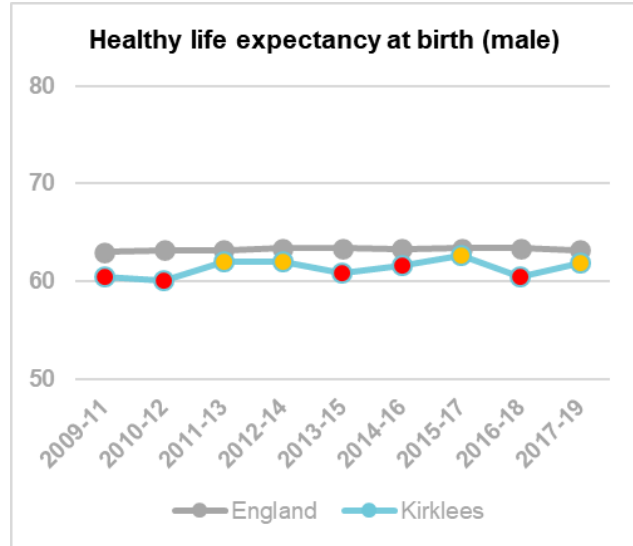
The 2021 survey was a partnership collaboration between Kirklees Council, Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group and local NHS Trusts, Locala, the University of Huddersfield, Kirklees College, Third Sector Leaders, West Yorkshire Police, and Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce.

As well as providing an up-to-date view on health and health-related behaviours, comparisons with previous CLiK surveys (including the most recent one in 2016) enable trends over time to be monitored. Several of the population outcome indicators in the corporate performance report rely on the CLiK survey, with preliminary results from the survey expected in early 2022.



Population outcome indicators

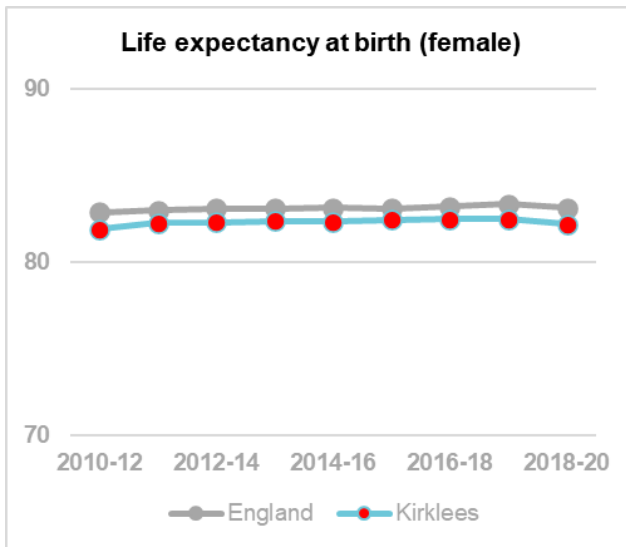
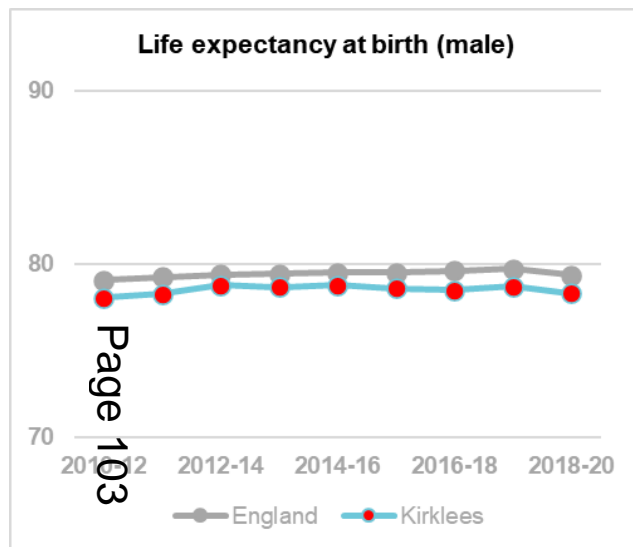
Healthy life expectancy



Healthy life expectancy (HLE, the number of years a person may expect to live in good health) is not yet available for 2020, but data for 2017-19 shows Kirklees males had a HLE at birth of 61.9 years, which was above the Yorkshire and the Humber average (61.2) but below the England average (63.2).

Kirklees females had a HLE at birth of 61.2 years, which was below the Yorkshire and Humber average (61.9) and significantly lower than the England average (63.5). Compared to 2016-18, HLE increased in Kirklees (for males and females) but decreased regionally and nationally.

Life expectancy



Life expectancy (LE) figures for 2018-20 reflect the impact of COVID-19 on mortality rates, showing a drop of around 0.4 years locally and nationally for males and 0.3 years locally and 0.2 years nationally for females (compared to 2017-19). LE at birth for Kirklees males is 78.4 years and for Kirklees females is 82.2 years (both significantly lower than the national figures of 79.4 and 83.1 years for males and females, respectively).

In combination, LE and HLE figures show that females in Kirklees live longer in poor health than males: 21.3 years for females and 16.8 years for males (based on 2017-19).

Chart data source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, DHSC
 Key: ● Kirklees significantly lower than England ● Kirklees similar to England

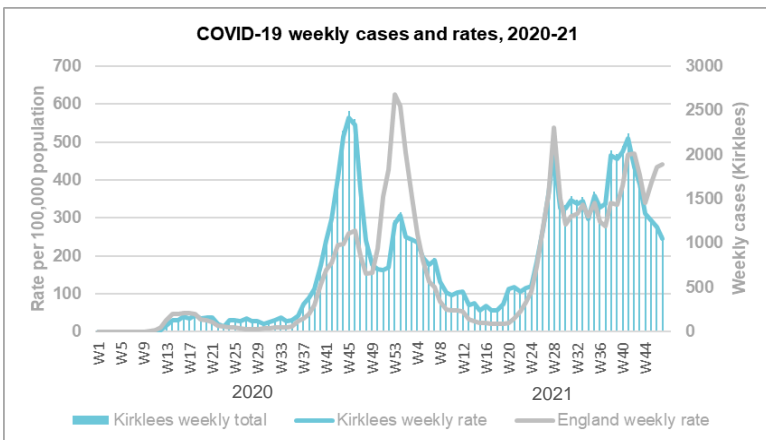


(2) People in Kirklees are as well as possible for as long as possible



COVID-19

Cases and vaccination rates

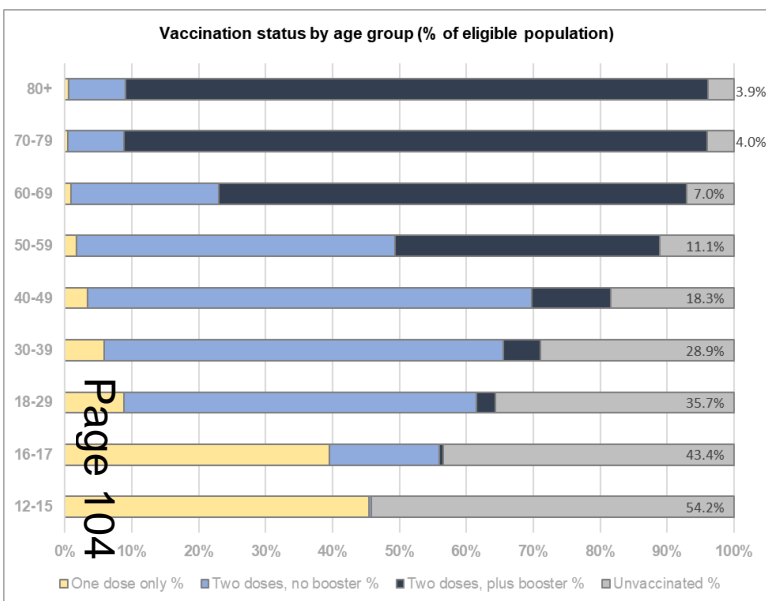


COVID-19 continues to have a direct and indirect impact on health and wellbeing in Kirklees. In October 2021, COVID-19 cases in Kirklees exceeded 2,000 per week, close to the peak seen in November 2020. This equates to a rate of over 500 per 100,000 population, with Kirklees tracking close to the latest national rate.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is progressing well, with over 272,000 residents having received two doses of the vaccine by the end of October 2021. Uptake rates are highest in our older, more vulnerable populations, where we are now also seeing a large proportion of residents receiving their booster or third dose. Uptake rates are lower in our younger age groups; this will be driven partly by the process by which 12–15-year-olds have been accessing the vaccine, and the shorter time that younger age groups have been eligible. Although lower than other age groups, Kirklees COVID-19 vaccine uptake rates for 12-15-year-olds are amongst the highest in the region.

In line with the regional and national picture, there are significantly higher proportions of unvaccinated people in our most deprived areas, in males (compared with females) and in non-White British ethnic groups (compared with White British ethnicity).

For the latest picture on COVID-19 cases and vaccination uptake, follow the link here: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/covid19-cases.aspx>



Impact

Although COVID-19 case numbers were recently close to the highest levels seen at any time during the pandemic, the impact of the vaccination programme means that hospitalisations and deaths associated with COVID-19 have remained relatively low.

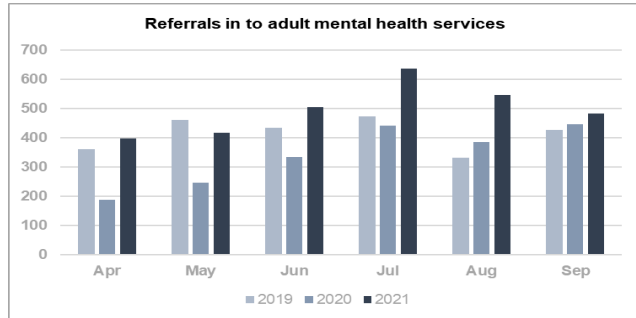
The number of people suffering from post-acute COVID* continues to rise. Modelled estimates suggest there are currently around 400 new cases per week in Kirklees and approximately one in five of these cases (70-80 additional people per week) will require service support for this condition.

*Also known as long Covid, defined as signs and symptoms that develop during or after infection consistent with COVID-19, which continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis



Mental health and wellness

Adult mental health



Adult mental health services	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4	Q1	Q2
Referrals in	1325	1346	1323	1669

Referrals into adult mental health services are up by 46% for April-September 2021 compared with this period in 2020, and up by 20% compared with this period in 2019.

Evaluation is underway of local initiatives to support improvements in mental health across the seven Kirklees places, utilising funding allocated by Kirklees Council.

Contribution of libraries

The contribution of Kirklees libraries to improved mental health includes:

- Staff received Mental Health Awareness training.
- 'Reading Well for Children' collections, designed to help children deal with worries and feel better.
- Delivered sessions on how colour therapy can improve mood.
- Shortlisted for three Libraries Connected awards including Transcription Service for flexibility and support during lockdown, and 'Death Positive' project, promoting role of libraries as compassionate spaces for conversations around death and bereavement.

Kirklees Integrated Wellness Service

The Wellness Service continues to support people to achieve their health-related goals. As coronavirus restrictions have eased, the service has increased its exposure in communities, making use of community venues, reintroducing face-to-face appointments and re-engaging with voluntary and community sector partners. Key activities/headlines include:

- The mixed model approach (a combination of online and face-to-face delivery) has enhanced the accessibility of services, and referrals continue to rise.
- As a triage option for the Post Covid Multi-Disciplinary Team, the Wellness Service has so far supported 50 people with Post Covid Syndrome (Long Covid) via a 'walk and support' group.
- Healthy Weight Programme group sizes have expanded to cope with increased demand, particularly via GP referrals; a 'weight neutral' approach is now being piloted, aiming for long-term sustainable improvements in health rather than focusing on short-term weight loss. The course covers topics including nutrition, physical activity, sleep, self-care, and mindfulness.
- Q2 saw 35 quits out of 65 users of the smoking cessation service (56%, above the national average of 40%).
- The health coach at Batley and Birstall PCN received an average client satisfaction score of 4.97 out of 5 from clients completing their journey in Q2.

Impact

Wellness Service: Impact	Q1	Q2
Closed cases	359	501
Goal outcome		
Goals achieved	113 (31%)	166 (33%)
Partly achieved	50 (14%)	81 (16%)
Information given	47 (13%)	65 (13%)
Signposted to specialist provision	9 (3%)	21 (4%)
Unable to contact/disengaged	77 (21%)	89 (18%)

Healthy Weight Programme: "The support I got has really helped me to make simple changes that make a difference"

Smoking cessation: "...Knowing my wellness coach was going to call and actually cared about what I was trying to achieve made a big difference. With just the products alone and no support I don't think that I would be a non-smoker now"



Integrated Wellness Service

How much have we done and how well have we done it?

- Referrals for Q1 + Q2 were almost three times higher than the equivalent quarters in 2020/21.
- Around half of all referrals came via primary care in Q2.

Wellness Service: How much	Q1	Q2
Referrals	434	569
Central	40%	36%
Rural	14%	19%
Batley and Spen	30%	28%
Dewsbury and Mirfield	16%	17%
Referral source		
Primary care	37%	48%
Self-referrals	37%	29%
Secondary care	8%	6%
Mental health services	5%	3%
Adult social care	4%	3%
Post Covid MDT	2%	4%
Referral priority 1		
Physical health	32%	22%
Healthy weight	26%	41%
Mental wellbeing	15%	15%
Smoking cessation	17%	14%

- The majority of referrals were allocated to staff within one working day
- Client satisfaction scores averaged 4.7 out of 5 in both Q1 and Q2.

Wellness Service: How well	Q1	Q2
Transition (number of days)		
Referral to allocation	1.6	1.8
Allocation to first contact	8.3	10.0

Inequalities

- Referrals across Q1 and Q2:
 - 27% were from non-white British ethnic backgrounds (where ethnicity was known)
 - 33% considered themselves to have a disability
 - 34% were unemployed
 - 14% were carers
- There were 58 referrals to carers courses (Q1 + Q2), with all participants gaining confidence through the programme. A larger proportion of younger carers were supported in Q2 (48% under 50, compared with 26% in Q1).
- Engagement via Wellness on Wheels (the 'Wellness Wagon') included an event at Masjid Omar Mosque in Birkby, attended by over 1000 people; plans are underway to replicate this with other Kirklees mosques.
- The van is also attending engagement events to support The Mast Primary Care Network with their inequalities project.

Next steps

- The Health Checks Pilot, aimed at reducing health inequalities through targeted increased uptake rates using a community delivery model, will begin in November 2021.
- The exercise referral scheme pathway is being built into the existing referral form and should go live from the end of November 2021.
- The 'Mental Health for You' course has been developed, with preparations for roll-out underway.



(3) People in Kirklees are independent and have control over their lives



Outcome Definition

We want people in Kirklees to live their lives confidently, independently and with dignity. The right advice, help and support at the right time will empower people to take control of their own health and wellbeing, and connect people with caring and supportive communities.

Headlines

The number of older people with complex needs who are staying at home with the support of home care services is growing, and we know that older people prefer to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. Results from the adult care survey suggests that services provided generally help people feel they have control over their daily lives

Risks and Challenges

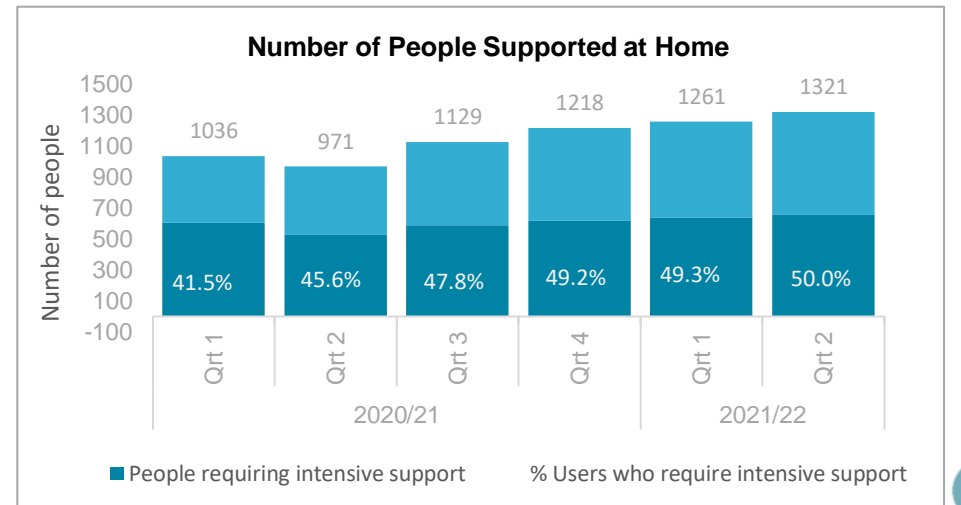
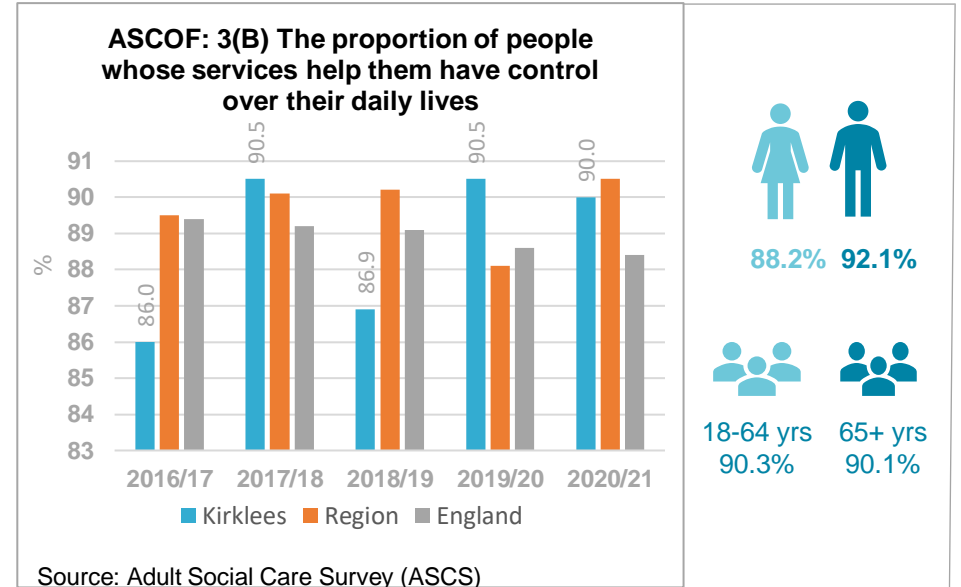
Workforce capacity remains a challenge for both the Council and our service providers. We are seeing more people with complex needs requiring intensive support and care. This combined with the current staffing issues may impact on our future ability to assess, review and provide services in a timely way. The mandated Covid19 vaccine policy has the potential to exacerbate staffing issues, but a significant amount of work has been undertaken since the summer to maximise the uptake of the vaccine, including listening sessions with staff to understand and alleviate their concerns and to promote the benefits of vaccinations

Population outcome indicator

People who need help or support to continue to live in their own home

From a recent survey of people in Kirklees who are receipt of adult social care, **90% feel that the services we provide help them have control over their daily life**. This was taken from a sample size of 1,300 and a 38.7% response rate (503 completed surveys returned).

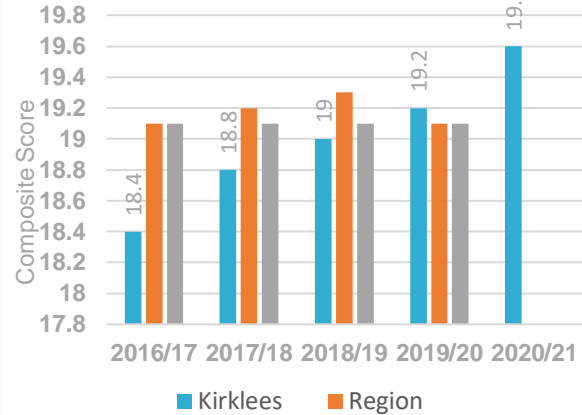
The number of people we are supporting to live independently at home continues to increase.



Overall Quality of Life and Satisfaction with Provision

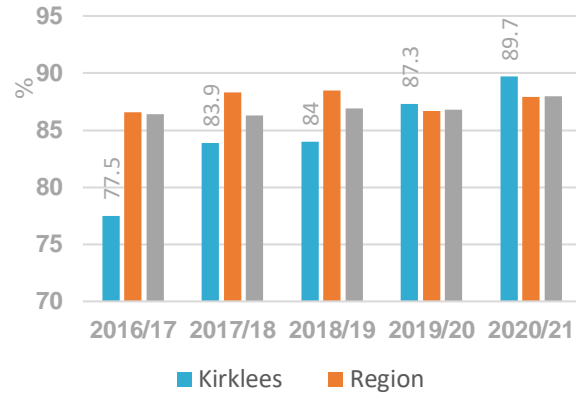
Impacts and Outcomes

ASCOF: 1(A) Social Care Quality of Life Score



Source: Adult Social Care Survey (ASCS)

People who answered 'yes' to 'Do Care & Support Services help you in feeling safe?'



Source: Adult Social Care Survey (ASCS)

The Adult Social Care Survey (ASCS) asks service users questions about quality of life and what impact care and support services have on their quality of life. The results help us identify areas where outcomes can be improved. Our overall service population was 4,237. We distributed 1,300 surveys and had a 38.7% response rate (503 completed surveys returned).

Social Care Quality of Life

Overall adult social care quality of life is a composite measure out of a maximum of 24 points. In Kirklees we generally perform well and are improving. The score is slightly higher for men than women and is also higher for younger people. Both reflect the national picture.

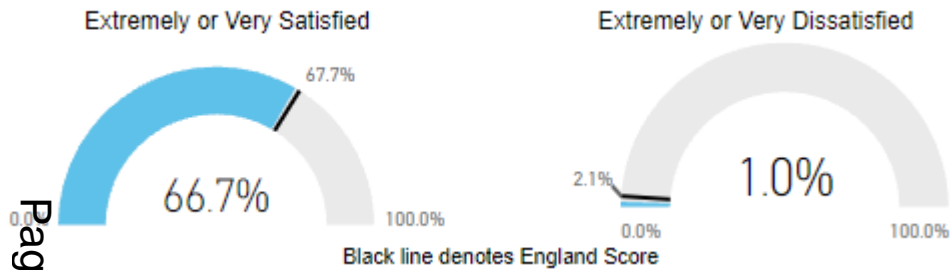


19.5 19.8



18-64 yrs 20.0
65+ yrs 19.4

Reported satisfaction with support that people in Kirklees receive 2020/21:



Care and Support Services making people feel safe

Almost 90% of respondents think that the support provided helps them feel safe. This has been improving year on year and exceeds the national and regional results.

Satisfaction with Social Care Services

66.7% of the service users asked were very or extremely satisfied with the care and support they receive. This is only very slightly below the England average and is an improvement on the last four years results, despite the impact of the pandemic.

The result was lower for people receiving community services (55%), and higher for people with Learning Disabilities (74.5%) across all settings



Prevention and pro-active support to enable people to stay well and independent at home.

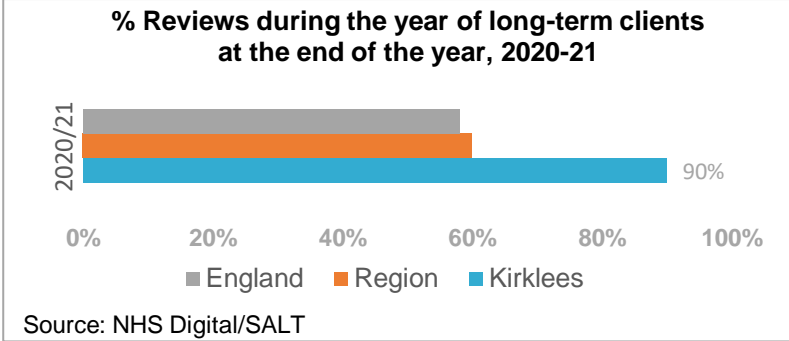
Under the Care Act (2014) all local authorities have a responsibility for prevention and promoting well-being. For us this means intervening early to support individuals, helping people retain their skills and confidence, and preventing need or delaying deterioration wherever possible.

Prevention and pro-active support to enable people to stay well and independent at home	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
Number of referrals to Rapid Response, Hospital Avoidance and step-up Reablement Services	529	505	645	604	502	457
% of people who received a review in last 12 months	69%	55%	72%	87%	74%	65%

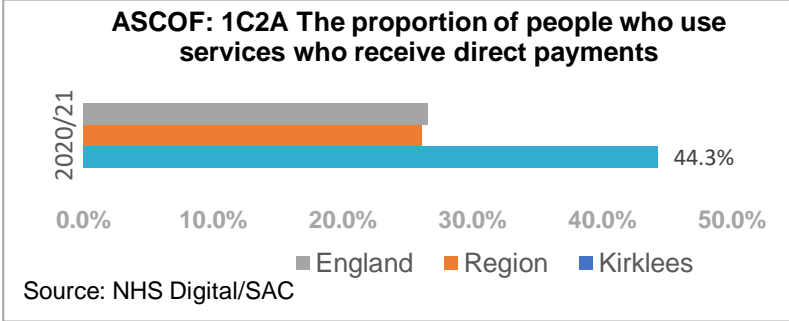
In Kirklees we have several services directed at supporting people in crisis or early intervention. **We estimate that these services prevent around 500 admissions or escalation in need every quarter.**

We have also improved the rate at which we review existing service users to ensure they are supported back to independence where possible.

Our overall rate of completing reviews for people was considerably higher than the regional and England average. We were able to catch-up with many of our outstanding reviews during the early part of the year.



In Kirklees we have a **high proportion of people receiving direct payments**. A Direct Payment encourages an individual to take ownership of their care planning and be free to choose how their needs are met.

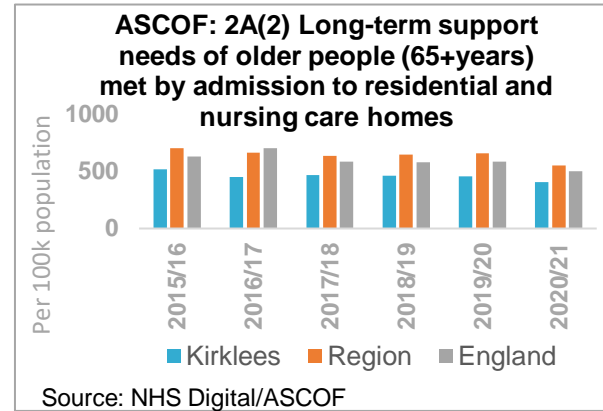
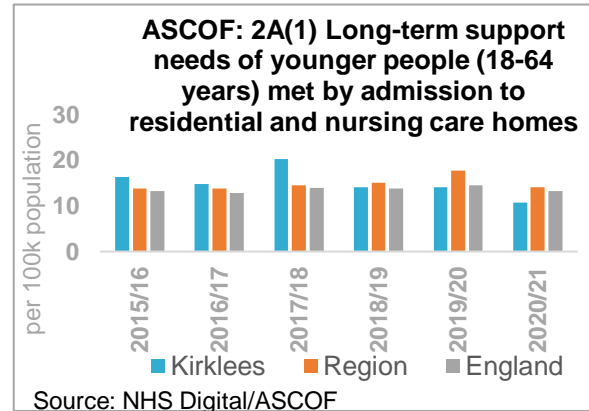


An important part of our role in prevention and early intervention is to ensure our assessments are carried out as promptly as possible. We have routinely been completing these within 28 days. Quarter 2's performance was slightly lower, and this has been primarily due to capacity constraints in adult social care.

Prevention and pro-active support to enable people to stay well and independent at home	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
Proportion of People receiving an Assessment within 28 days	89%	85%	84%	82%	81%	80%



Compared to the Yorkshire & Humber Region and the England average, we remain having a relatively low reliance on permanent placements to nursing and residential care.



Our rate of admissions into permanent has risen compared with last year for both the younger and older age groups. However, this is due in part to the low rates of admission during the early part of the pandemic.

Prevention and pro-active support to enable people to stay well and independent at home	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
Longer term care needs for People aged 65+ met by admission to permanent residential/nursing care (per 100,000 population)	270.7	385.2	412.9	419.0	374.7	453.2
Longer term care needs for People aged 18-64 met by admission to permanent residential/nursing care (per 100,000 population)	15.3	15.3	14.3	15.3	21.4	20.6

Urgent Community Response (UCR)

Supporting people back to Independence	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
% of people who receive a re-ablement service within 2 days	n/a	n/a	n/a	58.9%	58.90%	84%

Kirklees is a national accelerator site for the Urgent Community Response programme. This initiative is the collective name for services that improve care for people through delivery of an urgent, crisis response.

In Kirklees this is delivered through a collaborative with Locala, Local Care Direct and Curo. For our part we contribute to the overall 2-hour response target, but we also have to deliver against the reablement standard for community referral's.

The reablement two-day standard is two overnights or fewer between clock start and clock stop. Services should deliver reablement care or intermediate care (home or bed-based) for people who need it within a maximum of two days.



This is new and improving indicator, the target is to deliver 80% of services within 2 days by March 2022.

As a local authority providing care funded by the NHS, we also are mandated to submit data to NHS Digital under the banner of the CSDS (Community Services Data Set). Kirklees has been providing this since January 2021 and will enable national benchmarking to be provided in due course.



Supporting people back to independence

We work with our system partners to support people after illness or hospital discharge. Our step-down re-ablement services supports timely hospital discharges and helps prevent re-admissions.

Over the last year we have experienced a 40% increase in the number of hospital referrals to re-ablement. This was due, in part, to the lower number of non-covid admissions during the early part of 2020/21. This was because that there were fewer people leaving hospital that were amenable to re-ablement services.

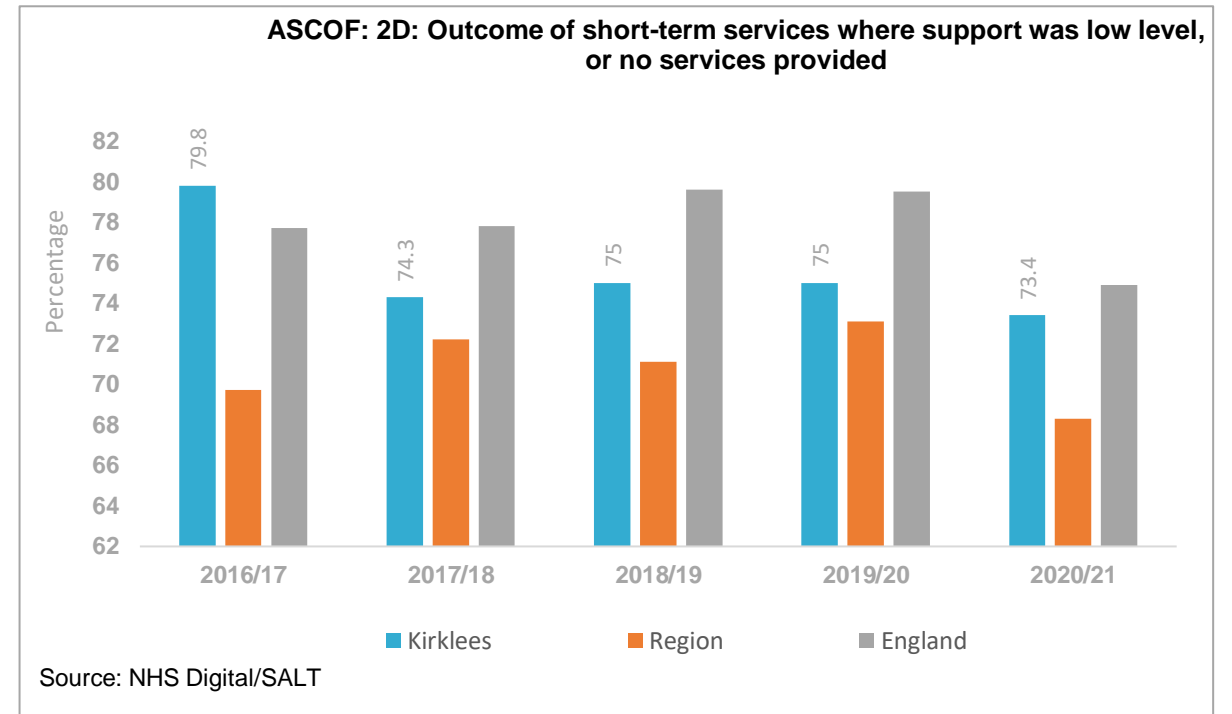
Supporting people back to Independence	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
Number of people supported back through Step-down services	314	331	398	377	464	448

Our outcomes following re-ablement have been improving. We aim to have at least 70% of people leaving our service requiring no additional support to live well at home.

During quarter two we achieved over 80% of people helped back to independence following an hospital admissions or period of ill health.

Supporting people back to Independence	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
% of people ending Reablement needing no further support or reduced support (during the month)	52.9%	58.5%	55.1%	56.2%	56.0%	80.4%

Compared to the Yorkshire & Humber Region and the England average, our outcomes for people leaving our short-term services remain good with on average 73% requiring either a low level or no services after our intervention.



Discharge to Assess

The Discharge to Assess Pathway supports rapid hospital discharge. The default option for patients is still home first but where this is not possible, the Council in partnership the CCGs are now spot purchasing a range of beds in line with demand (a mix of nursing and residential care) to facilitate rapid hospital discharge where there is a need for further recovery (up to 4 weeks) before undertaking a statutory Care Act Assessment.

We have been working with Calderdale and Wakefield colleagues on the provision of Covid contact beds which have been commissioned on a wider system footprint. These beds are managed by the Kirklees Adult Social Care Bed Coordinator to ensure effective flow and assessment of service users both into, and out of, the beds with the appropriate care and support.

There are 63 intermediate care / therapy beds in the system provided in partnership by Kirklees Council and Locala which are used flexibly alongside the 17 transitional beds owned by Kirklees Council to ensure hospital flow and community resilience is maintained.

Discharge to assess beds are used to support;

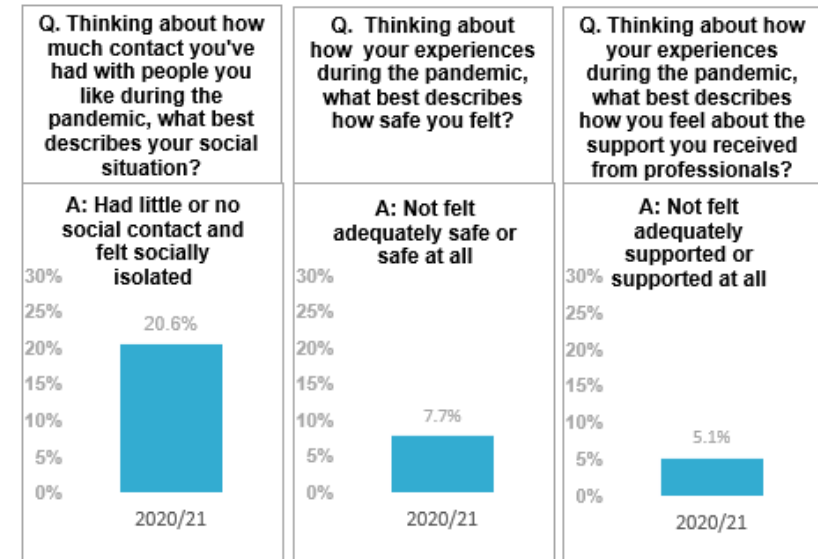
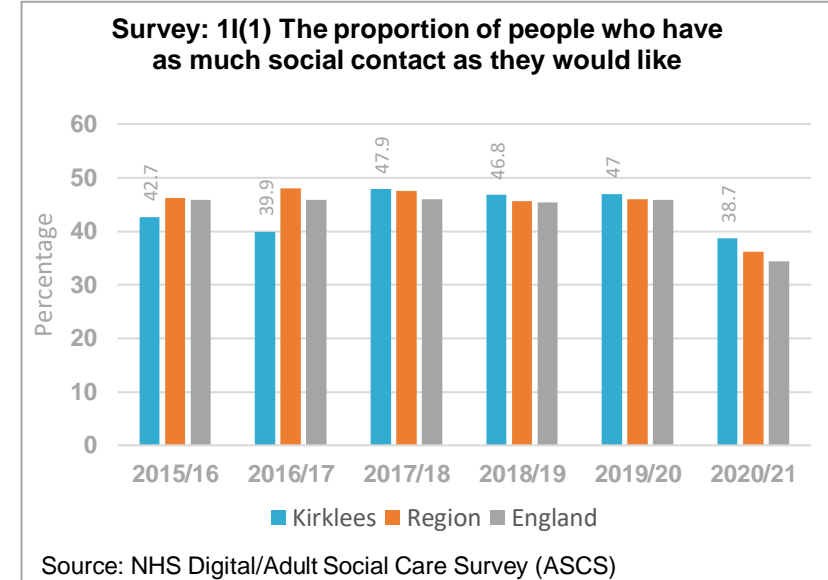
- Rapid hospital discharge of patients
- Non weight bearing pathway
- Continuing Health Pathway
- Emergency respite (carer breakdown)

Impacts of the Pandemic

The impact of loneliness and isolation on a person's physical and mental health, emotional and social wellbeing, relationships and ability to contribute to society makes it a crucial area for prevention under the Care Act (2014).

People's feelings of loneliness and isolation were magnified during the pandemic. The results from the adult social care survey demonstrates the impact for people on their social contact, safety and how supported they felt.

Over 20% of respondents said that they had little contact and felt socially isolated. Loneliness is a major problem for older people living at home. There can be high rates of depression and loneliness particularly among those with complex health problems or who have suffered bereavement, which social interaction can alleviate (1).



Source: ONS & Kirklees LA



Keeping People Safe

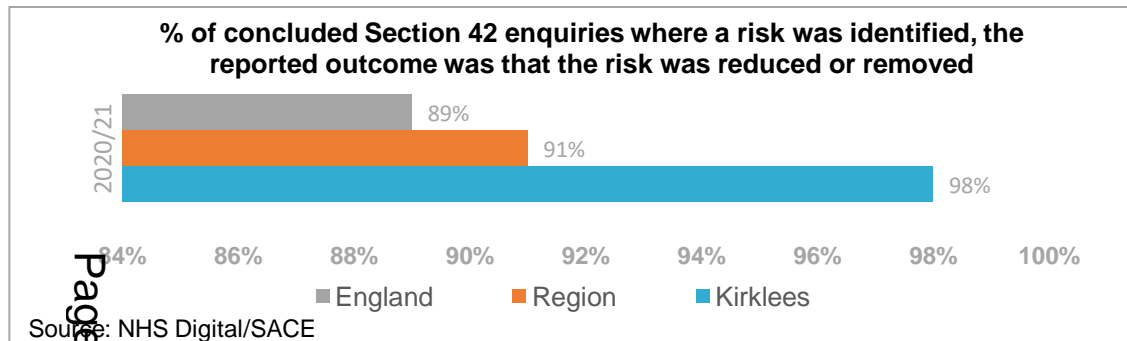
Safeguarding Adults is a statutory duty for Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities in England under the Care Act 2014, in order to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.

We had seen a drop in the number safeguarding concerns raised during the early part of the pandemic, but the first half of this year has seen a 21% rise on the same period last year.

The percentage of completed enquires where we have worked to reduce or remove the risk is in excess of 90%

Keeping people safe and well cared for	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	Q1	Q2
% of Safeguarding closed cases where risk is removed or reduced	98.9%	98.9%	94.3%	94.2%	95.5%	90.0%

Generally, the percentage of risks where we have worked to reduce or remove the risk once the section 42 enquiry was completed is high compared to the Regional and England averages.



Quality of Care

45 of our providers require improvement under the CQC inspection regime. One provider was assessed as having an overall rating of Inadequate in June 2021.

Overall Rating		
Outstanding	5	2.2%
Good	131	56.5%
Requires Improvement	45	19.4%
Inadequate	1	0.4%
Not Rated	50	21.6%
		232

We are working with them to address the issues through an action plan and through enhanced quality surveillance and provider performance meetings. CQC are due to revisit in the next few weeks.

As the CQC has worked to respond to the pandemic, some providers will not have received an early re-inspection. This may mean that although improvement will have been made, the rating will remain unchanged. All data is publicly available on the CQC website (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-do-our-job/inspection-reports>).

Inequalities

Our recorded ethnicity recording has some gaps, this is being picked up through the data quality work being undertaken in advance of our new case management system.

From the data we have it appears to show that our service user population is not wholly representative our estimated population by ethnic group across Kirklees (source: ONS).

We see slightly more people who identify as white, and less people who identify as Asian or Asian British than the overall population estimates suggest. Some of this gap may be attributed to unrecorded episodes.

We are developing some more detailed analysis and a broad action plan to redress emerging issues across all protected characteristics.



Next Steps

Policy Changes

- The government has set-out its long-term plan for Health & Social Care. In terms of actions for the intelligence and performance function, we need to prepare for the development of the enhanced assurance framework, quantify the impact of the changes to the minimum impact guarantee and ensure we play our part in the developing ICS's in terms of data integration and sharing. The Council now has a Corporate Covid19 Vaccination Policy for all staff working in a care home setting.

Carer's experience

- We are currently running the bi-annual adult carers survey. The survey seeks the opinions of carers aged 18 or over, caring for a person aged 18 or over, on several topics that are indicative of a balanced life alongside their unpaid caring role. The survey will feed into monitoring of the impact of the National Carers Strategy, and it will also be used to populate several measures in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework.

Inequalities Data

- We have some gaps in our recording of ethnicity. It is important to know that our services are accessible by all those that need it, particularly hard to reach groups. Accurate recording of ethnicity will help us understand this. Beyond better understanding of the data and how we compare against our peers, our plan is to evaluate access rates across a range of protected characteristics and development service-led action plans as required.

Implementing new technology

- We are preparing for the implementation of our new Integrated Care Management System. We are currently resolving historic data recording issues in advance of data migration in 2022/23. We hope to be able to improve the data we have across a person's pathway, improve our equalities data and better understand outcomes at an individual level. This will help us move our performance narrative further to an outcomes based model.
- We are in the process of on-boarding a new system to better collect and share information about hospital discharges. This will improve reporting across the wider Kirklees health and care system and contribute to a more streamlined process for people who are leaving hospital with some additional support.
- Kirklees Council is exploring opportunities of using Assistive Technology solutions to enable people to maximise their independence and take control back in their lives. These solutions will be identified following a strength-based, person-centred assessment to identify what matters to the individual to support them to continue living in an environment of their choice and in a way that is right for them. These may include activities of daily living equipment, adaptations, digital platforms or applications.



(4) People in Kirklees have aspiration to achieve their ambitions through education, training employment and lifelong learning



We are incredibly ambitious for the people of Kirklees. We want children and their families, communities and services to work together to provide positive childhood experiences, support when it is needed and to ensure every child in the district starts school healthy, happy and ready to learn.

Children's journeys through school and into adult life shape the rest of their lives. We want to prepare all children for successful, independent lives where they have the skills they need to achieve their **aspirations**.

How much have we done?

Over the last 12 months, we have :

- Worked with parents of children with additional needs and multiple stakeholders to develop a new and comprehensive and co-produced **local offer** website
- Developed a comprehensive special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) **data dashboard**, allowing for much improved baselining, strategic decision making and systems management
- Continued to have very low rates of those **Not in Education, Employment or Training** with performance well beyond neighbouring Local Authorities
- Provided access to **holiday activities and food provision** which has been co-designed and provisioned with our voluntary sector partners.
- Received approval to develop our Family Hub proposals, following extensive engagement across the district
- Developed and launched an ambitious, inclusive learning strategy – known as **Our Kirklees Futures** – which outlines the aspirational approach we have for people in Kirklees to flourish and thrive in their learning

Impacts of the Pandemic

The last 12 months has seen the continued commitment and collaboration of the Council and partners to provide an excellent educational offer. Whilst challenging, our schools, colleges and learning settings are to be **thanked for their extraordinary efforts and partnership working** during this time.

Maintaining this offer has been one of the most challenging experiences we have ever faced. We are immensely proud of how our most vulnerable children have been so well supported, how childcare settings continued to make provision for families, and how our inclusive approach has been recognised throughout the system.

Next Steps

Over the next 12 months we will :

- Progress work to meet sufficiency and capacity challenges through investment in **capital projects**, with a focus on our specialist and secondary learning spaces
- Place improved data analysis and **intelligence** at the centre of our improvement journey
- Deliver on our **transformation plan** for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to transform services
- Launch and deliver the first phases of **'Our Kirklees Futures'** our Learning Strategy, working across the district and in partnership with our families. Through the Education and Learning Partnership Board, engage and develop our plan to drive forward improvements in educational outcomes for young people, families and communities across Kirklees
- Develop partnership-based voluntary **internship, traineeship and pre-apprenticeships** routes and creative solutions for workplace training and experience
- Launch and implement our ambitious hub-based model, **'Kirklees Families Together'**, to develop and support place-based Early Support in communities



Population

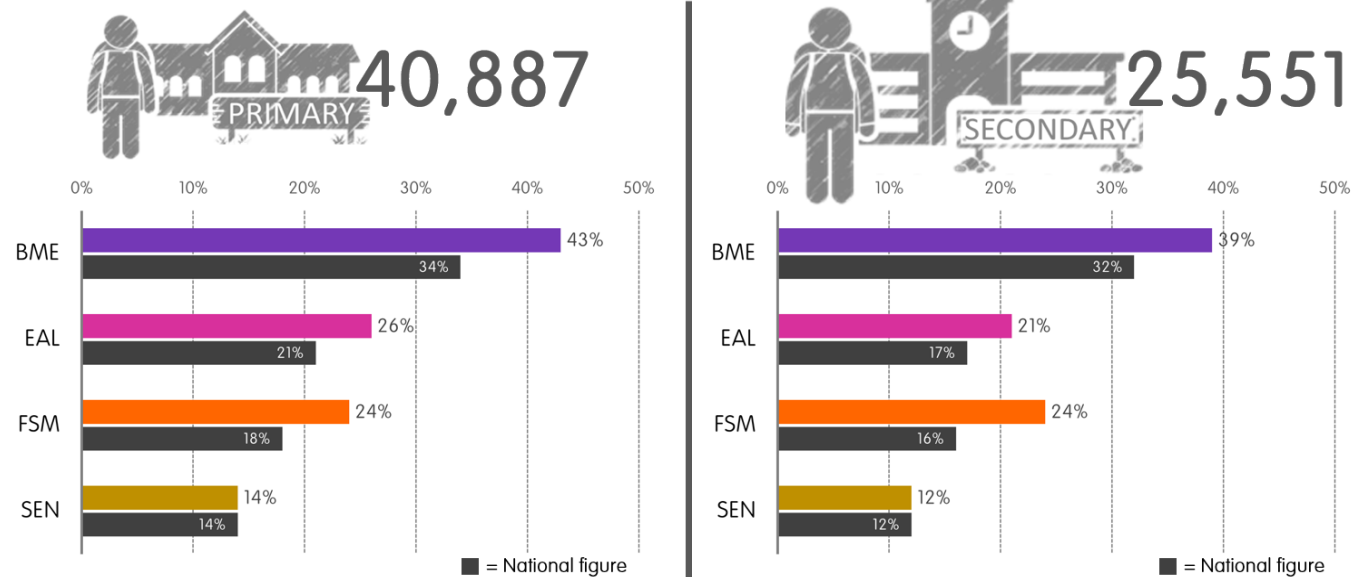
Educational Settings

Kirklees has a set of rich, diverse and ambitious settings providing for learning opportunities. Our educational provision includes over 750 early learning and childcare providers (many of which are private, voluntary and independent providers), school-aged faith and independent schools, 6 colleges, 1 further education college and the University of Huddersfield.

There are **180 schools in Kirklees including 6 special schools, 3 alternative provision and a nursery school. 75 primary schools have nursery classes and 6 secondary schools have school sixth forms.** 65% of schools are maintained by the Local Authority and 35% are Academies.

Irrespective of designation, all are part of the Kirklees learning family and serve a large and diverse population with over 5,000 children and young people in every year group. A population peak of around 6000 pupils is expected to transition to year 7 in 2022/23. The size of cohorts of children entering reception classes has been gradually declining since 2015/16. These children and young people are representative of our communities and include many different ethnicities, languages and needs.

There are around **110,150** aged 0-19s living in Kirklees of which around **67,336** are educated in Kirklees schools and academies. A group breakdown by primary and secondary phase can be found below:



Impacts of the Pandemic

Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility

- Claims received for a Council Tax Reduction increased as lockdown started in March 2020 and people started to lose their jobs
- At this time, we did a proactive call to all of those that had school age children
- A peak was seen due to the Marcus Rashford effect raising awareness of FSM and again just before summer 2020 as a result of the summer FSM voucher offer
- An **increase of 2,241 newly eligible children** Spring 2020 to Summer 2021

How much have we done

Food Poverty

- School closures during the initial lockdown would have increased the risk of food poverty for a number of children, as school catering provided vulnerable children with a substantial and nutritious meal during the school day
- Families across the borough were supported with cook and eat activities during the summer holidays. Including **400 meal packs** and recipes provided to vulnerable young people. Partnership working with Children's services, Public Protection, Public Health and Huddersfield Town
- Provided a meal provision during the 2020 school holidays across 167 schools, equating to over **200,000 meals for key worker and vulnerable children** alongside collaborating to implement 167 individual site risk assessments to ensure Covid19 security
- Delivered specific allergen legislation training to 167 front line management/supervisors in a Covid19 secure environment
- In Autumn 2020, provided 273 children with weekly food parcels while isolating across seven schools outside of Kirklees

Free School Meal Eligible	2019 Spring	2020 Spring	2020 Autumn	2021 Spring	2021 Summer	Total Increase Spr 2020 to Sum 2021	More than previous years
England Schools Percentage	15%	17%	20%	-	-	-	-
Kirklees Schools Percentage	20%	21%	23%	24%	24%	3%	2%
Kirklees increase since previous Census (newly eligible)	704	683	1127	747	367	2,241	1,548

Digital Services

- At the start of lockdown 1 the DfE provided Kirklees with **1,383 laptops and 200 routers** for specific groups of vulnerable children and young people for maintained schools (Academies had their own DfE allocation)
- In addition, Kirklees funded **10 iPads** for a special school and an extra **120 routers** to mainly support the asylum seeker cohort
- Kirklees Looked After Children continue to be supported by the Virtual School for their IT needs - Approximately **170 digital devices** were allocated to support the education of our Children in Care during Covid-19
- There was also a separate project offering all school age children of Kirklees foster carers a new IT device
- Phase 2 of DfE initiative (September 2020 onwards), DfE allocated devices to a wider cohort of Year 3-11 children for maintained schools (academies had their own DfE allocation). From late-September to mid-November, we provided **1,664 additional devices to schools**

Travel

- School travel have continued to provide transport for vulnerable children and children of key workers throughout the lockdowns during the Covid pandemic..



Impacts of the Pandemic: Spring to Summer 2020

- Children of key worker parents or vulnerable children only were able to attend school during 23rd March to end-May 2020
- During June to July 2020, the Government advised of a phased return, beginning with Reception, Year 1, 6, 10 and 12

How much was done

Throughout the early stages of the pandemic our schools all remained open for our most vulnerable children and key workers. Social workers, teachers and the virtual school worked in partnership to ensure that our most vulnerable children continued to attend school. We are aware that smaller school establishments were disproportionately impacted by the Covid outbreak and we sought to support them to remain open.

In supporting the return to school in September 2020 we ran a campaign called '**Back Together, Better Together**'. Our aim was supporting our family of schools in helping pupils and families adapt to the changes, to build their confidence and to **promote good levels of attendance**

Impacts of the Pandemic: Autumn 2020 to Spring 2021

- September to December (Autumn) 2020 saw a full opening of schools where possible
- England entered a third national lockdown 6th January 2021 to 6th March, with schools open again only to children of key worker parents or vulnerable children

Outcomes

Primary School Absence	2017-18	2018-19	Autumn 2019	Autumn 2020	Eng Autumn 2020	Difference to Eng Aut 2020
Authorised Absence	3.0%	2.9%	3.3%	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
Unauthorised Absence	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Persistent Absence	8.7%	8.8%	11.7%	9.9%	9.9%	0.0%

Secondary School Absence	2017-18	2018-19	Autumn 2019	Autumn 2020	Eng Autumn 2020	Difference to Eng Aut 2020
Authorised Absence	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	-0.1%
Unauthorised Absence	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	-0.3%
Persistent Absence	13.4%	13.6%	14.0%	15.3%	16.3%	-1.0%

- Absence rates were **in line** with or lower than national figures



Suspensions and Exclusions

Outcomes

The Exclusion rate for all pupils is generally **in line** with the national rate for suspensions and permanent exclusions for 2019/20

Exclusions	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	England 2019/20	Yorkshire & Humber 2019/20	Difference to England 2019/20
Suspensions	5.9%	6.1%	4.1%	3.8%	5.4%	0.4%
Permanent exclusions	0.11%	0.10%	0.08%	0.06%	0.06%	0.02%

Inequalities

Learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have the widest group difference to the national rate, with those on a Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) suspensions at 14% (national 12%), and permanent exclusions at 0.1% (in line with national 0.1%). Learners with **SEN support have a higher than national rate in both measures**, at 15% for suspensions (national 11%) and 0.3% for permanent exclusions (national 0.2%).

Suspensions by phase

- Secondary School SEN suspensions rate was 29% in 2019/20, with a difference to the national SEN rate narrowing to 8%
- Primary School SEN suspensions rate was 7% in 2019/20, with a difference to the national SEN rate narrowing to 2%
- Special School SEN suspensions rate was 1% in 2019/20, which is 7% lower than the national rate (2018/19 and 2017/18 was also 1%, which was 11% lower than national). **Special school SEN Suspensions has been lower than the national rate for Special school SEN pupils since 2014/15**

Permanent Exclusions by phase

- Secondary school SEN Permanent Exclusions rate was 0.5% in 2019/20, with a difference to the national SEN rate lowering to 0.2%
- Primary school SEN Permanent Exclusions rate was 0.2% in 2019/20, with a difference to the national SEN rate narrowing to 0.1%
- Special school SEN Permanent Exclusions rate was **0.0% in 2019/20 and has been since at least 2006/07**. This is 0.04% lower than the national special schools rate in 2019/20

How much have we done?

The Local Authority encourages a clear message that schools must seek advice and support from Ethos Academy Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) outreach service or Educational Psychology before moving to exclude a child or young person.

The increased in suspensions and permanent exclusions are being addressed in the **SEND Transformation Plan** through the inclusion strand underpinned by the Kirklees Futures strategy.

DfE warning: Covering the 2019/20 academic year, this year's data includes the start of the pandemic when, from 23 March, school sites were closed for all but those children of critical workers and vulnerable children, with others being educated remotely. Permanent exclusions and suspensions were possible throughout the full academic year but comparisons to previous years should be treated with caution.



Impacts of the Pandemic

Following a national school lockdown in March 2020 (with the exception of vulnerable and key worker children attending), the Department for Education made the decision to cancel primary statutory data collections for 2020 and 2021 and not use any assessment data for accountability purposes. The Local Authority therefore does not have a set of primary assessment data to publish. Kirklees Learning Partners have been in conversations with the most at risk schools, and are evaluating the recovery curriculum offer along with addressing where gaps in attainment and progress have been identified.

Outcomes

At Key Stage 4 (16 years old), progress results indicate that Kirklees students made less progress than pupils nationally from similar starting points overall. The proportion of pupils achieving the average Attainment 8 score (8 chosen subjects at the end of Secondary School) in Kirklees improved by just over 4 percentage points between 2019 and 2021 but is now 1.4 percentage points lower than the national rate.

Key Stage 4

Average Attainment 8 Score	2019	2020	2020 Difference to England	2020 National Rank	2020 National Quartile	2021	2021 England	2021 Yorkshire & Humber	2021 Difference to England
All children	45.3	48.6	0.6	97	C	49.5	50.9	49.1	-1.4
SEN Support	28.1	32.6	-3.8	129	D	31.6	36.7	33.9	-5.1
FSM Eligible	33.4	38.9	0.3	48	B	38.6	39.1	37.6	-0.5
Children Looked After	25.4	22.3	0.9	67	B	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Caution to be taken when comparing 2019 results with 2020 and 2021, due to different methodology around Covid

Next Steps

- Overall, our key areas for improvement lie within the **primary sector**. Most historical measures indicate this is the area where focus should be attributed. Now that schools have opened fully, our key priority is to ensure that inclusive, **COVID recovery curriculum** offers are at the heart of school provision
- Our Kirklees Learning Partners have resumed face to face visits in schools to ensure that our risk assessments, which are the key to **support and challenge**, are correct. This is an approach we use with all schools, including Academies
- School support is focusing on **early reading, phonics, EYFS reforms**, assessment and moderation and the strength of leadership and management
- Our commitment to **tackling inequalities** and providing support for learners with SEND is clear in the commitments made in Our Kirklees Futures and this crucial area is a specific focus for school visit evaluation



How much have we done?

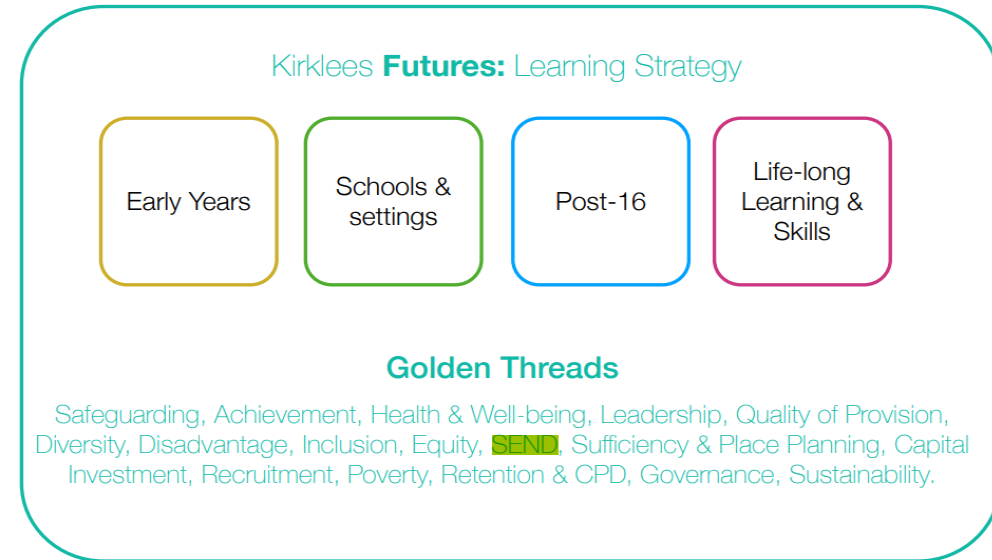
To address educational outcomes and draw the whole learning community together we have developed and **ambitious and aspirational Learning and Skills** strategy to achieve high performance across all developmental stages.

Known as '**Our Kirklees Futures**', the strategy will ensure Kirklees as a centre of lifelong learning excellence, despite the challenges the sector continues to face.

The Kirklees Futures Commission was established to create a long-term strategic plan for education learning and skills for Kirklees. It was led by a multi-agency, cross sector and high-level group of leaders that came together to drive the development of a holistic vision for education and skills.

Our Kirklees Futures recognises and addresses many of the complexities in understanding the overall educational outcomes across Kirklees which suggest overall Kirklees children do less well than their counterparts.

Its analysis shows that Kirklees has many more children that have social characteristics that indicate they are likely to have lower levels of achievement than is the case nationally.



Next Steps

Our Kirklees Futures complements and aligns with the SEND Transformation Plan agenda, to ensure inclusion, resilience and equity as key obsessions.

It joins up with the work of Families Together and Early Help and the Post-16 Skills agenda to provide a holistic approach to learning in the District.

Key performance indicators will be developed and agreed that measure progress towards achieving **Our Kirklees Futures** vision. They will clearly set out the work to be undertaken and indicate what difference is being made to changing lives.



Outcomes

16-17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (or not known)

NEET	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Cohort	2021 England	2021 Yorkshire & Humber	2021 Difference to England
All children	4%	4%	3%	4%	10,660	6%	6%	1%
SEN Support	n/a	11%	5%	7%	290	10%	10%	2%

18 year olds at Key Stage 5 (A Level)

- 2021 provisional results indicate an increase in the Average Points Score (APS) for the 3 best A Levels at 37.9 (compared to 36.6 in 2020), with the national rate at 41.6
- A slight increase in the Average Point Score (APS) for the A level cohort at 39.9 (compared to 39.0 in 2020), slightly lower than the national rate of 41.6
- And an increase in percentage of 3+ A grades / double awards at 21.7 (compared to 18.7 in 2020), lower than the national rate of 28.9

Caution to be taken when comparing 2020 results with 2021, due to different methodology around Covid

19 year olds qualified to Level 2 and Level 3

- Overall, Kirklees is above both regional and national averages for those achieving a level 2 or 3 qualification by the age of 19
- The overall % achieving a full level 2 increased to 32.6% from 27.2% for the SEN cohort, but decreased from 13.9% to 13% for the EHCP cohort

How much have we done?

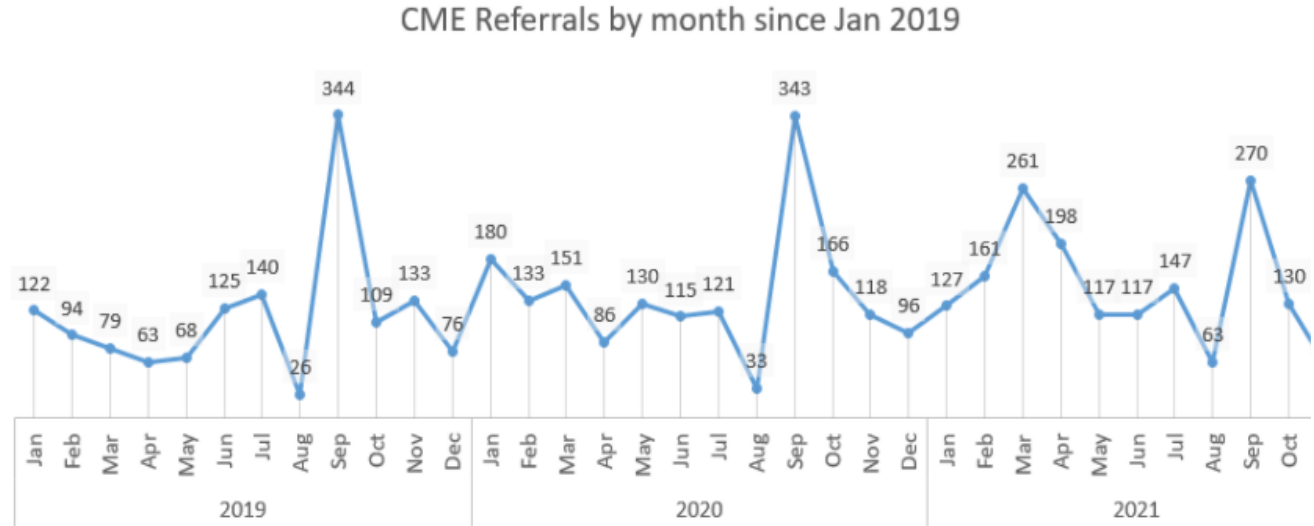
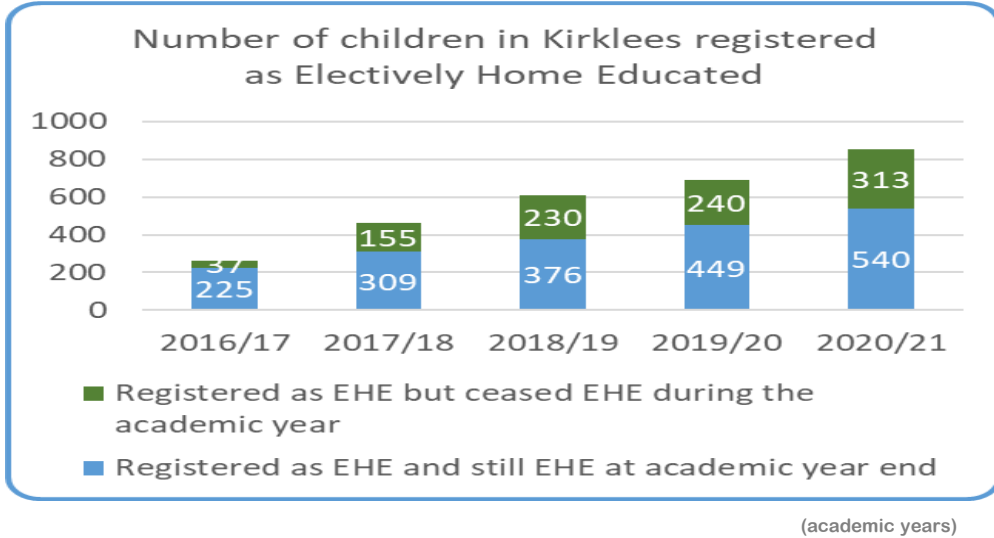
It is also significant that Kirklees invests heavily in NEET prevention and CEIAG activity and continues to increase resource for inclusive progression targeting the SEN and EHCP cohorts. The quality of local post-16 provision is strong, though the options for sub level-2 and appropriate alternative provision is thin. Significant attempts to improve this market involve the increase in internship and traineeship offers locally, the development of Project SEARCH internships, and successful expansion of pre-apprenticeship offers.

Post-16 Destinations

- Progression from school to post-16 destinations is generally **very strong** in Kirklees, with performance for the overall mainstream cohort. Across 2021 Kirklees averaged a year 12 and 13 NEET + not known rate of 4.1%, against an average for England of 5.5% and a Yorkshire and Humber average of 6.3%.
- Successful and sustained progression to post-16 destinations is less strong amongst children identified with SEN at school and the subset of those with EHCPs. 2021 NEET + not known rates for the SEN support group were 7.2% and for the EHCP group this was 8.2%.



Outcomes



Impacts of the Pandemic

- Numbers of children electively home educated remained steady over the course of the pandemic. However, there was a **significant increase** at the beginning of the new school year 2020/21, with a figure of 580 being 34% higher than comparison with the previous September
- For 2021/22 academic year to date (as at 10th November 2021), we have had 590 children registered as EHE, of which, 101 have ceased, leaving 489 currently open
- We are seeing an **increase** in children being home educated for temporary reasons whilst awaiting a school placement at their preferred school, and also an increase in numbers with mental health concerns
- Numbers of children missing referrals fluctuated significantly but this **mirrors the pattern** in previous years, so the pandemic did not appear to have made an impact
- The spike in September is seasonal, with a high number at the beginning of each year, which reduces as investigation resolve issues raised

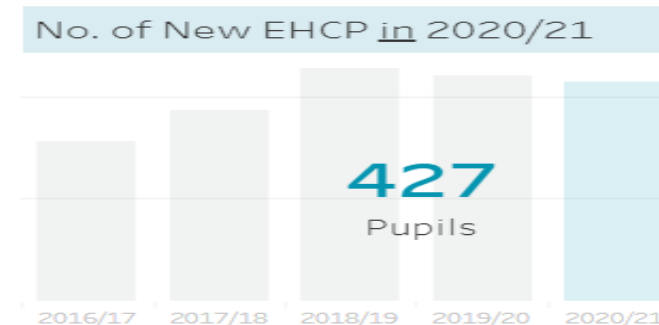


Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Children & Young People with an Educational Health & Care Plan (EHCP)

Outcomes

We have seen a significant improvement in the proportion of all new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks at over 80% placing Kirklees in the 1st quartile (January 2021). Our current performance however does fluctuate over quarterly periods. We know there is further work to do in relation this, particularly in relation to yearly reviews.

	Jan-17	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20	Jan-21	England Rank	England Quartile	England Average
Proportion of a new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks	17.2	49.8	44.5	71.5	83.4	36	A	55.6



Impacts of the Pandemic

We know as the result of increasing numbers of young people have recognised additional needs, and the pressures of COVID-19, that waiting lists for some therapies have become too long. We are addressing this with extra investment. We also recognise that our educational outcomes for young people with SEND need to be improved and that the transitions young people make growing up can be improved. We are focusing on capturing across the partnership the impact we have made and how effective the integration has been for families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has often had a disproportional impact on children with SEND because of their vulnerabilities. We are proud of how, **Kirklees working together**, have supported them by ensuring that large numbers could still continue to attend school or were well supported to learn from home. We also strived to keep as many services open as possible but we do acknowledge there has been an impact because of COVID-19.

How much have we done?

Improvement priorities

Our **aspirations** for children and young people with SEND are not any different to all children, we want them to achieve the very best. We strive to deliver the best outcomes for all our children with SEND across the partnership. This vision is also consistent with the Council's Vision for Adult Social Care and helps ensure a common aspiration.

In 2019 a 10 point SEND Improvement Plan developed upon the existing improvement work aligning a number of key workstreams which covered the whole partnership. In 2020 we developed our **Transformation Plan** which built upon the foundations of the 10 Point Plan. This outlined for children with special educational needs and disabilities an ambition for change across partners, demonstrated through our Inclusive Ambitions, the visibility of SEND in key strategic documents as well improvements in our processes and actions. This has taken place at the same time as addressing issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

in line with the ambitious SEND Transformation Plan, we have successfully **secured £36 million investment in capital build projects, for ambitious re-building of two special schools**. The projects will increase specialist capacity, increase quality of facilities, provide a vehicle to enhance outreach and learning opportunities, and develop the offer for young people with SEND to meet future challenges.

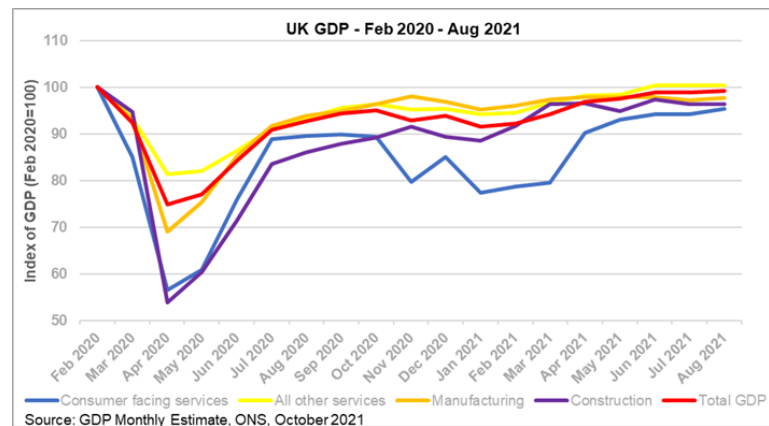


(5) Kirklees has sustainable economic growth and provides good employment for and with communities and businesses



Business growth

Impacts and Outcomes

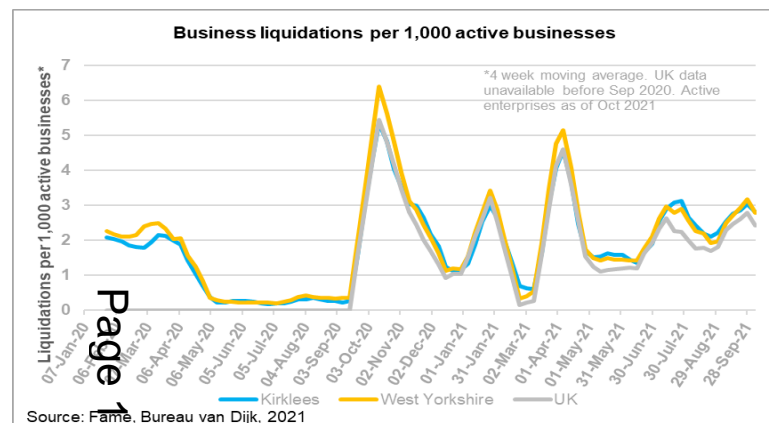


Local data showing headline economic output for Kirklees is not yet available for 2020. However, national data shows that the UK economy declined by 9.8% during 2020 – the largest fall in GDP for 300 years. Although the national economy has seen strong growth since restrictions began to ease, it remains 0.8% smaller in August 2021 than in February 2020. There is some evidence to suggest that, both nationally and locally, supply chain and recruitment issues have slowed the pace of the economic recovery.

Consumer-facing services remains furthest from its pre-COVID level with output 4.7% smaller than February 2020, though all other services output now exceeds February 2020 by 0.4%. Manufacturing is 2.3% below February 2020 and construction is 3.7% smaller.

Business liquidations are presently slightly elevated when compared to pre-COVID. As of 5th October, an average of 78 businesses per week were being liquidated in Kirklees, based on a 4 week moving average. This compares to an average of 55 in Q1 2020, prior to the first lockdown. Though disruption to processing activity at Companies House makes year on year comparisons difficult, it appears that business failures have been kept relatively low through a combination of the financial support available to businesses and legislative changes to minimise liquidations during the pandemic, though these changes are now easing. Some sectors continue to face reduced demand, particularly where COVID-related restrictions have persisted for longer such as international travel and tourism. The persistence of these issues may impact on business viability in some instances.

The latest forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) suggest that GDP will increase by 6.5% this year, faster than previously anticipated as the economy recovers from the pandemic. Whilst the medium term outlook is more positive than in previous forecasts, the OBR still anticipate there will be some degree of scarring (or permanently reduced output) of around 2% of GDP, and there remain significant uncertainties around how the labour market readjusts to the removal of support, as well as how shortfalls in capital investment, innovation, and the acquisition of skills will be addressed as the UK emerges from the pandemic and the EU exit transition period.



Business growth

How much have we done?

341 businesses have engaged with the Business, Economy & Growth Service as of Q2 2021. Half of these engagements have related to start up support with the remainder split across Key Account Management, SME Growth Manager support, inward investment and business centres. The Council's business centres are at 82% of capacity as of Q2 2021 – relatively unchanged from Q1. Comparison with 2020/21 is difficult as the administration of grants support to businesses during the pandemic resulted in some business support activities being scaled back.

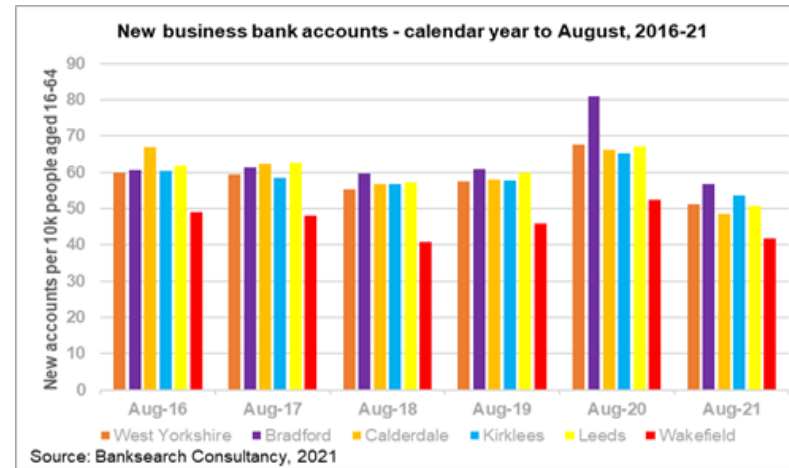
	Number of businesses engaged	FTE jobs created through support	Public/private investment leveraged	Number of business starts supported
2021/22 to date	341	152	£6,844,500	61

Next Steps

- Delivery of the Local Economic Recovery Programme has commenced with financial support from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, with the package of support including local innovation vouchers; enhanced business start-up support; support for music sector businesses and employer Apprenticeship grants.
- Work is underway to refresh the Kirklees Economic Strategy, focused on the long-term economic challenges/opportunities facing the area including business productivity, inclusive growth and net zero.
- Other initiatives commencing delivery include the Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor masterplan and Business Centres Review
- Work will continue to be required to understand the short/long-term impacts of COVID-19 and this will shape future support.

How well have we done it?

The Business, Economy & Growth Service's engagement with businesses has supported 59 new business starts and helped to retain 2 businesses in Kirklees, as well as aiding the creation of 152 new full time equivalent jobs. This activity has also leveraged £6.84m in public and private sector investment in 2021/22 to date. COVID-19 continues to influence service delivery and whilst growth opportunities have enabled some businesses to expand, many have continued to seek support and advice to survive the pandemic, albeit in lower numbers than last year.

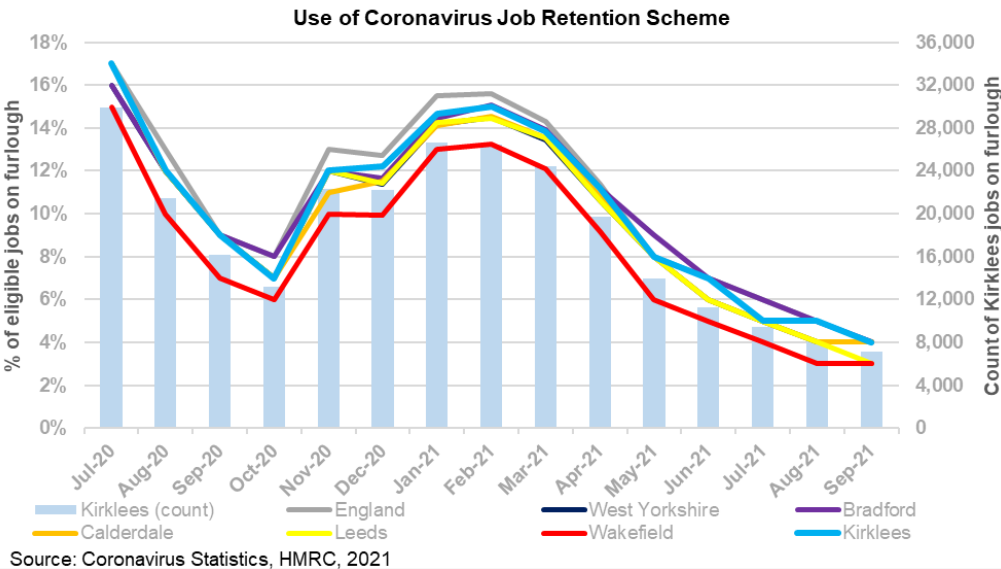


1,463 new business bank accounts were opened in Kirklees in the 2021 calendar year to August. This is 18% lower than the same period in 2020. Some of 2020's rise is likely due to new businesses started whilst people were away from work, as well as businesses ensuring they met eligibility requirements for some COVID-related support. New accounts opened so far in 2021 are 7% lower than in 2019.

There have been 53.6 business starts per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in Kirklees so far this year. This is higher than the 51.2 across West Yorkshire, and second only to Bradford 56.8 among West Yorkshire districts. Kirklees' year on year growth rate of -7% 94th highest out of 309 English districts. 37.4% of new business bank accounts opened so far this year in Kirklees were registered in the 20% most deprived areas. This is down from 39.7% in 2020, but higher than the 35.7% seen in 2019, and substantially higher than the 31% averaged between 2008 and 2015. This may also reflect increased access to start-up/advice support through the Council and other providers

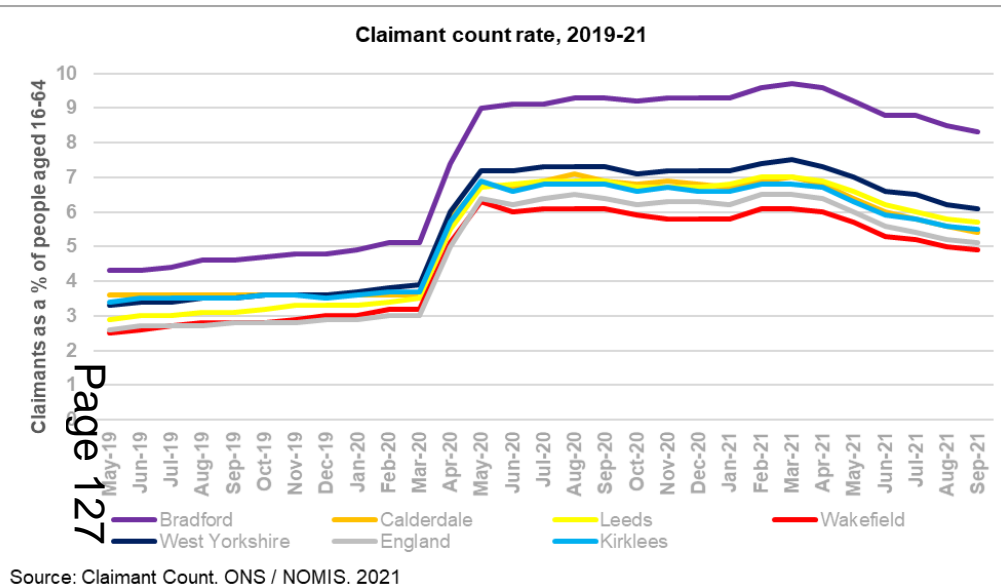


Impacts and Outcomes



In July 2020 there were almost 30,000 jobs on furlough in Kirklees, 17% of all eligible employments. This fell through the summer and early autumn but rose again with further lockdowns in November and January, with the second peak reaching 26,500 furloughed jobs in Kirklees - 15% of the eligible total. Use of the scheme fell from spring 2021 onwards as restrictions eased. However, by the scheme's end in September 2021 there were 7,100 jobs furloughed in representing 4% of eligible jobs.

Take up of the scheme has been very similar in Kirklees to England and West Yorkshire as a whole throughout the pandemic. Although use of the Job Retention Scheme lessened significantly as it wound down, the fact that over 7,000 people remained furloughed in Kirklees at its end emphasises the need to continue to monitor changes in the labour market closely in the coming months.



In line with the rest of the country, the number of people claiming out of work benefits spiked in Kirklees at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. It peaked at 90% above January 2020 levels in May 2020, which is slightly below the 118% increase seen in England. Claimants have fallen steadily from February 2020 onwards, but as of September 2021 remain 54% higher than January 2020 in Kirklees and 76% higher nationally. Although the absolute increase in claimants has been lower locally, the claimant count rate (claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16-64) remains higher in Kirklees (5.5%) than in England (5.1%).

It should also be noted that the claimant count has increased more markedly than the official unemployment rate through the pandemic. This potentially reflects people claiming out of work benefits due to lower incomes through the pandemic, as well as technical and administrative issues.

Unemployment has remained lower than most analysts anticipated through the pandemic, and since the onset of recovery job vacancies have reached record highs. Vacancies in Kirklees are around 50% higher than prior to the pandemic, according to data from WYCA / Labour Insight. At West Yorkshire level, vacancies are increasing in all occupations but are highest in health & care, IT and business management – all of which have seen vacancies double since prior to the pandemic.



How much have we done?

1,875 adults have been supported through the Employment & Skills Service so far in 2021/22, representing a slight increase on 1,787 in the same period last year. 242 businesses have been supported in relation to workforce development, staffing and recruitment so far in 2021/22, up from 158 in the same period last year. 115 of these have been supported through the Kickstart scheme to support 16-24 year olds at risk of long term unemployment.

Over £3.7m of funding has been commissioned to 27 delivery partners to support this work. Alongside this, the Council continues to work closely with partners to ensure that employment and skills initiatives support the economic recovery in Kirklees.

Next Steps

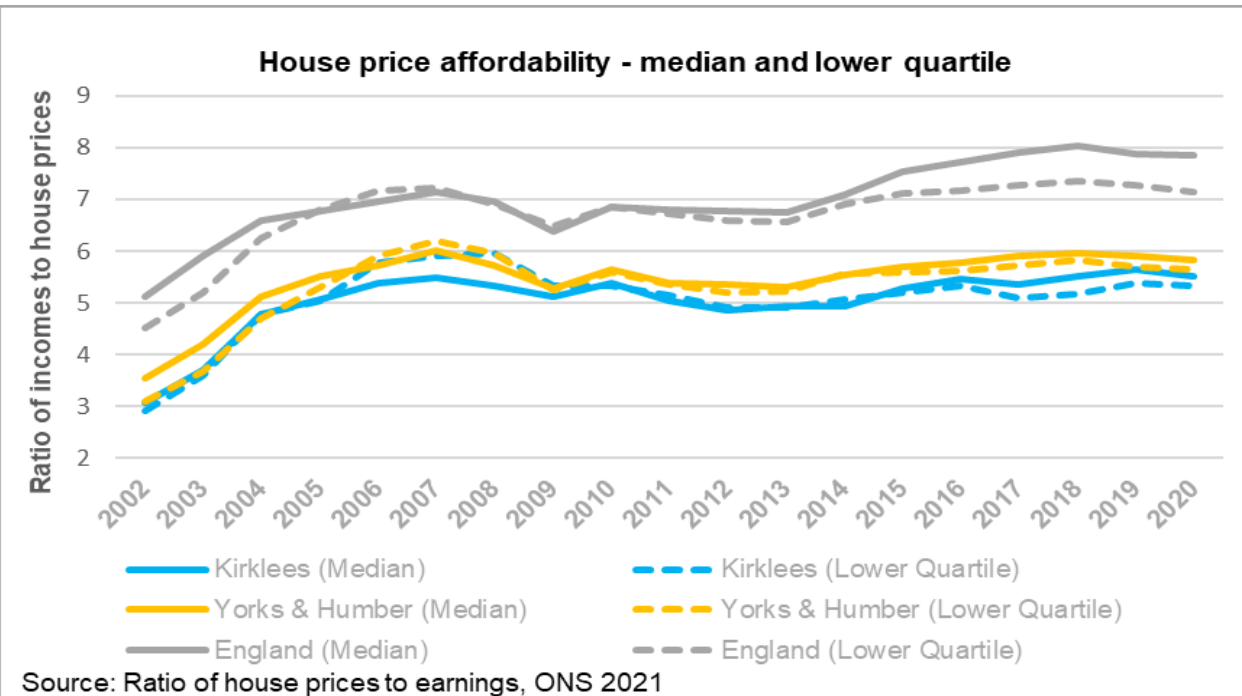
- Although the latest forecasts suggest unemployment will peak lower than previously anticipated, there remains significant uncertainty in the labour market, given the relatively high number of people still furloughed at the scheme's end and the significant recruitment challenges facing many occupations and sectors.
- Research is also being undertaken to understand current challenges facing businesses around the supply of skills and labour, and this will inform future support.
- A new employment and skills strategy is in development to inform future delivery. This will seek to increase engagement in adult learning and basic skills development and increase employer investment in workforce skills.
- The strategy will also widen the range of Works Better clients whilst focusing on vulnerable residents, and develop a wrap-around Apprenticeships offer for young people and employers.
- Alongside this, there will be an increased focus on collaboration and joint working both internally and with partners to maximise the opportunities for the district from initiatives including the Mayoral pledges.

How well have we done it?

1,374 residents aged 16+ have improved their skills as a result of the Employment & Skills Service's provision. Whilst this is down slightly on the same period last year, the number of people moving into work and apprenticeships as a result of the Council's Employment & Skills provision has increased by 55%, from 401 to 622. Half of these have been supported through the Works Better initiatives, with 133 supported via Kickstart.

	H1 2020/21	H1 2021/22
Number of businesses supported with workforce development / staff / recruitment	158	242
Number of residents aged 16+ supported through Employment and Skills provision	1787	1875
Number of residents aged 16+ improving their skills through Employment and Skills provision managed by GR	1463	1374
Number of people moving into work and apprenticeships as a result of Council Employment and Skills provision.	401	622





Impacts and Outcomes

Like many industries, the housing market was severely impacted by COVID-19 in 2020, with both sales volumes and house building subdued by the pandemic.

Volumes of house sales fell by 27% in the first half of 2020 compared to 2019 both locally and nationally. Whilst the first half of 2021 has seen a recovery, this has been less pronounced locally. Sales in Kirklees are 11% below 2019 levels, whilst across England they are 4% above 2019. House prices have risen sharply in many places since early 2020, reflecting challenges of supply and demand and also reflecting differing factors affecting peoples' property choices as work and commuting patterns have been disrupted. In Kirklees, as of August 2021, average house prices were 11% higher than the same period in 2019, whilst prices are 12.7% across England.

Although local earnings data does not yet allow analysis of affordability for 2021, the data for 2020 shows median house prices were 5.5 times median earnings in Kirklees, and for lower paid workers, prices at the 25th percentile are 5.3 times 25th percentile earnings. Prices are in excess of 7 times earnings across England. As such, although Kirklees is more affordable than many places, home ownership remains a challenge for many.

The latest data for the private rented sector for March 2021 shows overall rents (encompassing all property types) were relatively static in Kirklees compared to a year earlier at £505. This is around 69% of the England average, whilst house prices are 61% of England level.

Median private sector rents, March 2021	Room	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed	All PRS rents
England	£412	£650	£700	£800	£1,350	£730
West Yorkshire	£368	£495	£575	£650	£975	£595
Kirklees	£303	£400	£495	£ 625	£800	£505



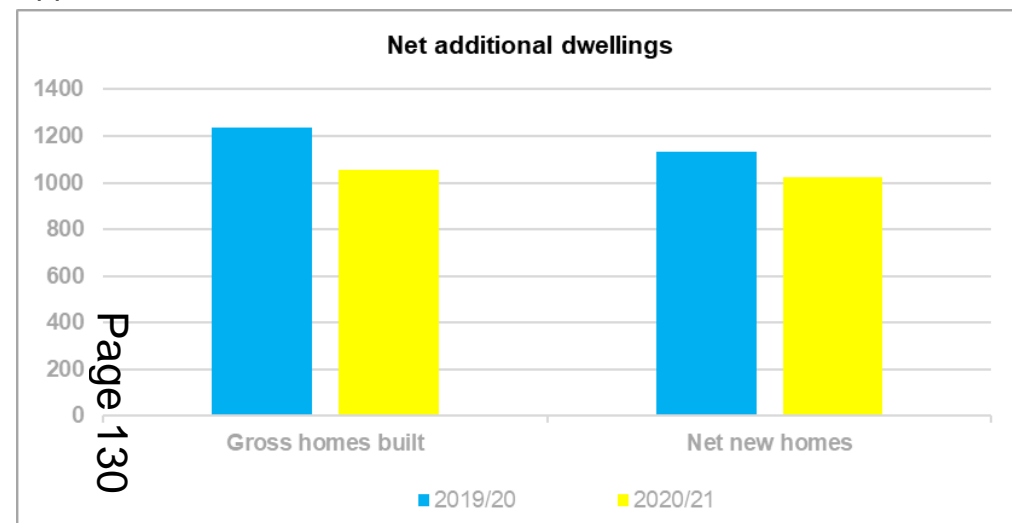
Housing and planning

How much have we done?

The total number of planning applications in hand has been elevated since Q2 2020. Although applications in hand dropped by 4% between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021, it remains 26.4% higher than in 2019.

Total number of Planning Applications that are in hand	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019/20	3499	3340	3234	3286
2020/21	3786	4397	4324	4143
2021 to date	4353	4221	-	-

1,056 gross new homes and 1,021 net additional homes were delivered in 2020/21. Net new homes were 10% down on the previous year, against a target of 1,730 additional homes set out in the local plan. As of April 2021, there was a pipeline of 7,046 dwellings with planning approval.



How well have we done it?

The number of applications undetermined between 27 and 52 weeks has increased by 20% since 2019/20 – a slightly lower increase than the number of applications in hand overall. 95% of major applications were determined in time in Q2 2021/22, consistent with in 2019/20, albeit down slightly from the 100% achieved in 2020/21.

Planning Applications undetermined between 27 & 52 weeks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019/20	343	367	378	429
2020/21	463	547	514	508
2021 to date	449	440	-	-

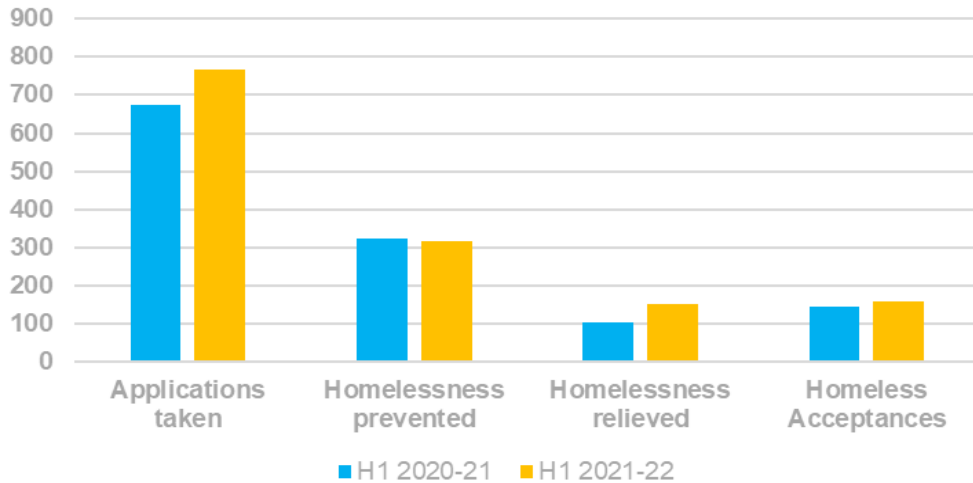
Next Steps

- Work will continue to understand the changing ways in which people live, work and commute in Kirklees and how this affects the roles of the district's towns and other places, and relationships with places beyond Kirklees.
- Delivery is already focusing on supporting the post-COVID recovery through developing more resilient and diverse centres, including the delivery of the Dewsbury Blueprint, the Cultural Heart project in Huddersfield and further housing growth on a range of sites including Dewsbury Riverside.

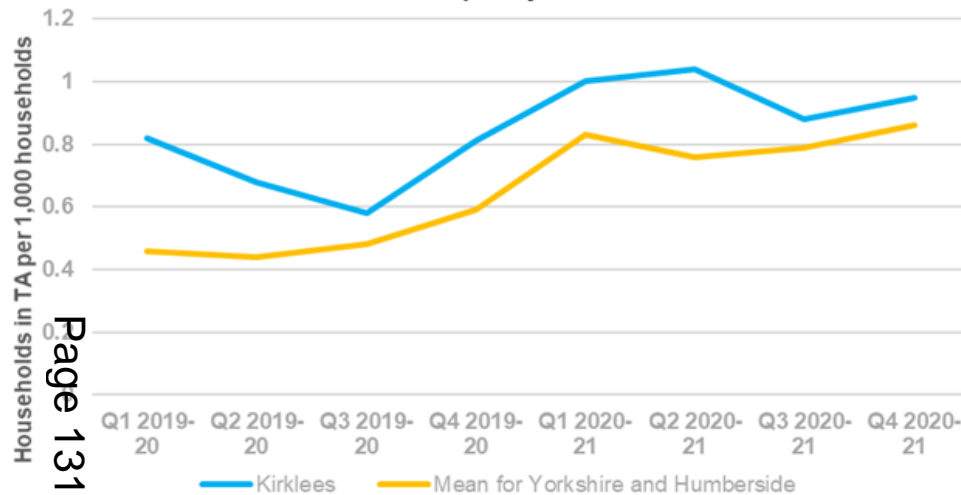


Homelessness

Homelessness applications and prevention



Households in temporary accommodation



Impacts and Outcomes

- The number of homeless applications taken by Housing Solutions has increased slightly in the first half of 2021-22 compared to the same period on 2020-21, from 675 to 765. Homeless prevention and homeless acceptance numbers are broadly similar to previous year, whilst instances in which homelessness was relieved increased from 105 to 151.
- There has been a rise in cases presenting due to private rented tenancies ending, in light of the lifting of the COVID-related ban on evictions.
- There are significant pressures arising from lack of availability of social housing, however, which does mean that it is much harder to secure successful prevention/relief outcomes, and the number of households in temporary accommodation, and length of stay in temporary accommodation are of significant concern.
- The official rough sleeping snapshot count is done annually and reported to Government. The figure for 2019 was 16, which reduced to 4 in 2020. The 2021 count will be undertaken shortly.
- The vast majority of entrenched rough sleepers have been identified and brought in off the streets. Wraparound support is ongoing, to ensure former rough sleepers can maintain their accommodation.

Next Steps

Future plans/priorities in relation to homelessness include:

- Work to identify alternative/additional temporary accommodation options
- Recruitment of a new team to generate alternative private rented housing options for customers facing homelessness
- Deliver and manage emergency accommodation through this winter's Severe Weather protocol;
- Improve pathways to support and accommodation for specific vulnerable cohorts including ex-offenders, refugees, young people.



Impacts and Outcomes

The pandemic has altered how people move around Kirklees and the reasons for the journeys they make. This is evident in the use of Huddersfield's Queensgate Market, which dropped by 95% at the onset of the initial lockdown. Although this began to recover as restrictions eased it remained below pre-pandemic levels.

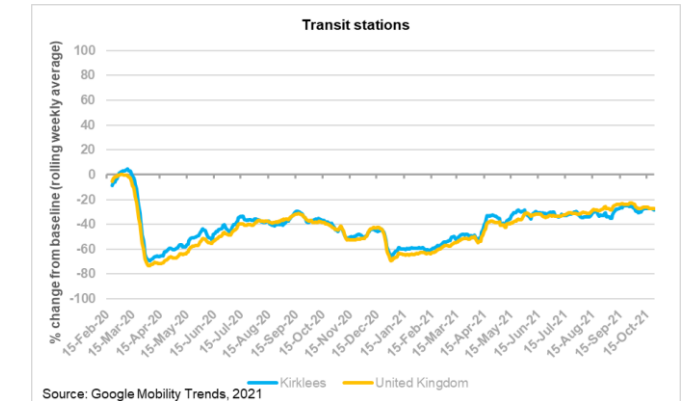
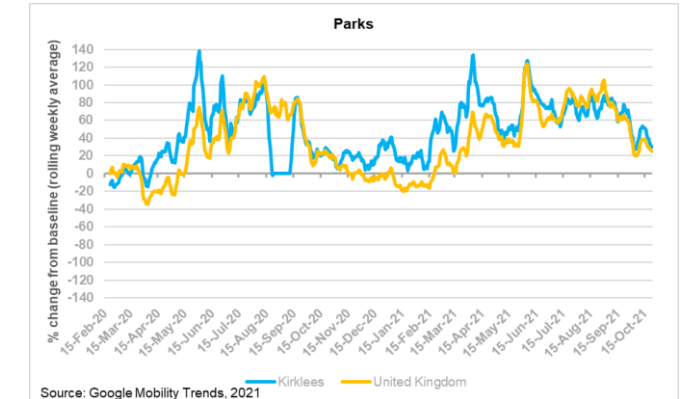
Markets in Huddersfield and Dewsbury are currently operating at reduced capacity due to forthcoming regeneration projects. However, a range of events have helped to boost activity in recent months and it is anticipated that the regeneration will help to attract increased visitors and spend on completion.

Analysis of data from Google Mobility Trends for Kirklees shows the lockdowns in Spring 2020 and early 2021 had a particularly large impact on retail and leisure activity, whilst also affecting grocery and pharmacy shopping, and transit stations.

Workplace activity has remained below pre-pandemic levels since the first lockdown began. However, activity is closer to normal in Kirklees (15% below baseline in the week to 23rd October) than it is nationally (24% below baseline). This likely reflects the types of roles and industries prevalent locally and the degree to which people are able to work from home.

Notably, the use of parks is the only area monitored to have seen consistently higher levels of activity, particularly since the easing of the first lockdown.

Data is now being collected to locally monitor footfall in Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres, and options are being considered to extend the scope of this in the coming months.



(6) People in Kirklees live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are protected from harm



Headlines

Outcome Definition

We want everyone to be proud of the communities in which they live, feel happy, be safe, and get on well. Enabling people to get actively involved in their neighbourhoods and the decisions that affect them will create stronger communities and a more cohesive district.

Headlines

As Social Restrictions eased in the first 6 months of 2021/22, face to face service delivery gradually returned (incorporating new approaches introduced over the pandemic) including the launch of a new library in North Huddersfield. Work has begun on a range of strategic priorities that were displaced during the COVID emergency response such as the ASB review, Communities Plan and strategies relating to Hate Crime, Modern Day Slavery and Domestic Abuse.

The impact on well-being of over a year's restricted social contact was picked up by Community Plus staff. This resulted in a concerted effort to increase provision through reinvigorating the community and voluntary sector.

Communities staff worked alongside partners to make neighbourhoods safer by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Place Standard conversations in targeted areas across the district enabled residents to establish both positive factors and areas of improvement for their local area.

The Community Champions Programme was launched during Q1 and since then has seen collaborative working with voluntary and community sector groups to promote safe behaviours and vaccination take up in areas of highest infection levels.

During the first 6 months of the year, Kirklees became part of the Afghan resettlement programme and started to build on the existing infrastructure in place to support families. There is however an ongoing risk about the availability of suitable housing in close proximity to support services.

Current Picture

The first 6 months of 2021/22 has seen overall crime levels return to pre-pandemic levels although property crimes such as vehicle theft and burglary remain approximately 50% lower than levels previous recorded.

Offences of violence against the person has fluctuated over the past 18 months although the trend has been generally increasing. However, it is important to note that the majority (~80%) of violence against the person offences involves no injury sustained as opposed to those resulting in injury (~20%).

	Quarter 1			Quarter 2		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Total Crime	11,884	9,699	11,269	12,068	10,638	11,178
Violence	4,484	4,337	5,156	4,583	4,620	4,999
Vehicle Crime	903	491	466	1,044	522	510
Burglary	1,005	487	397	919	444	411



Current Picture

The new duty on **Serious Violence** requires Local Authorities to work with Partners to collectively tackle crimes such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing.

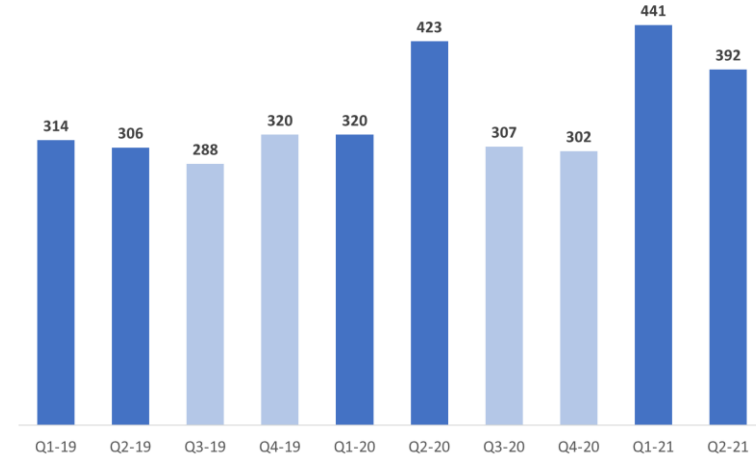
In the first 6 months of 2021/22, there were 212 offences of Serious Violence recorded in Kirklees which is an increase on the previous year's figure of 157. This was affected by the closure of the night-time economy and other public space, perhaps a more reliable comparison is the previous year's figure of 168 offences. Funding through the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), has been utilised to tackle violence in identified areas, working closely with local community groups and schools to deliver bespoke programmes of work and interventions, including mentoring for those identified as most at risk.

From the latest available perceptions results (March 2021, WY Combined Authority), 76.2% of respondents said they **felt safe in their local area** (representing a 3% reduction on previous year – although this may be due to a shift from targeted telephone to self-selected online surveys). The top 3 concerns for respondents from Kirklees are (1) Dangerous driving, (2) litter and (3) problem parking.

The perception of whether people from **different backgrounds get on well together** is reported as 53.6% (down 1.1%) which is slightly less than the figure of 56% for West Yorkshire (down 1.2%).

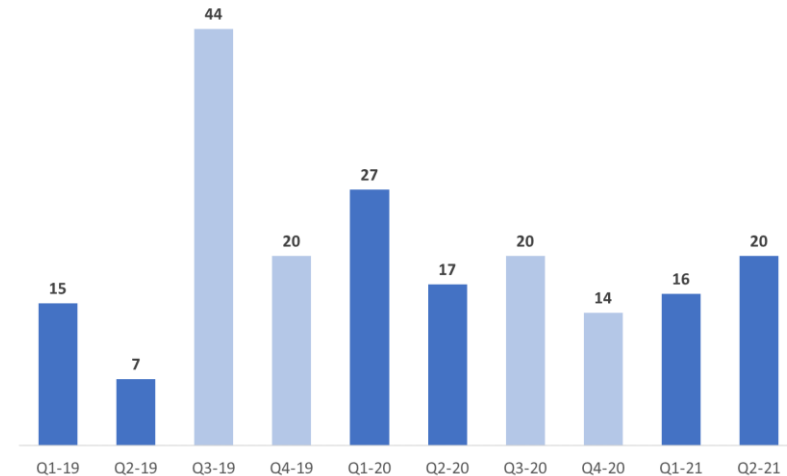
Hate Incidents

Although the number of **hate crimes** has varied on a monthly basis, the overall volume of incidents recorded in the first 6 months of 2021/22 (833) is 12% higher than the previous year (743). This is likely to be the result of increased confidence and better recording although there has been an increase in neighbour related incidents, some of which start as anti-social behaviour and disputes which have increased over the lockdown period.



Modern Day Slavery

The number of **modern day slavery** (human trafficking) offences recorded in the first 6 months of 2021/22 (40) remains fairly comparable with the previous year (46).



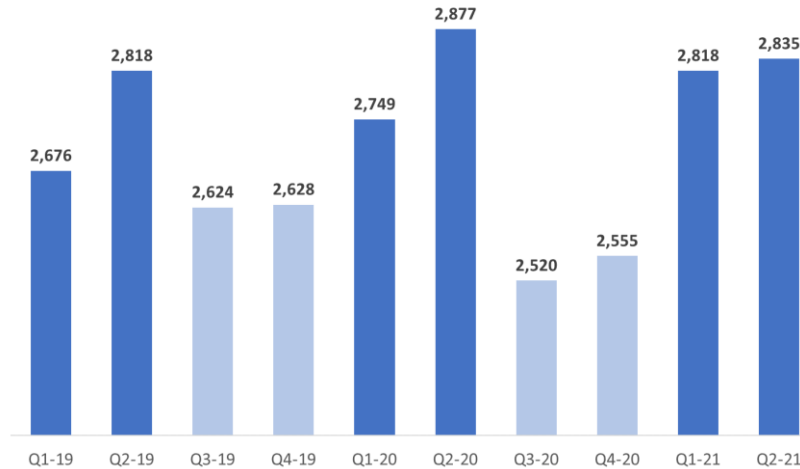
Analysis of monthly trends highlights significant spikes in the number of offences which are connected with either recording of historic cases or where a targeted operation has taken place.



How much and how well are we doing

Domestic Abuse

The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police during the first 6 months of 2021/22 is relatively stable (after it peaked in July 2020). During this period, concerted efforts have been made to promote the reporting of concerns at the earliest opportunity if abuse is suspected – through an awareness and communications campaign.



Q1/2 saw staff and services from across the partnership delivering services in person – this has increased the capacity to spot signs of domestic abuse at an early stage. Using knowledge gained through remote working, partnership multi-agency risk assessment conferencing is being undertaken online to increase efficiency.

In response to the new Statutory Duty to support people in safe accommodation, a needs assessment was undertaken in Q2, which drew on multi-agency data to identify current support needs. Key themes which emerged were engaging with marginalised groups, mental health and focusing on the needs of children.

Safer

As lockdown restrictions were eased in Q1, the work of the **Community & Environmental Support Officers (CESOs)** shifted from COVID support back towards more traditional work – namely engaging with 891 residents (with appropriate risk assessments in place), addressing issues identified through multi-agency problem solving meetings and environmental problems such as littering. During Q2, CESOs have focused on joint work projects alongside Elected Members and officers from key partner agencies (Police, Housing, Environmental) to work on neighbourhood hotspots.

During Q1/2 **ASB staff** have used a combination of online technologies and in person contact to support victims and manage anti-social behaviour, including through tenancy enforcement which was re-introduced in Q1. There has been a focus on personal anti-social behaviour and in particular neighbour related issues which have developed into more complex cases since the start of lockdown.

	2021	
	Q1	Q2
Number of ASB Cases Managed	40	33
CESO Public Contacts / Engagement	481	410



How much and how well are we doing

Libraries Service

During Q1 / 2, Libraries started to return to in person delivery, although creative use of online technologies gave customers the opportunity to engage with authors from around the world. The role of **volunteers and friends of groups** continue to be crucial to the delivery of library services although a shortfall in numbers has meant the delivery of some services have been restricted.

In August 2021 there was an official event to celebrate the opening of a brand-new **library at Birkby / Fartown**. The library was developed in collaboration with local people to ensure provision met local needs and reflects the increased use of facilities at a neighbourhood level.

In August 2021, Kirklees Libraries were the first in the region to be awarded the **“Libraries of Sanctuary”** national award. This award is presented in recognition of the work undertaken by the library service to provide a safe and welcoming space for people fleeing conflict, persecution, and other circumstances.



Community Plus

During the first 6 months of 2021/22, Community Plus staff have supported 121 (exceeding the target of 100 for the year) individuals who are often lonely. They are supported to **develop social connections** in their neighbourhoods and thereby supporting their mental (and physical) health and well-being needs.

	2021	
	Q1	Q2
Support 100 individuals looking for social connection	105	116
Support 40 groups to open following Covid closures	40	71
Fund 30 new community lead projects	17	15

Community Plus staff have also supported 111 **community and voluntary sector groups** (against a target of 40) to re-open with the necessary risk assessments in place and creating a safe / welcoming environment for service users.

In addition to this work, Community Plus staff have provided tailored **information and advice** to 143 community groups (against an annual target of 50 groups) to enhance their delivery. In addition to this, 32 groups have received **funding** (against an annual target of 30) to ensure sustainable delivery.



How much and how well are we doing

Place Standard

During the first 6 months of 2021/22, a total of 1,765 people participated in **Place Standard** conversations through in person contact, group sessions and, drawing on what had been learnt through working differently during lockdown, through online platforms. Respondents identified what was good about their local area but also highlighted improvements to inform local action planning.

Analysis of the results of Place Standard conversations to September show the top 3 priorities relating to the 'feeling safe' theme differ between areas although some common themes relating to gangs and ASB, petty crime and drug dealers / users. In terms of solutions, the two which stand out as more frequently cited are providing activities for young people / youths and improving greenspace / environment.

Between April and September 2021, action plans have been developed (in Netherton and South Crosland, Linthwaite and Cowlersley) and residents in Honley have been supported in accessing £60K for youth provision using evidence from the Place Standard tool.

Voluntary and community sector

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups were significantly affected by the impact of COVID – some groups closed whilst others lost volunteers due to supporting COVID activities or shielding due to underlying vulnerabilities. The first 6 months of 2021/22 has seen groups supported in reopening safely and enabling volunteers to return and working with the sector to build capacity and access funding.

The number of people volunteering as part of the Council's employee volunteering scheme showed a marked increase in Q2 2021/22 but it is recognised that this is likely to be a significant underestimate – there is a plan in place to relaunch the scheme.

	2021	
	Q1	Q2
Organisations receiving Volunteering Support	29	29
Volunteering Hours in Kirklees	1,636	1,500
VCS groups supported (e.g. funding, advice, planning)	112	113
Organisations supported to access funding	14	29

The VCS team has worked with 225 groups in Q1/2 to support and advise them in areas such as provision of funding advice, informal training and guidance, supported with asset transfers and providing links to embed volunteering.



How much and how well are we doing

Migration and Re-settlement

Kirklees agreed to be a part of the **Afghan Relocation Programme** and is planning to support 79 individuals (approximately 16 families) over the next 12 months. Families can be located anywhere across Kirklees, although in the main this will be in Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury to enable people to access support services. A programme team is in place and additional staff are now being recruited and our first family has arrived in this period

Asylum Dispersal has seen significant pressures in the past 6 months and throughout COVID, hotels have been brought in to use by the Home Office accommodating 130 people. The approach of #KirkleesWelcomes is to support health, mental health, orientation, clothing and English lessons.

#KirkleesWelcomes is a partnership approach and collectively has supported and worked with Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants during this period including 238 children through the International New arrivals Team, 161 English assessments, welcome mentors supporting 89 engagements, 129 new refugees supported with post asylum decision support and 57 vulnerable migrants receiving the support of the Essential Needs Fund.

The first 6 months of 2021/22 has been very reactive responding to Hotels and the Afghan Relocation Programme. However, wider development work has progressed with the establishment of a partnership approach to No Recourse To Public Funds, supporting complex cases relating to some of the most vulnerable people in Kirklees and establishing an Essential Needs Fund.

There is significant ongoing work to support COVID vaccination take up amongst vulnerable groups working with the CCG, Locala and Welcome Mentors and DASH. Newly translated 'Welcome To Kirklees' resources have been developed and the Council's web site now uses google translate which means information can be accessed in over 80 languages.

Cohesion

During Q1, Cohesion staff worked intensively on a variety of events which had the potential to raise community tensions including protests and demonstrations impacting on schools and local election activity. Cohesion staff engaged with communities to understand issues of local relevance and to highlight positive stories of collaboration. An example of this work is Carry My Story which works with schools to use lived experience of refugees and asylum seekers to encourage debate and understanding.

Surpassing our target, over 13,000 people have been supported by the Cohesion Team and partners to register with the Governments EU Settlement Scheme. A strong partnership approach over the past 12 months, and throughout Covid, has ensured the risks associated with non-registration such as homelessness and poverty, have been mitigated. The work resulted in a nomination for a LGC award for partnership.

The Cohesion team has supported in excess of 200 faith and community groups throughout the pandemic with information / webinars and distribution of PPE. More recently, the team has been supporting groups around safe operating procedures as restrictions ease.



PREVENT (Violent Extremism)

The overall threat level during Q1/2 has remained as Substantial but there have been increased risks including the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, far right activities (with an increasing anti-Semitic narrative) such as stickers in public places.

Increasing opportunities post-lockdown has enabled us to deliver more awareness sessions and for partners to identify safeguarding concerns at an early stage. Channel referrals are slightly up on the previous year (although this was impacted by lockdown restrictions) – the online threat remains a significant concern with more people spending more time online.

Inequalities

The Impact of COVID and related issues for individuals and communities have been disproportionately experienced across Kirklees in some of the more deprived areas – often with higher Black and Minority Ethnic populations. Monitoring of Community Tensions has shown examples of blaming relating to restrictions and vaccination take up which has been divisive.

This disproportionate impact on individuals and families has increased concerns regarding physical and in particular mental health with resulting negative coping mechanisms which are emerging as front-line workers increase their in person engagement.

During the first 6 months of 2021/22, work commenced on the development of the Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF) which aims to embed inclusion into everyday business.

Design circles are in place through which partners and stakeholders can agree principles of the inclusive communities framework, highlight importance of place based working to enable all voices are heard and identify necessary data & intelligence necessary to inform and evaluate the work.

Next Steps

The past 18 months has had a significant impact on day to day living which has affected individuals and communities, in particular with their physical and mental health including uncertainty towards the future. As services return to in person engagement, it is likely that there will be a demand in support services such as Community Plus relating to well-being concerns including loneliness.

A combination of home focused living and safety fears and shielding by vulnerable people means that levels of volunteering have reduced and consequently there is a need to recruit more volunteers to provide support including delivering council services such as Libraries.

Geographically, the ongoing impact of COVID and related community safety issues has been felt more acutely in the more deprived neighbourhoods in the district – it is important that communities have a voice in shaping recovery plans – including through Place standard action planning.

A new Communities Partnership Plan will be developed during Q3 which will co-ordinate the work of partner agencies and the community and voluntary sector to collectively tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and develop more inclusive communities.



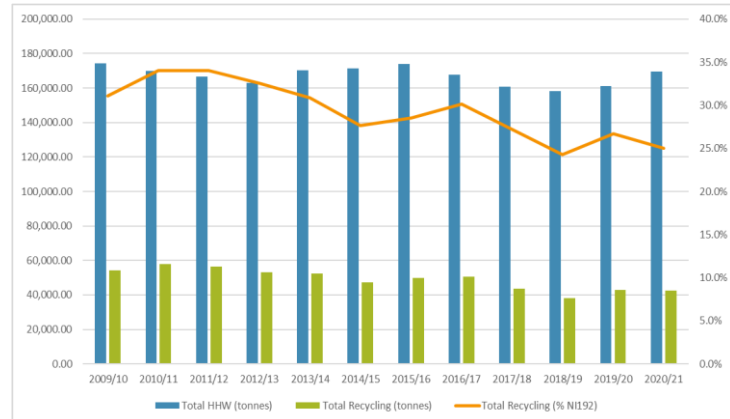
People in Kirklees experience a high quality, clean, sustainable and green environment



Population outcome indicators

Recycling rates & waste volumes

Household waste and recycling volume (tonnes) and recycling rates

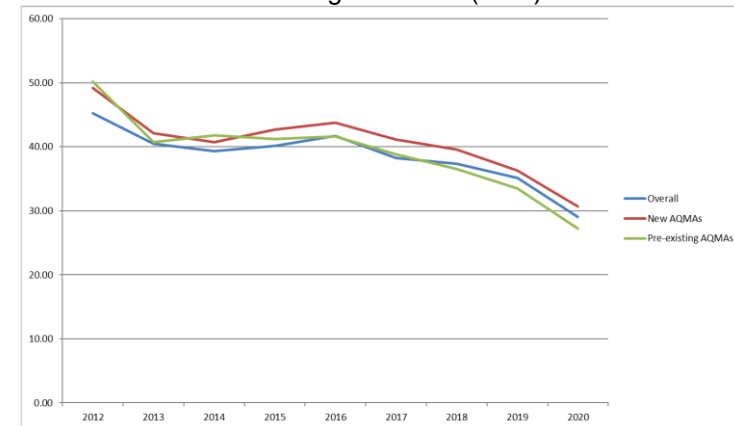


Source: WasteDataFlow, August 2021 (verified data)

- Just under 170,000 tonnes of waste were collected from Kirklees households in 2020/21. This is a similar volume to ten years ago and reflects a gradual increase in waste volume over the last three years.
- **25% of household waste was recycled in 2020/21.** This is the second lowest annual recycling rate in the last ten years (the lowest was 24.3% in 2018/19).
- In 2019-20 Kirklees had a lower recycling rate (26.5%) than all other LAs in the Yorkshire & Humber region (44.2%) and, nationally, Kirklees ranked 321 out of 342 local authorities. The national average recycling rate in 2019-20 was 43%.

Air quality

Kirklees annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations

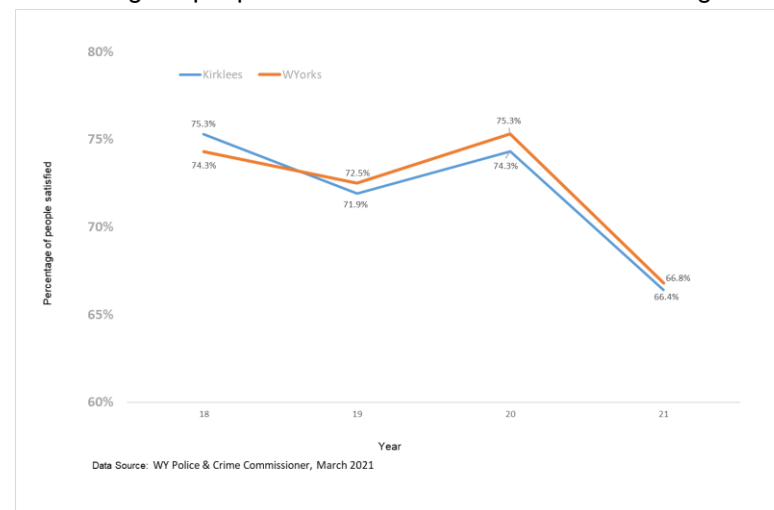


Source: Kirklees Council Air Quality Annual Status Report, submitted June 2021

- The two primary pollutants that provide an indication of air quality are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter. In Kirklees, **the concentration of NO₂ has fallen districtwide**, but in some hotspots, this had stagnated over the last 5 years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentrations across the district are compliant with UK target levels, although Kirklees would not be compliant with the lower World Health Organisation PM_{2.5} targets if these were to be adopted in the UK.

Satisfaction with local area

Percentage of people who are satisfied with their local neighbourhood

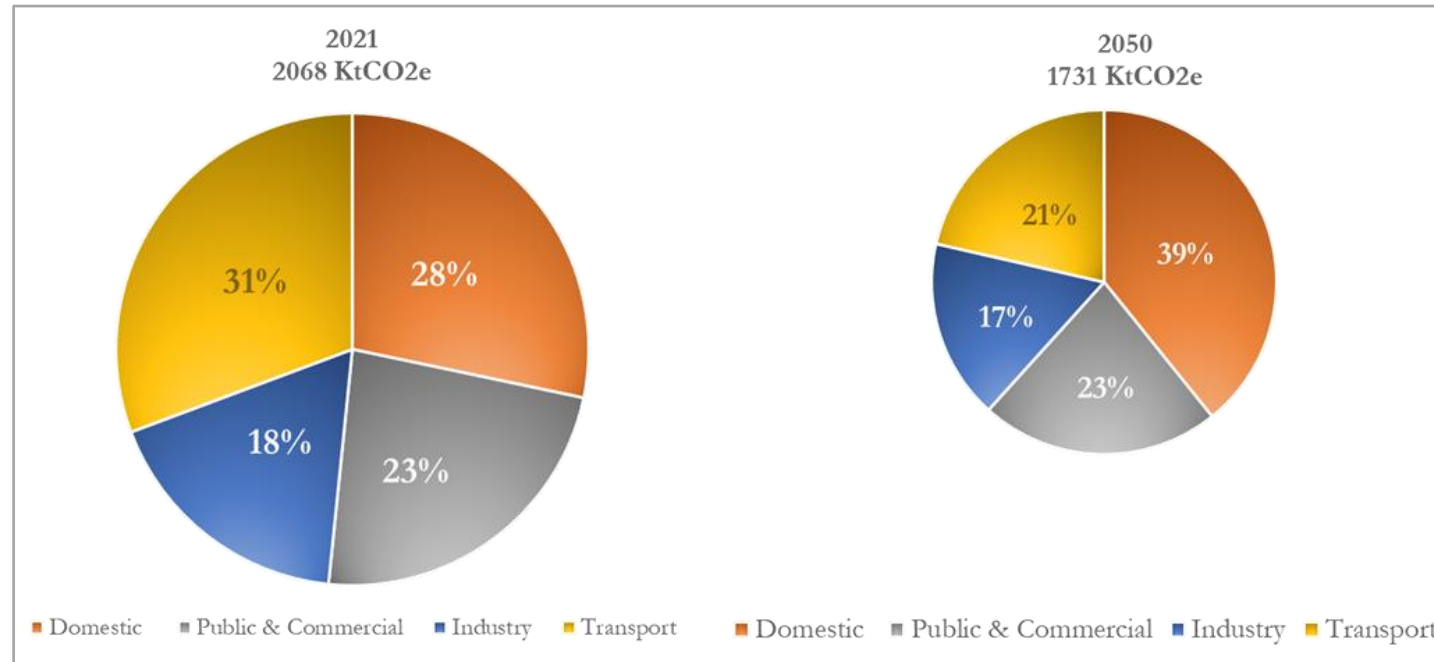


- **66.4% of people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live**
- This is a significant (8%) fall since the start of Covid-19 restrictions (74.3%). However, it should be noted that regular postal surveys were suspended during 2020 and data was collected via an online 'snapshot' survey for the first time in March 2021. The response sample for Kirklees was 612. The change in results must therefore be interpreted with caution
- Kirklees has similar satisfaction levels to West Yorkshire as a whole (66.8%) and all other areas have seen similar reductions in satisfaction. Satisfaction rates in West Yorkshire are highest in Calderdale (73.8%) and lowest in Wakefield (63.7%).
- The survey does not ask why people are satisfied (or otherwise) with their local area but 38.7% of survey respondents (across West Yorkshire) said they felt their local area had 'got worse' in the past 12 months, compared with 27.7% in 2020.

Reducing our carbon footprint and tackling climate change

Around 70% of UK councils, including Kirklees, have declared a **'climate emergency'**. In order to achieve 'net zero' we need to look at how we do things differently in every sector. Given that climate change and air pollution are closely related, many activities impact on both. For example, decarbonising transport will reduce carbon emissions and vehicle-related air pollution. Climate change itself will indirectly impact on many areas of council activity, such as food safety services (because food security and food safety may be significantly affected by climate change) and emergency planning, preparation and resilience work.

Carbon Footprint for Kirklees - present and projected sectoral breakdown



Source: Gouldson, A., Sudmant, A., Duncan, A., Higgins-Lavery, R. (2021) A Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Kirklees, Kirklees Climate Commission Place-Based Climate Action Network.

The above charts show the **carbon footprint** for Kirklees. It is important to note that the council has control over only some areas of activity. Domestic decarbonisation, for example, relies on residents switching to 100% renewable energy tariffs, improving the energy efficiency of their homes and retrofitting or installing renewables.

Impacts and Outcomes

- The council **reduced its carbon emissions by 53.5%** between 2005-6 and 2019/20, exceeding the 40% target for 2020 set in 2010.
- In 2019 the estimated **carbon dioxide emissions** (within the scope of influence of LAs) in Kirklees was 3.7 tonnes per person per year. This was the same as Bradford and slightly lower than Leeds (3.9), Calderdale (4.0), Wakefield (4.8) and Barnsley (4.6).
- Levels of **nitrogen dioxide** have fallen district-wide and levels of **particulate matter** are compliant with UK target levels (although not with the lower target levels of the WHO).

How much have we done and how well have we done it?

- Council activities which contribute to reducing our carbon footprint, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this report, include **electronic vehicle (EV) schemes** (installation of EV chargers, green car parking permit schemes, green council fleet and 'vehicle to grid' chargers), **tree planting, LED street lighting, greener highways maintenance schemes and our new waste management strategy and 'green' cultural events.**
- **Kirklees Climate Commission (KCC)** was launched on 11 November 2021.
- Further plans for decarbonisation were passed in December, investing £6m in greening our fleet further, as well as progressing plans for the White Rose Forest and waste transformation, with a renewable energy network



Reducing our carbon footprint and tackling climate change

Impacts of the Pandemic

Although the reduction in traffic volumes during the pandemic lockdowns are likely to have had a positive impact on air quality due to reduced vehicle emissions, as with all council services, plans and workstreams have been impacted by the pandemic and lockdowns, as resources were redirected to respond to these.

Inequalities

- Climate change will impact some groups more than others, particularly those who are socially vulnerable. These groups include people on low incomes, those in poor health or with low personal mobility, older people, children and babies, tenants in social or private rented housing, people living in neighbourhoods without much greenspace, people who are socially isolated and those who have lived in an area for a short time. (Source: www.climatejust.org.uk/who-vulnerable)
- In January 2020 an independent Advisory Group was asked by the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to advise on the potential health impacts of the government's carbon reduction targets. The group highlighted direct and indirect impacts of climate change on health inequalities and warned that health equity must be considered in policies to reduce carbon emissions otherwise the benefits to health such as cleaner air and lower home energy bills will be unevenly distributed.
- Their report identified four key areas for action: **minimising air pollution; building energy efficient homes; promoting sustainable and healthy food; and prioritising active and safe transport.**

Next Steps

- **Many of the next steps highlighted elsewhere in this 'clean & green' section of the report will also contribute to tackling climate change**
- Transport and housing are key sectors to address as part of our **Net Zero Roadmap** for Kirklees. We will need to take bold and innovative actions such as prescriptive standards for energy efficient housing design (e.g. Passivhaus); identifying scalable domestic retrofit plans; increasing installation of renewables; supporting and encouraging electrification of all types of vehicles; and supporting modal shift by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport.
- £1 million Capital **EV Charger project** allocated as part of a £2 million Electric Vehicle Climate Emergency budget (to install 35 rapid EV chargers in Kirklees); On-street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) project (to install **residential EV chargers** across the district); and a £4.6 million **EV Charger Package** (funding from City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) for Kirklees to deliver charging infrastructure and support packages to businesses and residents.
- Expansion of the Green Car Parking Permit scheme to all carparks within the district to increase the uptake of ULEVs and reducing the impact of car travel on air quality and climate.
- Co-opting of subgroups and involvement of some council staff to support the **Kirklees Climate Commission** work.
- Ongoing work to reduce our own carbon footprint including developing an extensive communication and culture change strategy to inform and push cultural and behavioural changes; developing an effective and collaborative approach to engaging and working with citizens and partners.



Greenspaces - tree planting and improving biodiversity

Impacts and Outcomes

- Managing biodiversity and woodlands sustainably can benefit both air quality and climate change. Urban trees lock away carbon whilst greenspaces themselves can provide a buffer zone between sources of noise and air pollution and places where people live and work.
- A young wood with mixed natives species can lock up 400+ tonnes of carbon per hectare in trees, roots and soil.¹
- The Kirklees woodland creation programme aims to contribute to long-term carbon storage, reverse biodiversity decline and provide communities with opportunities to access high quality woodlands

Tree planting

- The estimated carbon capture of trees planted in Kirklees is shown in the table below.

Maximum projected tree planting carbon capture (Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent)	Year 30	Year 50	Year 100
Tree planting 2019/20	1773	2812	3379
Tree planting 2020/21	4558	7231	8688
Tree planting 2021/22	4431	7030	8447

Estimates based on UK Woodland Carbon Code Calculator

How much have we done and how well have we done it?

Woodland planting on council land	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Hectares planted	7	18	17.8
No. trees planted (estimated based on 2.5m planting spacing)	8,366	27,498	28,880

- Since autumn 2019 over 25 hectares of trees have been planted at over 30 different sites in Kirklees

Next Steps

- We have committed to significant **tree planting** over the next 5 years to create a network of new woodlands to help improve local and regional biodiversity and create new natural spaces for people to enjoy. This includes a phased programme of planting over the available planting seasons in 2021/22.
- Under the **White Rose Forest** scheme, Kirklees Council has set a target of 2500 hectares of new tree canopy by 2050. 10% of this target is to be delivered on Council owned land and 90% is to be created on private land supported by the council.
- Schemes planned by the White Rose Forest team for 2021-22 include approximately 8 hectares (approx. 12,000 trees) on private land.
- The forthcoming Environment Bill will provide obligations for the council in terms of **biodiversity net gain**. Under this new bill all new developments (e.g. house building) will need to show that they increase biodiversity value by 10% either on or off site. Monies for off-site biodiversity projects that cannot be delivered by developers themselves will be available to the council via Biodiversity credits. Work is underway to identify a range of potential sites and projects in Kirklees which could be funded in this way, known as the **'Biodiversity Net Gain land bank'**.

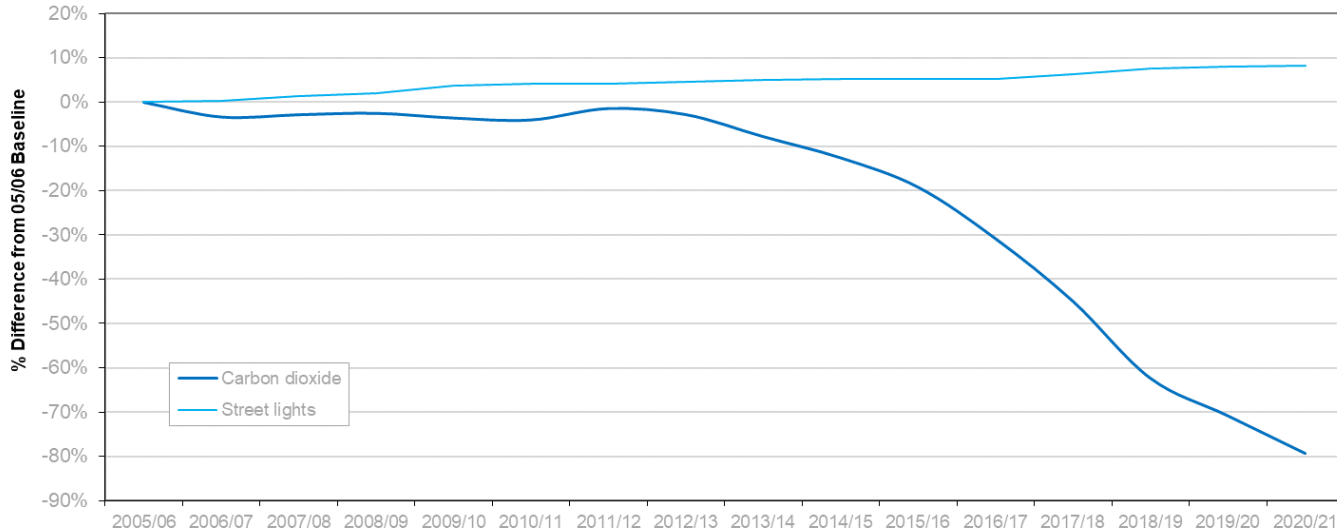


Impacts and Outcomes

Street lighting

- At the end of 2020/21 the energy consumption of Kirklees street lighting had reduced by 59.7% since 2005/6 and carbon had reduced by 79.3% (see chart below) from just over 12,000 tonnes CO₂ to just under 2,000 tonnes.
- By the end of September 2021 **carbon had reduced by 81.5%** from the 2005/6 baseline. This equates to around 48 million kettle boils or 1.2 billion smartphone charges.

Percentage change in number of street lights and carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes) since 2005/6 baseline



Road safety

- A reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on roads demonstrates the impact of road safety interventions (including road design and behaviour change).
- KSI numbers have decreased year on year between 2016 and 2020.**
- In Jan-Mar 2021 there were 24 KSI (with no fatalities) compared with 20 KSI in the same period in 2020 (including 3 fatalities) and 38 KSI (including 6 fatalities) in 2019.

Road safety

- Previously West Yorkshire Police (WYP) only recorded collisions where personal injury was recorded and they attended the scene. Under a new collision recording system introduced in April 2021, all reported collisions are recorded; more injuries are included as 'slight' and more injuries previously categorised as 'slight' have been redesignated as 'serious'. Nationally this has resulted in increases of 30%-40% in KSI figures.
- In Kirklees, the introduction of the new system in April can be seen below:

Road casualties in Kirklees 2021	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021*
Total casualties	200	196	101	251
Slight	162	164	77	191
Serious	32	31	24	58
Fatal	6	1	0	2
Total Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)	38	32	24	60

*Note that a new collision reporting system was introduced in April 2021 with new definitions for 'slight' and 'serious' injury categories.

Highways maintenance and improvement schemes

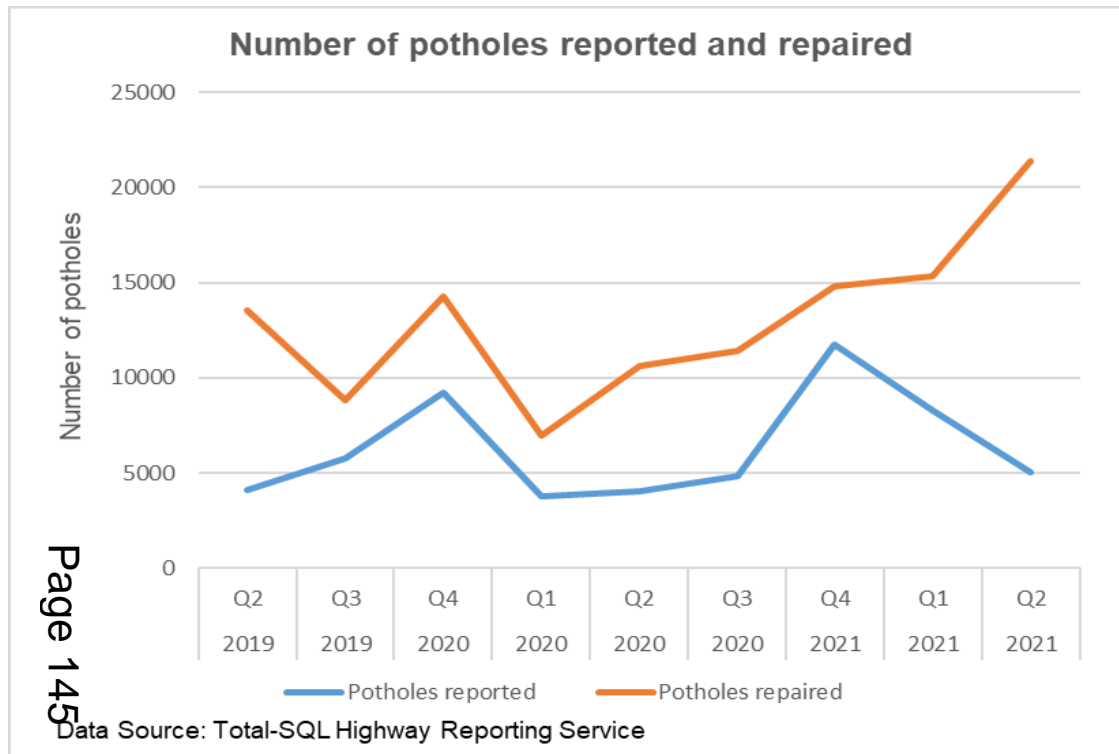
- All 31 Capital Plan highways schemes delivered so far this year and 3 of the schemes programmed for later this year use 95% recycled materials to reduce carbon emissions.
- All schemes have used materials and processes which are cost-effective, reduce deterioration and increase the service life of roads and footways by at least 5 years.
- The carbon footprint of planned maintenance schemes will unfortunately increase next year due to the new contractor using quarried aggregates rather than recycled materials and transportation mileage increasing significantly.



How much have we done and how well have we done it?

Pothole reports and repairs

- Since 2019 Q1 an average of 118 urgent highways defects per quarter have been identified. Since the start of 2020, at least 96% of these have been responded to within 24hrs each quarter, with one exception (90% in 2020 Q3).
- Reports of potholes peaked in March 2021 reflecting seasonal variation.
- The number of potholes repaired in Q2 was over 21,000; the highest quarterly total in the last 2 years.
- The total number of potholes repaired Jan-Sept 2021 (over 51,000) exceeds the calendar year totals for 2019 and 2020.



Highways maintenance and improvement schemes

- Over 60 schemes have been planned for 2021-22. So far, 31 schemes have been delivered, 12 are scheduled for delivery before Christmas and 26 are in design.
- To date since April 2021, over 22,000 linear metres of carriageway surface dressing has been undertaken on 20 roads and 2,700 linear metres of carriageway Retread process has been undertaken on 3 roads. Over 2,700 metres of footway have been restored.

Street lighting

- At the end of Sept 2021 Kirklees had over 53,000 street lights (an 8% increase from 2005/6).
- In Sept 2021, Over 99% of these were 'in light' (in working order), a trend which has been maintained since April 2020.
- Since LED street lighting was introduced in 2018, the council has replaced just under 50,000 (94.5%) of Kirklees street lights with LED lights. Our target is 100% by March 2022.

Road safety

- Capital schemes are being developed in areas where fatal and serious road collisions have occurred and targeted campaigns are being developed to increase active travel.
- In April – June 2021, Road Safety and Public Health developed a pilot 'scooter training' package for children and young people. This is in response to research findings that parents perceive scooting on pavements safer than cycling and that scooters are cheaper and easier to store than bikes.



Impacts of the Pandemic

- The first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown was associated with a significant **reduction in nitrogen dioxide levels** as traffic volumes reduced.
- There was an increased number of fatal collisions in 2020 compared with previous years, primarily due to increased speeds and 'poor driver choices' that took place when there was less traffic on the roads.
- The volume of **pothole repairs declined** during the pandemic lockdown period and has gradually increased during 2021.

Inequalities

- Environmental quality (including air quality) and road safety are closely linked to wider social inequalities. Nationally, children and young people who live in more deprived areas are at a much greater risk than children from the most affluent.¹ The 'scooter training' pilot is an attempt to enable a more inclusive mode of active travel for children and young people which improves their balance and road safety so they are better prepared for safe cycling.

Next Steps

- Further to the completion of **LED street lighting replacement**, work to replace other types of lighting (such as wall mounted lanterns and floodlights) with LED will continue into next year.
- £250,000 DfT funding secured for the council (supported by Simplifai) to extend the application of a pilot project to use **artificial intelligence (AI) and analytics** to understand the impacts of traffic signal upgrades and **optimise traffic signals** to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.
- Collaboration with climate change and environmental consultants to understand and respond to climate change impacts on highways assets and to develop a **carbon calculator** to embed carbon reduction and sustainability into highways maintenance services.
- Modernising our approach to procurement for the management and maintenance of highways assets and embedding a **whole life carbon impact methodology**.
- Capital schemes are being developed in areas where fatal and serious road collisions have occurred and targeted campaigns are being developed to increase active travel.
- The Kirklees Road Safety Partnership is discussing the impact of adopting '**Vision Zero**', in line with The West Yorkshire Mayoral Authority. A Vision Zero approach to road safety management is based on the belief that no death or serious injury is acceptable on roads. The Partnership is considering a collective approach to data sharing, enforcement, education, engineering and engagement across Kirklees.
- Guidance is pending from WY Police on the categorisation and recording of accidents involving e-scooters.



How much have we done?

Waste management and recycling

- In Q1 of 2021/22 the total volume of household waste (just over 31,000 tonnes) had decreased slightly compared with Q1 last year and was in line with pre-pandemic levels.
- The proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill (25%) was significantly higher than in the previous 2 years. This is due to a number of factors; the continuing high volumes of municipal waste (which includes both household and trade waste); the capacity limitations of Kirklees Energy from Waste (EfW) plant and EfW plants elsewhere (due to national increases in waste volumes); and the higher volume of waste rejected for recycling due to contamination.
- Around 187,000 grey bins are collected each week.
- In Aug 2021 there were over 24,000 garden waste bins provided by the council to citizens across Kirklees.

Fly tipping

- Reports of fly tipping for Q2 (n=1433) are lower than in Q2 last year (n=1811). The average number of fly tipping reports received each month since April 2021 was between September 2020 and September 2021 was 494. The majority of fly tipping reports have no evidence of who is responsible for the fly tipping.
- Other reported incidents impacting on the quality of local places are abandoned vehicles, waste in gardens, waste on private land, uncontained trade waste and dangerous dogs

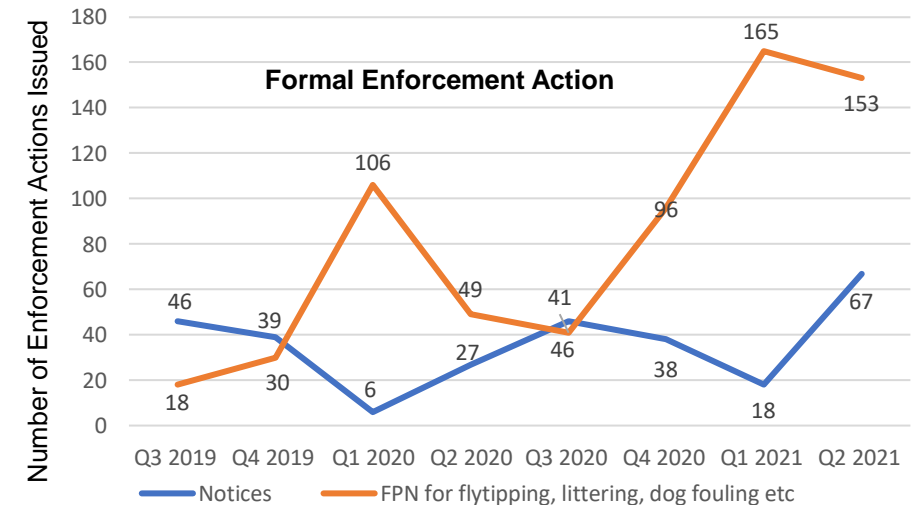
How well have we done it?

Waste management and recycling

- On average, since April 2021, over 99.5% grey bins have been collected without complaint each week. In September 2021 there were 2256 complaints of missed bins. Over the last 2 years complaints peaked during the pandemic (3903 in April 2020) and were lowest in September 2020.
- The volume of waste rejected for recycling due to contamination was significantly higher than in the previous 2 years. This is likely to be due to an increasing reliance on third party recycling facilities to manage the volumes collected and whose acceptance criteria are more stringent since Brexit.

Fly tipping

- In Q2 96% of fly tipping incidents managed by the Greenspace Action Team (GAT) were cleared within 14 days; significantly higher than Q2 last year (66%).
- Since the recruitment of new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Officers in 2021 to patrol hot spots, the number of fixed penalty notices served has increased (see chart).
- A newly formed fly tipping Team in July 2020 has contributed to improved clearance times and an increased proportion of fly tipping incidents where evidence of the people responsible has been found; enabling penalty notices and prosecutions to be pursued.



Data Source: Greenspace Action Team



Impacts of the Pandemic

- During the pandemic the volume of domestic general waste has increased and recycling facilities have been restricted resulting in a decrease in recycling rates.
- Complaints about missed bins peaked during the lockdown in April 2020.
- Investigations into fly tipping and public space protection order offences were restricted during lockdown periods and the closure of courts resulted in a backlog of prosecution cases.
- The [Food Safety Service Plan](#) for 2021 was significantly impacted by the pandemic. From 20th March 2020, LAs were advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that all planned food hygiene interventions should be deferred to minimise foot fall and required a risk-based approach to delivery of covid-19 related official controls.
- **In 2020/21 just under 10% of the Food Safety Inspection Programme was achieved** compared with 95% in 2019/20 and 93% in 2018/19.

Inequalities

- Nationally, recycling rates for household waste are significantly lower in the most deprived areas of England. The relationship between recycling rates and social deprivation are well established but the reasons are complex. Some of the structural reasons behind low recycling rates include access to storage space for waste, high density housing, lack of clear and tailored communication and the inability to prioritise recycling as a result of poverty.
- The changes introduced as part of Kirklees' Resources and Waste Strategy will each be informed by an integrated impact assessment to identify and address any potential equality and environmental concerns.
- The Strategy itself will provide the opportunity to explore inequalities and how we can deliver services more equitably.

Next Steps

- An improved system to collect and monitor [fly tipping](#) data will provide better intelligence and insights in future reports.
- The pledges outlined in the new [Resources and Waste Strategy 2021-2030](#) for **September 2021 to March 2022** include a Recycling Champions scheme, a new recycling collection to our commercial waste service, a reuse shop in Huddersfield, a composting scheme and improved litter facilities.
- Work with Councillors to explore communication and engagement with communities to improve the quality of materials placed in green bins and **reduce the volume of recycling waste rejected due to contamination**.



(8) Kirklees Council works smart and delivers efficiently and effectively



Outcome Definition

We want to be a transparent, well managed and high performing council. We will focus our resources on doing the right things and doing things right, to make a difference to the outcomes of the people and places of Kirklees.

Headlines

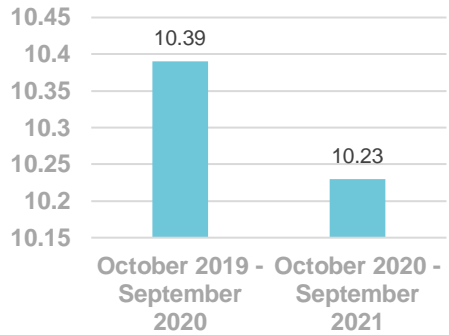
- Overall sickness days lost per FTE decreased at the end of Q2 compared to the same position last year. A change from 10.39 days lost per FTE to 10.23 days lost per FTE.
- Overall sickness days lost per FTE varies across employee groups. BAME employees, employees reporting they have a disability, female employees and older employees all display higher levels of sickness.
- Through regular 6-8 weekly wellbeing surveys, resources have been targeted to improve outcomes in areas of concerns
- Covid related sickness in the organisation continues to follow the national restrictions and easing patterns.
- Anxiety and stress levels have been rising in the organisation over the past 12 months. The extent of this varies across employee groups.
- Self-referrals and manager referrals for employee healthcare support are increasing.
- The organisation's workforce is ageing. Over 50% of the workforce is between 45-64 years old. The number of employees in the organisation who are less than 24 years old is very low. Targeted work is in place on workforce planning, pathways into employment and workforce development as part of the People Strategy programme of work.
- Recruitment and retention challenges have been comprehensively described in a report to the [Personnel Committee](#) in November 2021.
- Full year forecasts as at Quarter 2 include £26.5m additional COVID related spend. This is an increase of £5.1m from Quarter 1 estimates. There are also projected service income losses of £5.8m; compared to £5.6m at Quarter 1.

Spend with local suppliers in Kirklees or suppliers with a branch in Kirklees has increased over the last financial year from 43% to around 48% of total spend.

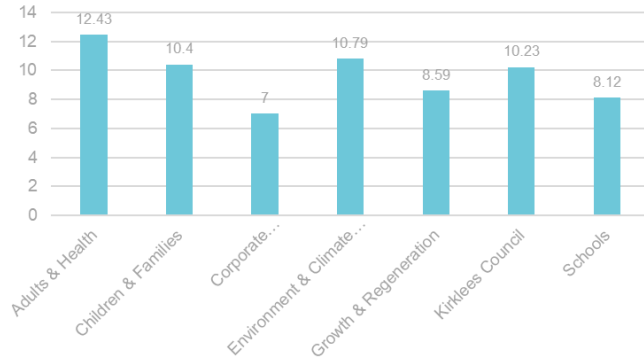


Overall Sickness Absence & Covid Sickness Absence

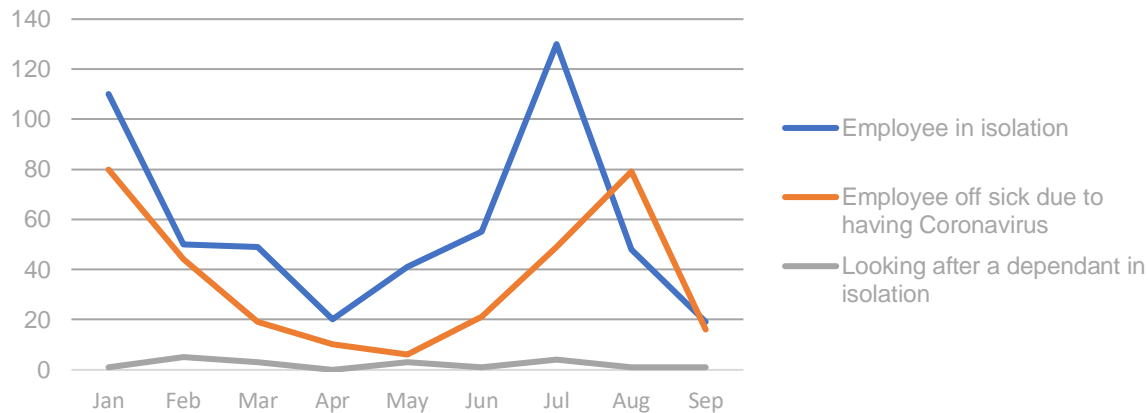
Sickness Days lost per FTE



Sickness Days Lost per FTE



Coronavirus Absence



Sickness

Sickness days lost per FTE is lower than last year but is steadily rising month on month back to pre pandemic levels. Reasons for absence are still predominately mental health (34%) followed by musculoskeletal (20% of all absences). Support from HR and EHCUC is available and focused on these areas. Data can be provided on sickness levels across equality groupings, examples below:

Gender - At the end of Q2 female employees (2/3rds of the workforce) had lost 9.09 days compared to male employees (1/3rd of the workforce) at 7.89 days.

Ethnicity - Sickness days lost for BAME employees (14% of the workforce) stood at 10.46 days compared to 8.36 days for White employees (75% of the workforce).

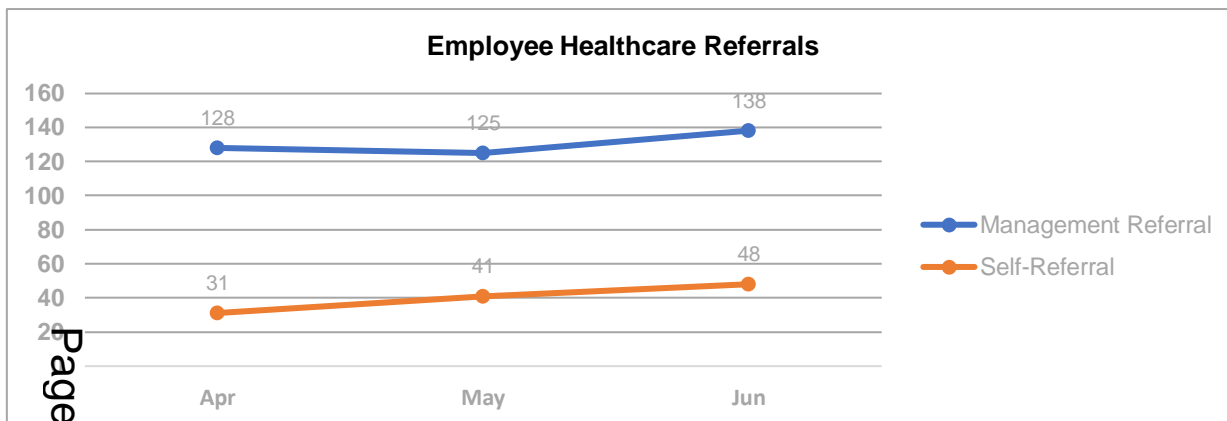
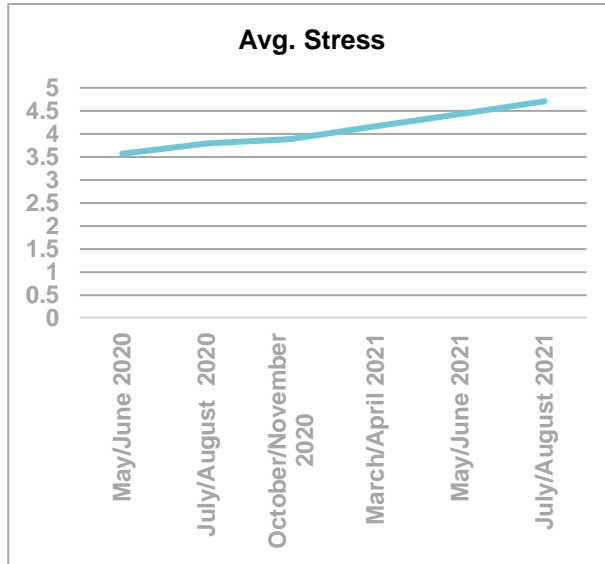
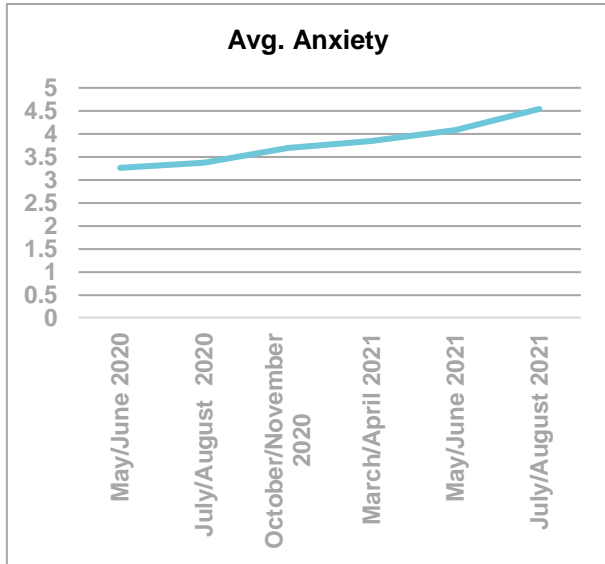
Disability - Employees reporting they have a disability (3.75% of the workforce) also had a slightly higher level of sickness at 9.59 days lost compared with 8.95 days lost for employees not reporting a disability (77% of the workforce).

The People Strategy Programme is undertaking work to identify the causal factors that are driving mental health absence. Over the next 6-12 months the programme will be reviewing current preventative support measures and identifying further pre-emptive interventions. The programme has begun to roll out the 'My Space' engagement tool to frontline workers to increase awareness of current support available for both mental health and musculoskeletal issues including self-referral facility.

Covid Sickness

- Covid related sickness has been reported separately and is therefore not included in the figures above.
- The pattern of covid related absence very much follows the pattern of national closing and reopening of restrictions. As the restrictions have been lifted in Spring, there has been an upturn in the amount of employees off sick due to having Covid and also employees in isolation.
- A Long-Covid support group is in place and we are working in partnership with the university to put additional support measures in place.





Pulse Surveys

During the past 12 months, the organisation has run a series of six wellbeing surveys for staff. We know that anxiety and stress over this period has increased for employees in Kirklees. When looking at aggregated figures across all our surveys we see some difference across the workforce.

BAME employees have had a higher level of Covid related anxiety during the pandemic. Young people age 18-34 reported more feelings of loneliness and higher levels of anxiety and stress; perhaps because they live on their own or were trying to work with the complications of young family life and home/new ways of working. LGBT+ employees reported higher levels of anxiety as well as loneliness and stress. Those employees reporting a disability had concerns around all aspects; anxiety, Covid-19 anxiety, loneliness and stress.

However, those groups that reported higher levels of negative feelings also reported a high level of general happiness. This was a contrast for the gender groups too where males reported higher levels of happiness. Feedback from the regular pulse surveys informed our targeted wellbeing interventions throughout the pandemic. Future bi-annual surveys are being planned to start from Spring 2022 to ensure staff continue to have a way of letting the organisation know how they feel.

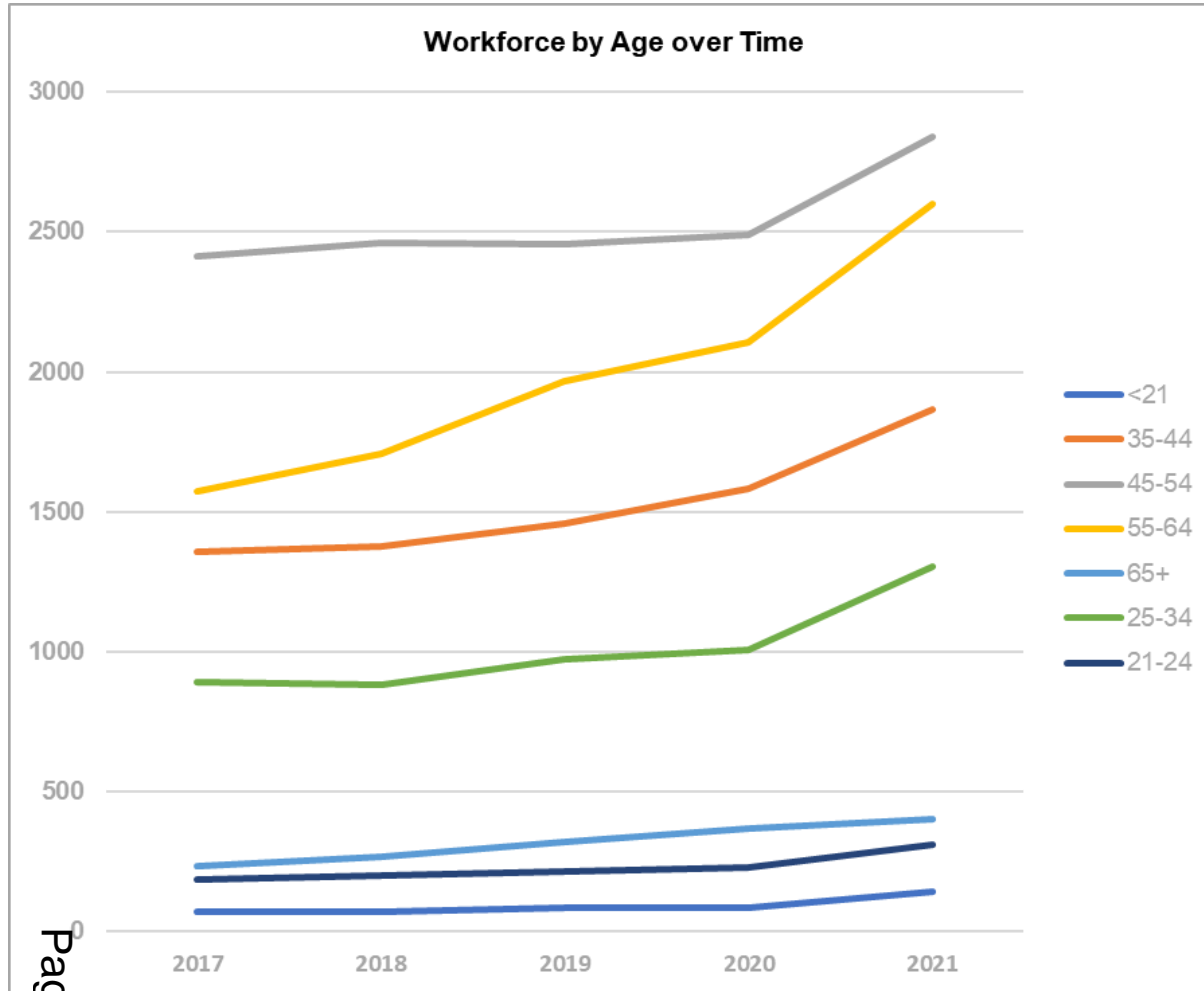
Wellbeing

Our new employee healthcare system can now provide updated information on employee referrals. This information is available for the period April-June. It starts to build a picture of employee referrals to employee healthcare. This supports the sickness absences focus, with referrals to counselling or physiotherapy services.

Self-referrals and management referrals are increasing which could be attributed to the awareness raising of wellbeing across the organisation through ongoing communication messages. The people Strategy Programme will also focus on the creation of an additional toolkit to support the organisation's wellbeing champions.



Workforce challenge



Workforce Profile

Kirklees Council is an organisation with an ageing workforce. All age groups have seen an increase in numbers over the past year. However, the 55-64 age group has increased more quickly than any other age group over the last year. The 45-64 age groups make up – over 50% of all employees.

Turnover – has risen at the end of Q2 by 1.1% to 8.9% following last years low rate of 7.8%. Last years low rate was mainly due to the pandemic and general lack of movement of employees.

Equality characteristics – data is now stored in SAP and can be monitored/ reported, though there are high levels of unknowns in Disability 18%, Ethnicity 11%, Marital status 25%, Religious belief 63% and Sexual orientation 52%.

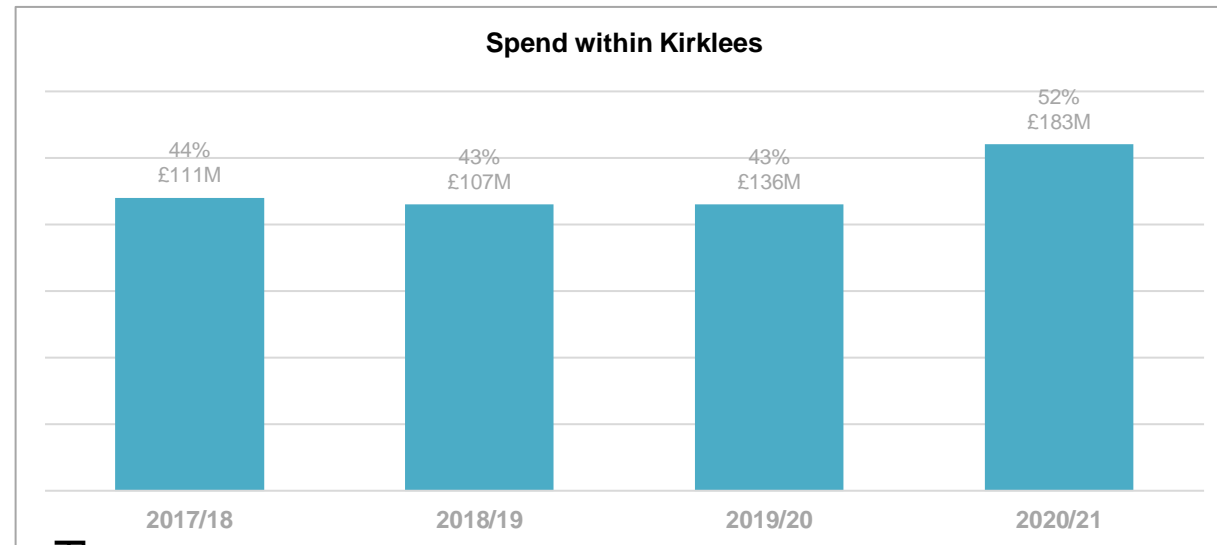
Recruitment – Data is now available from the recruitment system Oleeo with effect from the 1st May. Recruitment activity is incredibly high. There has been 7313 applicants, 2769 interviewed and 737 hired to the end of Q2. 40.2% of the hired employees were aged under 35. Further analysis is being worked on to look at equality characteristics and occupation groups.

The People Strategy Programme has recognised the challenge and has undertaken a first principles review of workforce planning and will be rolling out a new approach over the coming months. This will address present and future workforce need and reinvigorate succession planning. Work has also been undertaken on pathways into employment, focusing on inclusion, and this is now in place. We have also supported virtual work experience during the pandemic, encouraging pupils to consider careers in the Council.



Financial Spend

	COVID spend	COVID Income Loss	Total COVID Pressures
	£000	£000	£000
Children & Families	2,981	309	3,290
Adults & Health	8,851	230	9,081
Environment & Climate Change	1,411	4,209	5,620
Growth & Regeneration	1,610	913	2,523
Corporate Services	11,612	149	11,761
Central Budgets	48	0	48
General Fund Total	26,513	5,810	32,323



Covid Spend:

Full year forecasts as at Quarter 2 include £26.5m additional COVID related spend. This is an increase of £5.1m from Quarter 1 estimates. There are also projected service income losses of £5.8m; compared to £5.6m at Quarter 1.

Of the forecast £26.5m COVID related additional spend at Quarter 2, £19.1m will be funded through a combination of specific COVID grant funding from Government in 2021/22.

The balance of £7.4m COVID spend is not funded by specific COVID grant funding and is offset by the drawdown of the COVID Response reserve. This compares to a projected drawdown of £6.2m at Quarter 1.

For full information, please see the [Q2 Financial Monitoring Report](#) and for wider financial issues, please see the [Annual Budget Report](#).

Local Spend:

Spend with local suppliers in Kirklees or suppliers with a branch in Kirklees has increased over the last financial year to around 52% of total spend. In 2020/21, £183M was spent with local suppliers, up from £136M in the previous financial year. Though every effort has been made to remove Covid grant funding, some of the overall increase in spending could be attributed to covid and figures should be treated with caution.

Work is being undertaken to create a new Procurement Strategy which will continue our focus on local spend. Work is also happening on a refresh of our Social Value Policy allowing us to influence and measure the impact our commissioning activity has on social value in our supply chain.



Headlines

- We have not achieved the **90% ICO compliance rate** for any of our legislative areas
- For **FOI and EIR we have reduced our compliance rate from 87.57% to 86.71%** - this was due to a number of reasons: delays getting information from services and bottleneck due to IG team capacity when services send information on deadline day
- For **Subject Access Requests we have reduced our compliance rate from 66% to 62.33%** - the IG board is helping us with improving capacity and we are working closely with Children's Services to improve this figure however it will take time due to the size of the backlog
- For **Information Rights Requests we have reduced our compliance rate from 53.5% to 51.33%** - there seems to be a trend developing around these requests. They require a significant amount of resource from both the IG team and the teams required to alter the systems. There is a lot of ping-pong between teams, trying to get an understanding particularly around erasure requests, as deleting information in records is not something which is comfortable for officers and does require justification by the applicant.
- For **Police Disclosures we have improved our success rate from 77% to 80.67%** - this has improved because many of the requests are specific i.e. 'does this person still live at this address' and where it is a request to review a whole file, we have changed the way we work with the police. We invite the police to come into the Civic 3 office or to Red Doles Lane to look at the files and then they select what information they need so that we can then release it for them.

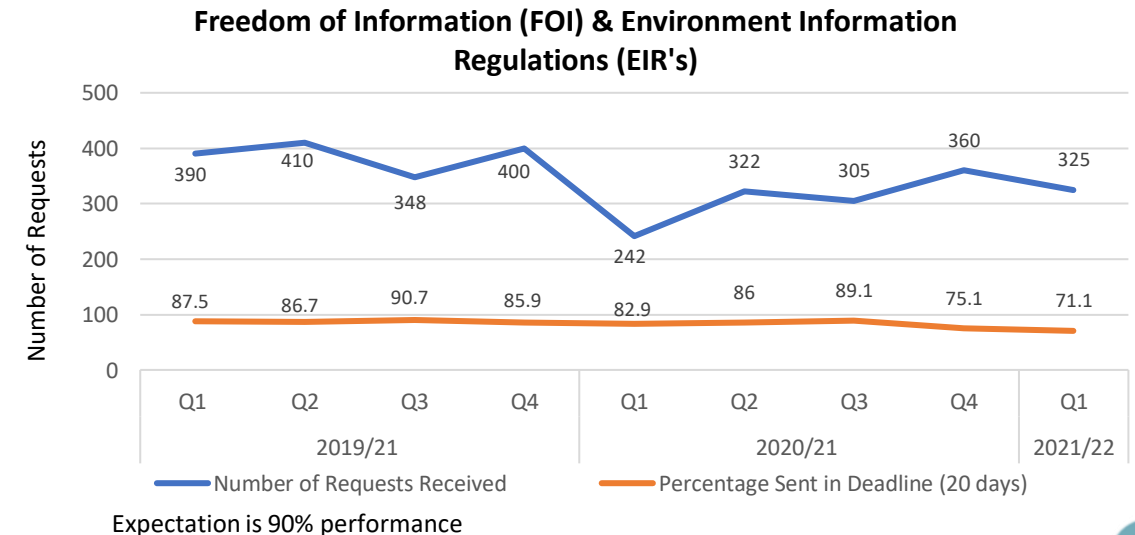
How much and how well are we doing

There has been an increase in the number of FOI and EIR requests received during Q1 2021/22. This figure is higher than that of Q1 2020/21 (242), but not yet reached the volumes of pre pandemic. There were 390 requests in 2019/21 Q1.

With the exception of Q3 2019/21 (90.7%), our level of compliance continues to remain lower than the ICO's minimum compliance rate of 90%.

Of the 325 requests received in Q1 2021/2, 23 took more than 40 days to complete, with 6 still outstanding. Of the outstanding requests, 4 are attributed to the deployment of staff during the pandemic and 1 of the remaining is due to high volume of documents relating to the request that IG are working through to ensure appropriate release of information.

FOI
EIR
SAR
DPA
2019/21
2020/21
2021/22



How much and how well are we doing

Subject Access Rights:

GDPR requires that responses be sent within 1 month of receipt or 3 months where the request is determined as complex.

The number of requests received per quarter remains fairly consistent with the exception in Q3 2020/21 when numbers dropped sharply to 56 requests received.

Our rate of compliance for responding to requests within the agreed timescales falls way below the ICO's minimum compliance rate of 90%.

Compliance rates have been affected by increasing numbers of large volume requests that take significant time to complete and resource both with the IG Team and within Services. It is impacted by issues from the pandemic and lockdown with limited access to paper files and redeployment of resources to support essential services.

During the reporting period for Q1 2021/22 there have been 7 overdue requests.

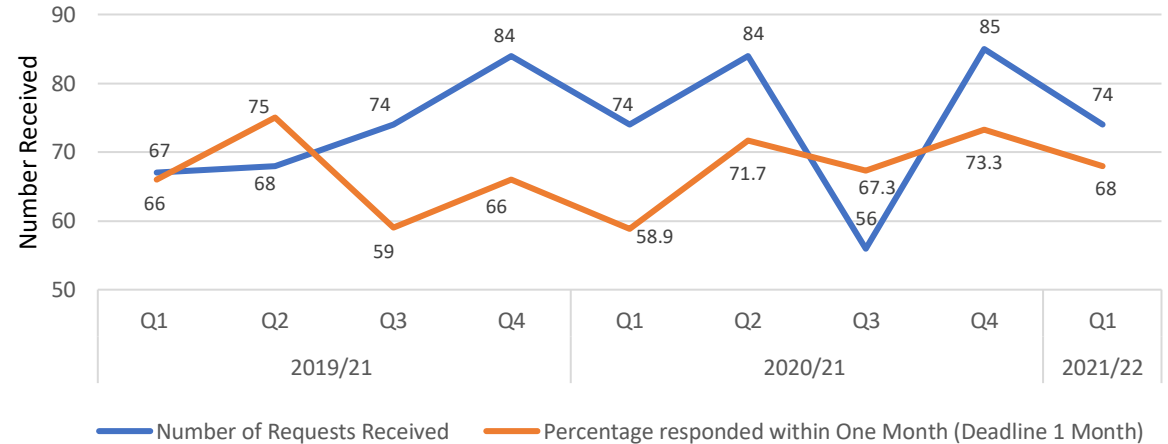
Children's Social Care Service receives the majority of SAR's. Of these requests, many are voluminous and difficult to achieve within the timescales.

Data Protection: Information Rights Requests:

The number of requests received since Q3 2020/21 to the current quarter is steadily increasing.

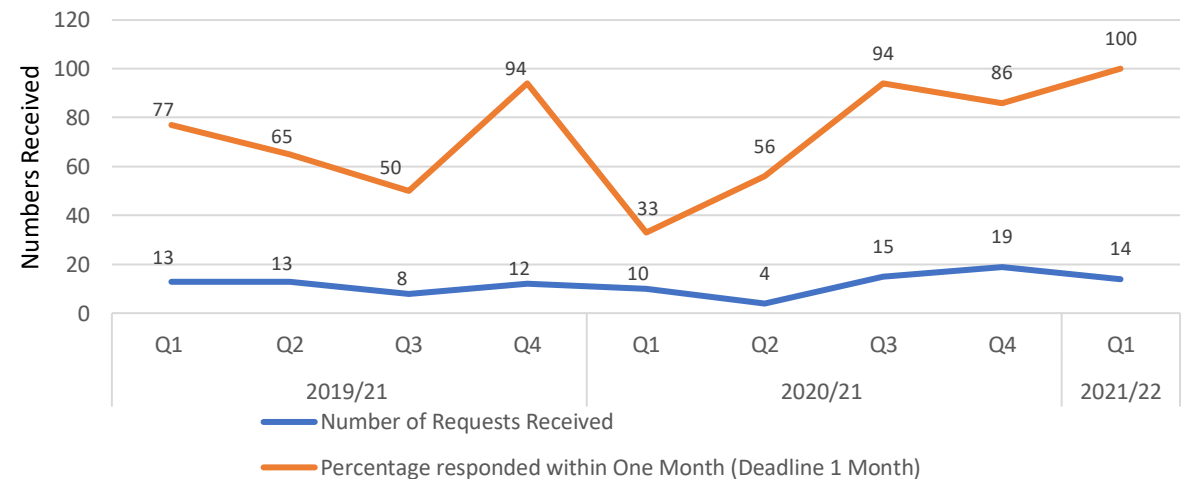
Q1 2021/22 showed a compliance rate of 100%, with all 14 requests being responded to within the 1 months deadline.

Subject Access Requests (SAR's)



Expectation is 90% performance

Data Protection: Information Rights Requests



Target is 1 month



How much and how well are we doing

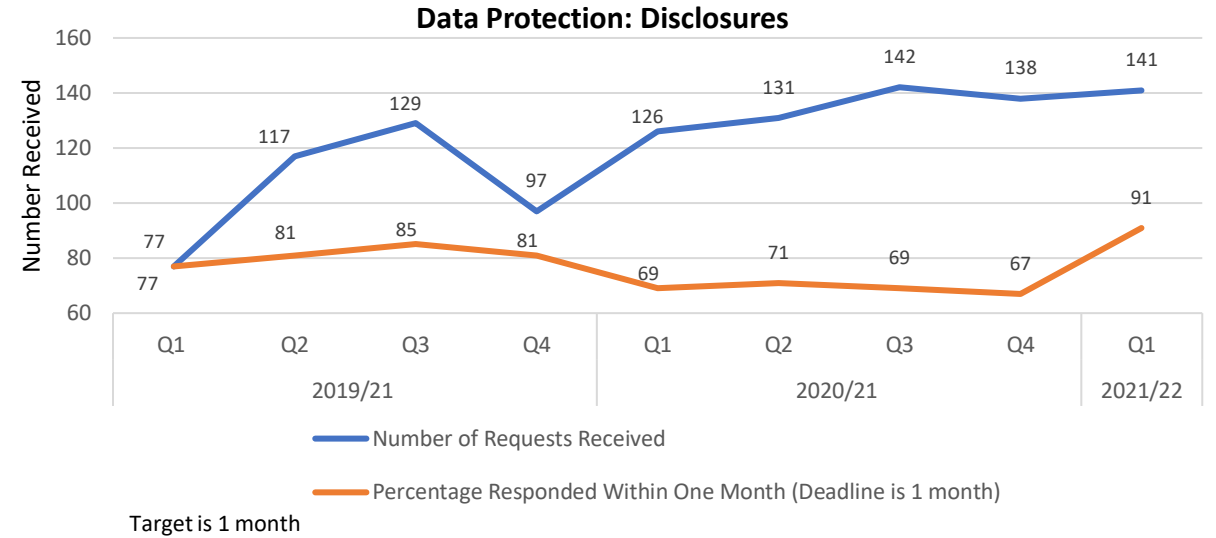
Data Protection - Disclosures:

Disclosures under GDPR relate in the main to Police requests for disclosure of personal information for the purpose of prevention/detection of crime and the apprehension/prosecution of offenders.

The number of requests at Q1 2021/22 (141) is the second highest across the reporting period 2019 to 2021. Q3 2020/21 saw 142 requests.

The target response time is 1 month from the receipt of the request. At Q1 2021/22 we had improved our position of responses, reaching 91%, significantly up from the same quarter last year of 69%.

Since the Covid lockdown an external Share Point site has been launched which provides Police Officers with restricted access to read records held (but not download, print or copy them). This allows them to advise the IG Team if any of the content is required for the purpose of investigation. This has allowed us to continue to process these requests in a timely manner.





Name of meeting: Cabinet 18th January 2022
Title of report: Calculation of Council Tax Base 2022/23

Purpose of report: To seek approval of the Cabinet for the various tax bases, this will apply to the Kirklees area for the financial year 2022/23 in connection with the Council Tax.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes: The calculation of the Council Tax base affects all wards in the Kirklees area.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</u>	Yes May 2021
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No – Full Council decision
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Rachel Spencer-Henshall , Strategic Director, Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health – 10 January 2022 Eamonn Croston Service Director, Finance – 10 January 2022 Julie Muscroft , Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning – 10 January 2022
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Paul Davies

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR: Yes - there is no personal data within the Council Tax base report or calculation.

1. Summary

Section 67(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that the tax base for Council Tax should be approved by the Authority. The regulations covering setting the tax base are covered and updated under Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

In accordance with s67 (2A) (za) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Value of T (the taxbase) is not a function that can only be discharged by the Authority (Council) and therefore can be determined by reference to the Cabinet for ratification in order that the process for the calculation of the basic amount of Council Tax in accordance with s 31B of that Act can commence. The regulations covering setting the tax base are covered and updated under Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

A number of Councils take the decision at Cabinet or have delegated it to the section 151 officer and the calculation forms part of the Budget papers.

It has been the practice in Kirklees to take a report to both cabinet and to Council.

1.1 **Members should be aware of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**, which applies to members where –

- (a) they are present at a meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or a Committee and at the time of the meeting an amount of Council Tax is payable by them and has remained unpaid for at least two months; and
- (b) any budget or Council Tax calculation, or recommendation or decision which might affect the making of any such calculation, is the subject of consideration at the meeting.

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact that Section 106 applies to them and shall not vote on any question concerning the matter in (b) above. It should be noted that such members are not debarred from speaking on these matters.

Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a criminal offence, unless any such members can prove they did not know that Section 106 applied to them at the time of the meeting or that the matter in question was the subject of consideration at the meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 In determining the level of local taxation, each local authority calculates a tax base annually so that, once the level of expenditure has been approved, the determinations of the level of location taxation becomes an arithmetical exercise.
- 2.2 The Council Tax base for an authority is the amount of income which would be received by levying a Council Tax of £1.00 on band D properties and taking into account the differential rates which would be applied to properties in the other bands.

In view of the fact that there are Parish and Town precepts, it is necessary to calculate a tax base for:

- a) the whole of Kirklees; and

- b) each parish and town council area

The valuation listing received from the Inland Revenue (valuation office) places each domestic property in Kirklees into one of eight valuation bands.

- 2.3 In order to calculate the tax base, the following factors must be taken into account and applied to the valuation bandings:

- a) Fixed ratios between valuation banding.
- b) Number of exempt properties.
- c) Number of properties eligible for a discount.
- d) Properties subject to the Empty Homes premiums (long term empty properties, empty over 2 years, over 5 years and over 10 years) subject to premium charge(s). For the purposes of this report it is assumed there is no change to empty property premium.
- e) Number of appeals against bandings which will be successful.
- f) Number of new properties which will be added to the list during the year; and
- g) Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR) – continuing the local scheme as in 2020/21 at 20%.
- h) An allowance for losses on collection.

- 2.4 The current tax base figure based on 30th November 2021 figures is 123,029.21. A collective adjustment has been made to the current Council Tax base (CTB) as at 30th November 2021 to reflect the calculated tax base for 2022/23.

- 2.5 Allowing for the factors set out in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5 above, an overall collective adjustment for 2022/23 has been calculated at 0.91% (equivalent overall adjustment for 2021/22 was 2.76%). The CTB as set out in the report will be used to inform the demand on the collection fund amount to be considered at full Budget Council on 16th February 2022.

- 2.6 The difference in the collective adjustment applied in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 largely reflects a review of previous prudent projections built into council tax forecasts for 2022/23 in existing medium term financial plans. In spite of the global COVID pandemic impact on the economy, current Council Tax collection rates are holding up better than anticipated, to near pre-COVID 98.5% rates. Council Tax reduction claimants have also now levelled off following a 2,000 increase over the past 18 months, and net housing supply growth is also expected to return to about 1,000 per annum in 2022/23 (Band D equivalents).

- 2.7 It is recommended that the 2022/23 tax base for the whole of Kirklees area, and the tax bases for the five Parish and Town Council areas be approved as follows:

Whole of Kirklees	121,906.00
Denby Dale	5,993.84
Holme Valley	10,400.79
Kirkburton	9,187.00
Meltham	2,960.91
Mirfield	6,818.29

In order to demonstrate the methodology used in the calculation, the Appendices show the current number of properties in each band, the current effect of discounts, exemptions and the collective adjustment referred to earlier in the report. This is broken down into the whole of Kirklees and the five Parish and Town council areas above.

Council Tax Reduction Parish Grant

- 2.8 A Council grant had been distributed to Parish Councils to supplement the Parish precept, so as to provide top-up funding to mitigate the effect of the Localisation legislation introduced in 2013/14. The effect of Localisation was to reduce individual Parish Tax bases, resulting in a consequential loss in their income. This grant had been maintained at the 2013/14 level, over successive years. However, over this period, Parish (CTB's) had grown to the extent where the original purpose of the grant was no longer justified.

As part of previous year's approved CTB, Council approved the phasing out of the grant, the phasing dependent on the extent of individual Parish CTB growth over the intervening period. Based on the tax bases recommended in this report, the only parish grant payable in 2022/23 will be for Mirfield £696.50 (£3,873.60 in 2021/22)

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The setting of the tax base is related to all domestic properties in Kirklees and is not based on individual circumstances. It applies to every property.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires each authority to devise a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme it does not specify the extent of any such reduction.

By providing a scheme that reduces liability to an affordable level, it prevents the need to take unnecessary and costly recovery action that would inevitably result in courts finding the customer did not have the means to pay. The current Council CTR Scheme reduces liability to eligible claimants by up to 20%.

3.2 Working with Partners

N/A

3.2 Placed based working

N/A

3.3 Climate Change & Air Quality

N/A

3.4 Improving Outcomes for Children

N/A

3.5 Reducing demand of services

N/A

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

The setting of the taxbase is related to the annual budget process. Setting a budget specifically to meet Council Tax liability of those that would otherwise be unable to pay, means we have greater clarity as to the amount of Council Tax we might collect. That in turn allows the Council to plan more accurately based on anticipated revenue from the collection of Council Tax.

The decision to agree the tax base determines the levels of income received by the Council through the levy of Council Tax for residents of Kirklees.

The Council must consider any legislative changes as part of the CTB setting process, as any changes will materially affect the CTB. Any legislative changes (if any) have been considered and incorporated in the CTB setting process.

The parish grants payable in 2022/23 will be funded from the general fund, central budget contingencies.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Councillor Paul Davies - supports the calculations and judgments made in determining the proposed Council Tax base.

5. Next steps

- Cabinet to agree Council Tax base for subsequent recommendation to Council
- The Council Tax Base forms part of agreeing the level of Council Tax for 2022/23- Budget Council on 16th February 2022.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

To meet the requirements of Section 67(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 , which requires that the tax base for Council Tax should be approved by the Authority, it is recommended that :

Cabinet approve the 2022/23 Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, at 121,906.00, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town council areas as set out in this report and accompanying Appendices.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder recommends that Cabinet approve the Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town Councils for 2022/23 as set out in this report.

8. Contact officer

Steve Bird – Head of Welfare and Exchequer Services
Mark Stanley – Senior Manager Welfare and Exchequer Services
Victoria Brook - Senior Manager, Welfare & Exchequer Services

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

N/A

10. Service Director responsible

Eamonn Croston – Service Director, Finance

Council Tax Base Calculation for area of Denby Dale Parish Council 2022/2023 - APPENDIX B

Tax Band (1)	Number of Properties (2)	Number of Exempt Properties (3)	Number of Taxable Properties (4)	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount (5)	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction (6)	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% 200% 300% extra charge (7)	Family Annex (8)	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties (9)	Fixed Ratio (9ths) (10)	Less : collective adjustment Band 'D' Equivalent (11)
A Disabled	6	0	6	0.00	1.97	0.00	0.00	4.03	5	2.24
A	1,944	36	1,908	232.50	343.73	10.00	0.00	1,341.77	6	894.51
B	1,254	17	1,237	127.50	93.33	9.00	0.00	1,025.17	7	797.35
C	1,232	11	1,221	92.00	44.49	3.00	0.00	1,087.51	8	966.68
D	1,454	14	1,440	81.50	29.34	3.00	0.00	1,332.16	9	1,332.16
E	994	6	988	42.00	9.16	2.00	0.00	938.84	11	1,147.47
F	444	4	440	19.75	2.75	2.00	0.00	419.50	13	605.94
G	175	1	174	7.00	1.87	0.00	0.00	165.13	15	275.22
H	14	0	14	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.75	18	27.50
	7,517	89	7,428	602.50	526.64	29.00	0.00	6,327.86		6,049.07
								Less : collective adjustment	0.91296%	55.23
								Council Tax Base for Denby Dale Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		5,993.84

Council Tax Base Calculation for area of Mirfield Parish Council 2022/2023 - APPENDIX F

Tax Band (1)	Number of Properties (2)	Number of Exempt Properties (3)	Number of Taxable Properties (4)	Number of Properties with Discounts Equated to 25% Discount (5)	Reduction in Tax Base due to Council Tax Reduction (6)	Number of Properties with Empty premium Equated to 100% 200% 300% extra charge (7)	Family Annex (8)	Effect of Discounts & Empty premium on Number of Taxable Properties (9)	Fixed Ratio (9ths) (10)	Less : collective adjustment Band 'D' Equivalent (11)
A Disabled	4	0	4	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	3.06	5	1.70
A	2,580	58	2,522	353.75	579.51	19.00	0.40	1,607.34	6	1,071.56
B	1,467	24	1,443	149.25	109.80	8.00	0.00	1,191.95	7	927.07
C	2,654	28	2,626	201.50	102.56	1.00	0.00	2,322.94	8	2,064.84
D	1,167	10	1,157	67.25	25.59	0.00	0.00	1,064.16	9	1,064.16
E	850	7	843	45.50	16.20	0.00	0.00	781.30	11	954.92
F	369	2	367	12.00	3.30	0.00	0.00	351.70	13	508.01
G	166	0	166	6.50	0.59	0.00	0.00	158.91	15	264.85
H	14	1	13	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	12.00	18	24.00
	9,271	130	9,141	837.75	838.49	29.00	0.40	7,493.36		6,881.11
								Less : collective adjustment	0.91296%	62.82
								Council Tax Base for Mirfield Parish Council - Chargeable Dwellings Band 'D' Equivalent		6,818.29

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Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 18th January 2022
Title of report:- The Arcade, Market Place Dewsbury – Lease

Purpose of report

To agree the future lease/management arrangements for The Arcade, Dewsbury.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Published 20 th September 2021
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd – 21 st Dec 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 20 th Dec 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 22 nd Dec 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Eric Firth Town Centres Portfolio Holder & Cllr Peter McBride Regeneration Portfolio Holder

Electoral wards affected: Dewsbury East
Ward councillors consulted: Cllr Firth, Cllr Scott, Cllr Lukic

Public report with Appendices. Appendix 4 is in Private.

(Have you considered GDPR?) Yes.

Appendix 4 is private in accordance with Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of third parties (including the Authority holding that information). It is considered that the disclosure of the information would adversely affect those third parties including the Authority and therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the rights of an individual or the Authority, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness and transparency in relation to public expenditure in the Authority's decision making.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Arcade is a Grade 2 listed Victorian arcade in the centre of Dewsbury. Once a popular and thriving retail arcade, it has been closed and vacant since July 2016. Bringing the Arcade back to life is a key part of the Dewsbury Blueprint plans for regenerating the town centre.
- 1.2 The Council purchased the Arcade in May 2020 and has completed initial 'stabilisation' works involving dealing with water ingress, soft strip and removal of dry rot. A detailed planning application was submitted for the proposals on 8 August 2021. Based on the current programme works should commence in late 2022 and be complete in autumn 2023. The overall project will involve the repair, refurbishment and reconfiguration of the building, all to high heritage standard, allowing greater flexibility in the use of the space and improved financial sustainability in the future.
- 1.3 In addition to the extent and nature of the physical works to the building; the management of the reopened Arcade will be critical to its future prospects. Cabinet approval is sought for the lease/management arrangements for operating the Arcade.

2. Information required to take a decision

Property Details

- 2.1 The Arcade is a Grade 2 listed Victorian arcade in the centre of Dewsbury and lies within the Dewsbury Town Centre Conservation Area. It links Market Place to Corporation Street (see Appendix 1 & 2). All the building is listed, it being one of the unique architectural elements of Dewsbury Town Centre.
- 2.2 The existing Arcade layout includes a number of small ground floor retail units, some of which have upper floor accommodation. There are four units with external frontage on either side of the two entrances, one of which (25, Market Place) is occupied by an amusement arcade in conjunction with a neighbouring property (27 Market Place). The occupiers of 25 Market Place have been served with a notice to bring their lease to an end in June 2022. At the time of purchase 16, Corporation Street was also occupied and vacant possession of this unit was achieved in January 2021.
- 2.3 Overall the Arcade has 20 small ground floor units ranging from 114 sq.ft. to 588 sq.ft along with 9 more first floor units and further second floor spaces with an overall gross internal area of 16,760sq ft (1,557m²) over the three floor levels, including the thoroughfare. With the exception of 25 Market Place, all the building is vacant.

Strategic Context

Dewsbury Blueprint

- 2.4 The Dewsbury Blueprint which was launched by the Council on 5th February 2020 and has a number of themes/objectives including:-

- Business Town
- Learning town
- Leisure Town
- Shoppers Town
- Heritage Town
- Greener town
- Creative Town
- Connected Town

- 2.5 The Arcade project will contribute to the themes around heritage, shopping, leisure, business and creativity. The Blueprint includes the reopening of the Arcade as one of the key projects.

Town Deal

- 2.6 The Arcade is also one of the key projects within the Dewsbury Town Deal which was approved in principle by Government in June 2021. The Dewsbury Town Investment Plan details the projects to be supported by the Town Deal and following the internal approval of the Business Case in November 2021, the required 'summary document' was submitted to Government in December 2021. A decision is expected on the Town Deal funding by March 2022.

Dewsbury Town Centre Strategic Development Framework 2018

- 2.7 The Blueprint draws heavily on the Dewsbury Town Centre Strategic Development Framework and the accompanying Delivery Programme that was approved by Cabinet on the 22nd of January 2019. Its three strategic aims are to increase activity, make the town more attractive and improve accessibility. The Arcade project contributes strongly to two of these.
- 2.8 If the town centre is to be properly regenerated, then the Arcade needs to be brought back to life and a sustainable use or uses found to utilise the building. Due to its historic and enclosed character it provides a great opportunity for the town centre to offer something unique, a destination for leisure/retail and other uses that is not available elsewhere in the area.

Heritage Action Zone

- 2.9 The Dewsbury Town Centre Conservation Area (DTCAA) was awarded Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) status in December 2017. The award of HAZ status was partly a reflection of the fact that Historic England regard the DTCCA as 'being at risk' as a result of the high number of historic buildings that are vacant and underused and therefore at risk of further deterioration. The aim of the HAZ is to help drive the Council's ambitions for the regeneration of the town centre by halting and reversing the decline of heritage assets. The Arcade is one of a number of key heritage buildings in the town that are vacant and require action to get it back into active use.

Kirklees Economic Strategy 2019-2025

- 2.10 One of the 5 priorities of the Kirklees Economic Strategy is 'Revitalised Centres' and one of the 12 action programmes relates to North Kirklees and Dewsbury; with one of the 5 big wins being revitalising Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

Corporate Plan

- 2.11 The Council's approach to Council Plan 2020/1 is focussed on three themes: -

- People – we work with people, we don't do things to them
- Partners – we work proactively with our partners
- Place based working – we know that one size doesn't fit all and we recognise the diversity and strengths to be found across Kirklees.

- 2.12 The suggested approach to managing the Arcade outlined below supports these themes.

The Project

2.13 The project seeks to create a new vibrant destination in the heart of the town centre. The physical works will fully refurbish the Arcade, enhancing its historic character , enabling public access once more through the Arcade thoroughfare and improving the Arcade in a way that maximises the chances of it being physically and financially sustainable in the medium and long term. There is a degree of flexibility over the types of uses that will be in the Arcade (subject to planning and any agreed terms of occupation) and these will reflect a number of factors, not least:-

- The contribution these uses and activities make to the wider regeneration of the town centre and what will they add to the town's offer
- their acceptability in planning terms
- commercial reality
- the contribution to financial sustainability of the Arcade over the medium to long term

2.14 A reopened and successful Arcade will be an important component of a successful town centre and similarly having a more vibrant town centre will help the performance of the Arcade.

2.15 A key aim of the proposed works is to achieve as much flexibility as possible in how the units can be configured for letting so that it is financially sustainable. Key design criteria for the project are:-

- **Commerciality** – creating unit layouts/sizes and general attributes that make the Arcade attractive to occupiers & customers
- **Flexibility** – units can be combined/split and accessed as flexibly as possible
- **Heritage** - Celebrating the heritage of the building
- **Accessibility** - Improved accessibility to all floors/units wherever reasonably possible
- **Building Management** – a building that its easy and cost effective to manage; particularly the roof areas; is secure
- **Sustainability** – helping meet the climate change agenda

2.16 The works will restore and highlight the buildings heritage. The layout will fundamentally remain unchanged with the most significant change being in terms of access and the creation of a new shared stair/lift core that will serve the first floor of 16, Corporation Street and the large second floor that stretches across the Corporation Street frontage. In the original designs the new stairs/lift was in 16 Corporation St but an opportunity arose for a better arrangement in the adjacent building (see below). In the final scheme there will be 19 ground floor units, 15 small units and 4 larger ones, two at each end of the Arcade. One of the existing small ground floor units will be repurposed to form an accessible toilet for tenants.

2.17 To facilitate the improved access, Cabinet agreed on the 21st September 2021 to the purchase of the adjacent building at 18-20 Corporation Street/17 Foundry Street and the works to create a new stair/lift core Street and associated works to be funded from the Arcade budget. The purchase for the property was subsequently completed on the 24th November 2021. A planning application and LBC for 18-20 Corporation Street/17 Foundry Street will be submitted in January 2022.

Lease/Management Options

2.18 It is timely to now consider the future management arrangements for the Arcade once the physical works have completed and the building is ready to reopen. Although opening is still some time away, clarity on the preferred option will enable officers and

other organisations to plan on that basis. It is important to highlight that whatever option is chosen it is proposed that the Council will retain the freehold of the Arcade for the foreseeable future.

- 2.19 The Council will need to decide the strategy for leasing and management arrangements for the Arcade well in advance of the Arcade opening for business. Sufficient time is needed to fully establish the arrangements for managing the Arcade and secure occupiers. If the preferred management option (see below) is chosen, it will also provide time for fund raising and creating the appropriate legal entity for the Arcade Group. A minimum of a year is required in order to properly put in place the necessary arrangements.
- 2.20 There are four main strategic management options open to the Council
1. The Council directly manage/operate the Arcade
 2. Lease to a private sector company
 3. Appoint a management company to operate the Arcade on the Councils behalf
 4. Lease to non profit distributing organisation e.g. 'The Arcade Dewsbury Group'
- 2.21 The report to Cabinet in February 2020 highlighted the potential there might be for a community company to take on the management of the Arcade. In May 2021 the Council received a proposal from 'The Arcade Dewsbury' Group ("the Arcade Group") to take a lease on the Arcade and manage the building. The Arcade Group are a group of 6 local businesspeople and investors who have come together to bid for the right to run the Arcade. The proposal put forward by the Arcade Group is contained in Appendix 3.
- 2.22 Officers have considered the 4 options against a range of measures, including their contribution to achieving corporate objectives, the ability to deliver the desired regeneration and other outcomes, financial issues and risk. Because there are no detailed proposals to consider for all the options any conclusions are necessarily based on a degree of supposition. Nonetheless the options have been reviewed as far as possible and the conclusions of this assessment are outlined below.

1. Direct Management by the Council

- 2.23 The Council could manage the Arcade itself and in the absence of a stronger options this would be the preferred approach. If the Council were to manage the Arcade it would need to put in place the appropriate arrangements to prioritise and allocate resource to oversee both the preopening and operational stages of the project. Direct management provides maximum control for the Council.

2. Lease to a Private Company

- 2.24 Although a tried and tested approach to property management, which helps to maximise financial returns, this approach is unlikely to give the best chances of achieving the objectives for the scheme or provide any additional regeneration benefits offered by option 4 or the levels of control offered by option 1. It can provide a simple financial arrangement, but the particular circumstances relating to the Arcade e.g. Dewsbury context, Council and community aspirations re types of uses & activity mean that this option rates poorly compared to options 1 & 4. Although a tender process could be held to select an operator, there is no certainty that any worthwhile commercial proposals would come forward, or that would meet the Councils wider objectives.

3. Management Company

2.25 Management contracts can work well, particularly where the owner has limited resources, skills or interest in operating a facility/service or thinks it can be done significantly more cheaply. Additionally, management contracts are also easier to terminate than a lease. However, in these circumstances there would seem to be little benefit from the Council taking all the risks of letting, whilst paying another organisation to carry out the day to day management of the Arcade when it has the experience and processes in house to do it itself or has other better options.

4. Lease to a non- profit distributing community company e.g. Dewsbury Arcade Group.

2.26 Officers have reviewed the initial document submitted by the Arcade Group and consider it to be a credible proposal with could bring a lot of additional impact and benefit compared to the other options. Having a local company run by local business people and investors with support of the local area, operating the Arcade will enable local energy, commitment and expertise to be utilised to the benefit of the town and create the opportunity to keep any surpluses within the town to further future regeneration.

2.27 The Arcade Group proposal scores well on meeting both the Councils regeneration and wider corporate objectives related to People Partners and Place Making. The proposal provides a credible explanation of how the group would ensure vibrancy, inclusivity and make the Arcade family friendly. There is a clear vision as to how the Arcade would be 'curated'. Wider social benefits are explained via the recycling of surpluses into the project and in the longer term (if finances allow) other Dewsbury projects and initiatives.

2.28 This approach also extends the sense of ownership (and customer loyalty) to Dewsbury residents and therefore increases the chance of success. Drawing on the energy, imagination and investment of local people will provide a greater degree of commitment to make it the key part of Dewsbury town centre that the community wish it to be.

2.29 This approach does however come with additional risks which do not apply to the other options. This is a new organisation with no track record and therefore will rely heavily on the calibre of the individuals who are involved in running the organisation. Also it has no financial reserves and is reliant on a community share issue to raise the funds necessary to provide the working capital. If this option is selected the Council will need to manage these risks appropriately.

2.30 The Arcade Group's proposal contains some suggestions with regard to lease terms. Council officers have carefully considered these and some have been reflected in the recommendations regarding the conditions of the agreement for lease and the heads of terms. However, officers are recommending a lease length of 10 years (compared to the request of 30 years) as this is a key way of managing the risk.

2.31 Theoretically, proposals could also be sought from other third sector organisations to lease and operate the Arcade. However, given the size and nature of Dewsbury it is considered that it would be very unlikely to attract interest from any other organisations with the right blend of local, creative and business interests. The proposal from the Arcade Group is unique and therefore it is not proposed to seek interest from other parties.

The Lease/Management Proposal

2.32 This report seeks Cabinet approval for option 4, i.e., that the Property should be operated by the Arcade Group utilising the Arcade Company (please see below for further information) and that the detailed lease terms are agreed that reflect the Heads of Terms agreed with the Arcade Group (see Appendix 4). There would also be an

agreement for lease with the Arcade Group/Arcade Company that sets out some preconditions for entering into a lease and this will help to manage the risks.

2.33 In this option the Council would grant a full repairing and insuring lease to the company or other legal entity incorporated by the Arcade Group (“the Arcade Company”). The proposal states the Arcade Group would, if given ‘preferred bidder’ status constitute itself as a Community Benefit Society regulated by the Financial Standards Authority and raise funds for working capital through a community share issue. The Arcade Company would be granted a lease and would be free, within the scope of some general use clauses outlined in the Heads of Terms, to let and manage the Arcade as it wishes. Measures would be included in the lease that help to ensure the building is well maintained and repaired as necessary.

2.34 Cabinet approval is sought for the Heads of Terms (see Appendix 4). Prior to entering into the lease the Council would for its part undertake to complete the works and then require a number of pre conditions to be met by the Arcade Group/Arcade Company and these would be set out in the agreement to lease. These conditions would include:-

- The Arcade Group become legally constituted into a non-profit distributing organisation such as a ‘Community Benefit Society’, or forms into another type of non-profit distributing business acceptable to the Solicitor to the Council. This would need to be done prior to exchanging any Agreement for Lease so that the Arcade Company are a party to that agreement.
- The Arcade Group complete a successful share issue, or raises capital through other appropriate means (reflecting the not-for-profit ethos) in respect of the Arcade Company
- The Arcade Group provide the Council with a detailed business plan which satisfactorily outlines how they will manage the Arcade utilising the Arcade Company and achieve the aims and objectives of the Arcade project.

2.35 Without testing the market it is impossible to say definitively whether the proposed Heads of Terms are the best consideration that can be reasonably obtained. The Arcade is a unique property and in valuation terms the Arcade has to be assessed in the context of difficult letting conditions for town centre properties. Officers have therefore taken a cautious approach and assumed that the proposed Heads of Terms are less than best consideration. This is justified on the basis that leasing to the Arcade Group/Arcade Company will help it to secure the promotion and/or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. As outlined in the Contract Procurement Rules Cabinet authority is therefore being sought to approve the Heads of Terms.

2.36 If the Heads of Terms (save for rent) that have been offered to the Arcade Group were put to the open market it is unlikely that the Council would have had any commercial interest, although we cannot be certain. Commercial operators, who would pay commercial rents, would likely have demanded a longer term, a wider user clause and less restrictions on the agreement for lease etc. Officers recommend that the Council retain a greater degree of control than under a standard lease and in order to retain that control it has been necessary to be flexible with the rent agreed with the Arcade Group. The rent agreed provides a financial return for the Council and is structured in a way that it increases based on the success of the Arcade. Dealing direct with the Arcade Group provides the Council with the desired level of control whilst been able to achieve the broader regeneration outcomes.

Management Risks

2.37 The proposed length of lease within the Heads of Terms is 10 years. The Arcade Group requested a long lease of 30 years or more. The shorter lease length proposed

helps the Council to manage some of the risks inherent in leasing the building to a community business. However, the shorter lease would exclude the Arcade Group/Arcade Company from accessing investment from the Co-Operatives UK/Architectural Heritage Fund (“AHF”) who require at least a 25 year lease. The AHF funds would supplement the fund raising from the community in the community share issue.

2.38 Not being able to secure Co-operatives UK/AHF funds would weaken the Arcade Group’s chances of securing the necessary levels of working capital. It is important the Arcade Group/Arcade Company starts off from a strong financial position and therefore it is proposed that the Council provides a similar level of initial grant/investment that the Arcade Group/Arcade Company would otherwise be able to access from the AHF/Coop if the Council had offered a lease of 25 years.

2.39 The leasing of the Arcade to a new Community Benefit Society does bring some specific risks and these are itemised in the Table below with proposed mitigation measures:-

Risk	Effect	Mitigation	Owner	RAG rating
New company/CBS without track record.	Generally greater risk re set up and operations	See actions below re finance, personnel. Due diligence. Agreement to Lease conditions.	KC	A/R
Community share issue not successful	Delay or greater risk re financial robustness.	Group undertake proactive campaign, support from Council via Equity Investment up to £25,000. Agreement to Lease conditions	AG/KC	A/R
Registration as Community Benefit Society delayed or rejected	Stops progress of this option.	Support Group in submission of proposal if required. Look at other legal ‘models’. Revert to direct management.	AG/KC	A/R
Board membership, insufficient quality and range of experience, skills	Weakens strategic oversight/vision; management.	Ensure Board have suitable range of people with range of skills & expertise	AG	A/R
Quality of Day to day management	Poor management of the Arcade	Ensure good recruitment process to get right candidate. Probationary period.	AG	R

2.40 Council officers will provide support to the Arcade Group, where needed, through the set up period of the organisation and launch of the Arcade.

3. Implications for the Council

Working with People

- 3.1 The Dewsbury Blueprint was subject to public consultation in February 2020, which highlighted the importance that local people placed on bringing empty buildings, and the Arcade in particular, back into use. The Blueprint draws heavily from the Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd January 2019 which in turn draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place on having an attractive and vibrant town centre.

Working with Partners

- 3.2 As part of the plans to reopen the Arcade the Council will work with potential partners to develop the most appropriate and deliverable plans to bring the Arcade back to life for sustainable uses. The Arcade Group are a consortium of local business people and investors and as part of their proposed share issue involve more people in the long term sustainability of the Arcade.

Place Based Working

- 3.3 The Dewsbury Blueprint is based on the idea of working with local people and businesses to improve the town centre and this has been taken forward in the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan. The Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd January 2019 draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was also a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place on having an attractive and vibrant town centre. The consultation carried out by the consultants Social for the Dewsbury Town Deal in late 2020 provides further support to these conclusions.

Climate Change and Air Quality

- 3.4 The repair, refurbishment and reopening of the Arcade will contribute to town centre regeneration and conservation of the town's heritage. By improving the leisure and retail offer of the town centre it will provide greater opportunity for linked trips to the town centre, potentially reducing the number of journeys and production of carbon.

Improving outcomes for children

- 3.4 The aim is to for the Arcade to be family friendly.

Public Sector Equalities Duty

- 3.5 A condition of Town Deal funding the Government requires that a qualities assessment is undertaken for each project supported by the fund. An impact assessment has been completed for the Arcade project and this considers impacts on those groups of 'protected characteristics'. Overall the project, has on balance, a positive impact.

Legal

- 3.6 Legal services will need to be engaged and financing of these services will be met from the project budget. Legal services will also need to be engaged to advise on any subsidy implications should Option 4 be taken (to deal solely with the Arcade Group and in reference to the preferential terms of the proposed deal with the Arcade Group).

Finance

3.7 The latest estimated capital costs and funding position is outlined in Table Two below.

Table Two: Arcade Project - Cost Estimate & Current Funding		
Element	£,000	Comments
1. Budget Estimate		
Surveys & other fees	111,000	
Purchase & enabling works	1,017,000	Completed
Construction costs	4,791,000	Inc prelims, profit, contingency of 10%
Fees	757,000	BDP & internal - Part incurred
Total	6,676,000	
2. Current Funding (capital)		
Kirklees Council	1,770,000	Approved February 2020
Getting Building Grant	600,000	Approved – subject to contract
Town Fund (Capital)	1,310,000	Approved in principle, subject to MLUHC approval of business case.
Historic England	300,000	Provisional
Heritage Lottery Fund	2,696,000	Stage 1 application submitted 26 Nov
Total	6,676,000	
Footnote: Estimate based on mid point of contract Q2 2022		

3.8 Cabinet approved £1.77m towards the project at its meeting on 25th February 2020 and this enabled the property to be purchased, initial stabilisation works to be undertaken and to employ BDP to undertake the designs for the project. Further external funds have been secured as itemised in Table Two. The Historic England funding is indicative and is subject to a formal application and approval; which is programmed for 2022. Following the reopening of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for applications a bid was submitted to HLF on 26 November 2021.

Revenue

3.9 The Heads of Terms for the lease to the Arcade Group/Arcade Company is drafted on the basis that it gives the organisation the time and opportunity to properly establish the Arcade as a thriving and attractive destination. The Arcade Group/Arcade Company will be expected to cover all operating cost, including repairs and maintenance, and empty property business rates (if payable), from their income and reserves.

3.10 There will be no ongoing revenue subsidy of the Arcade Group/Arcade Company by the Council, all operational costs will need to be met by the Arcade Group/Arcade Company. The capital repayments and interest payments on the debt incurred by the Council in funding its capital finance for the project will be dealt with centrally by the Council.

3.11 The Arcade Group already has the offer of a development grant for the share issue and a conditional offer of up to £50,000 of equity investment from Co-operatives UK. The latter would be based on £1 for every £1 investment raised from the community up to a maximum of £50,000. The current eligibility criteria related to lease length currently would mean that the Arcade Group/Arcade Company could not now access the Community Share Booster equity investment as a lease length agreed is less than required by Cooperatives UK.

- 3.12 In order to provide the Arcade Group with the best chance of securing the working capital it requires, it is proposed that, if the Arcade Group continues to be unable to access the equity investment from the Cooperatives UK, then the Council offers to match that support on similar terms and conditions to Cooperatives UK up to a limit to create sufficient working capital to effectively manage the Arcade. The working capital required to operate the Arcade is estimated at £50,000 and therefore the Council's investment would be limited to 50% of that i.e. a maximum of £25,000. This would only be finalised once the Community Benefit Society or another type of non-profit distributing business acceptable to the Solicitor to the Council was established.
- 3.13 The proposed Heads of Terms for the lease are contained in Appendix 4 (private part of the papers).

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 The three local ward members (Dewsbury East Ward) have been consulted on the proposal to lease the property to The Arcade Group. Councillor Lukic has requested that the following comments are included: - "I support the Arcade Group's proposal to form a Community Benefit Society to manage the Arcade. I am familiar with how this type of structure operates as I am a member of a different CBS and have been for the last six years. While the council could directly manage the Arcade instead, I think the CBS option has three main benefits:
1. Greater local focus and pride, by running the Arcade as a Dewsbury business rather than at the Kirklees level
 2. The CBS board and any employees would be more directly reliant on the Arcade's success (and less hindered by bureaucracy)
 3. Dewsbury residents would have the opportunity to join the CBS and have a direct say in who runs the Arcade"

5. Next steps and timelines

- 5.1 Following a decision by Cabinet, officers will undertake all the necessary legal and other work required to complete the Agreement to Lease and the lease plus the investment agreement.
- 5.2 Subject to funding being confirmed and all other items being satisfactorily completed to programme it is anticipated that the construction works will start in late 2022 with a completion in 2023.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) Approves the granting by the Council of an Agreement for Lease to the Arcade Group/Arcade Company in a form as outlined in paragraph 2.34 of this report and delegates authority to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to agree and complete the agreement for lease

Reason: To allow the Council to effectively manage the initial risks.

- (ii) Approves the granting by the Council of an agreement for lease and lease of the Arcade to the Arcade Group/Arcade Company under the Heads of Terms contained in Appendix 4 and delegates authority to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to agree and complete the lease once preconditions outlined in the Agreement for Lease have been met and to

legal confirmation of the position regarding any possible implications that may arise from the Subsidy Control Bill.

Reason: To enable the effective delivery of the Arcade project and manage risk.

- (iii) Subject to the Arcade Group being ineligible for the Community Share Booster scheme, approves that the Council provides equity investment into the Community Share issue proposed by the Arcade Group on the basis of match funding of £1 for every £1 raised from the community up to a maximum of £25,000 investment from the Council and delegates authority to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) in conjunction with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning to agree and complete the contractual arrangements

Reason: To enable the Arcade Group to secure sufficient working capital to effectively operate the Arcade.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holders for both Regeneration and Town Centres support the proposals in the report and recommend that the report be approved.

8. Contact officer

Peter Thompson: ER Project Manager
peterr.thompson@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Report to Cabinet 25th February 2020: The Arcade, Market Place Dewsbury.

Report to Cabinet 21st August 2018: Dewsbury Heritage Action Zone.

Report to Cabinet 22nd January 2019: Dewsbury Town Centre Strategic Development Framework.

Report to Cabinet 12th October 2021: Dewsbury Town Deal Next Steps

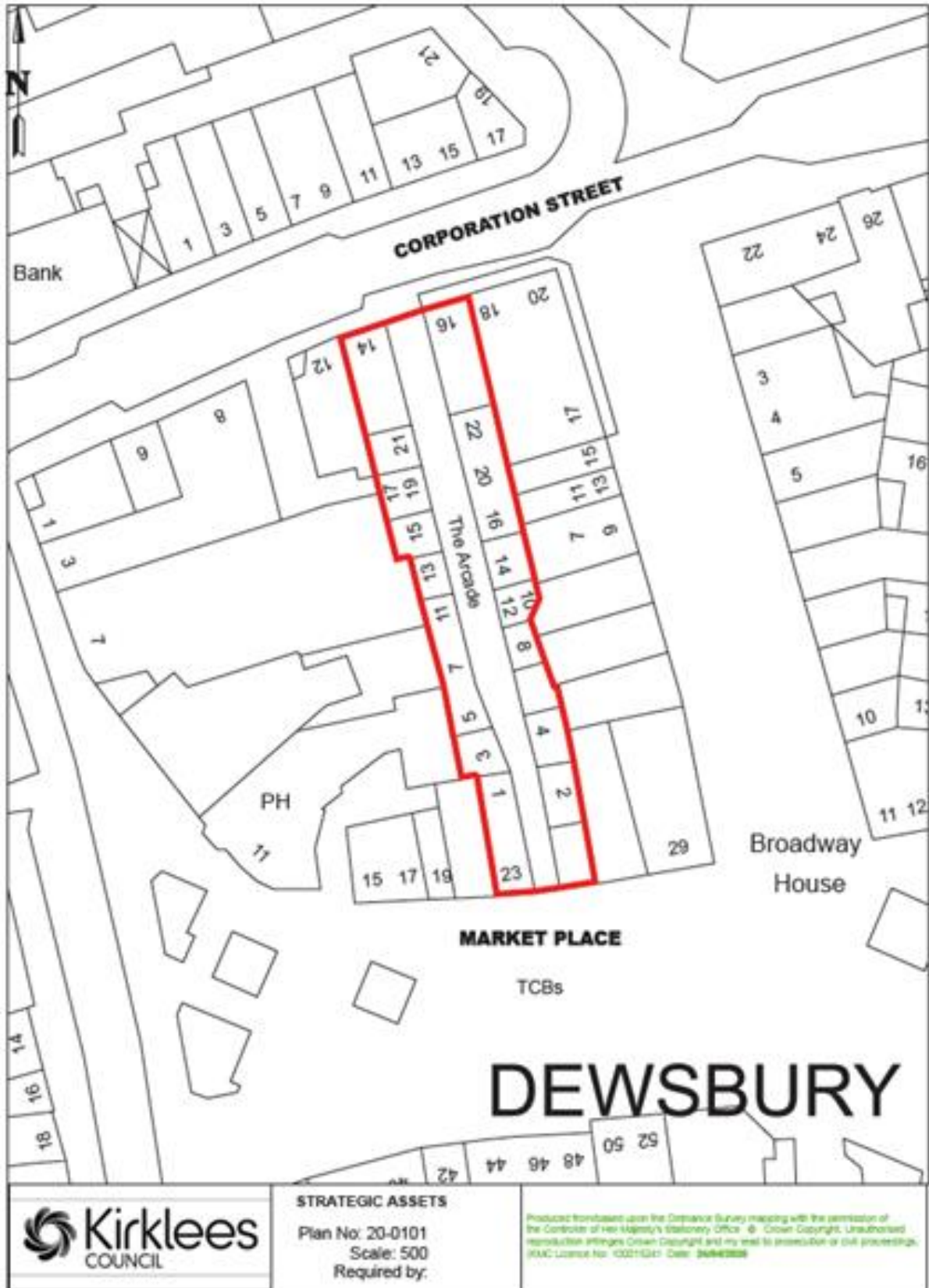
10. Strategic Director responsible

David Shepherd
Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration
david.shepherd@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000

APPENDIX 1: LOCATION PLAN



APPENDIX 2: Boundary of The Arcade



APPENDIX 3: PROPOSAL FROM THE ARCADE DEWSBURY GROUP



The Arcade
Dewsbury

The Arcade – Dewsbury

Partnership Proposal

**The Arcade Dewsbury
Group**

May 2021

The 'Arcade – Dewsbury' community business is seeking a long lease on the Arcade, creating the first community run shopping centre in the country. While being operationally and financially independent, the business will work in partnership with the Council to achieve shared objectives for the Arcade and the wider Dewsbury Town Centre.



Our Objectives

The aims of our community business are to:

- Fill the Arcade and run it in a financially viable way.
- Attract tenants that bring activity and footfall to the town centre.
- Encourage young independent, creative entrepreneurs to start their businesses. A new experience in a heritage building.
- Organise events that promote the Arcade and the town.
- Work with other projects, particularly the Market, to bring people to Dewsbury during the day and evening in a safe family environment.
- Be inclusive of all sections of the community and work to sustainable business principles.
- Be a channel for community economic development across the town centre.

3

Achieving those objectives

In preparation of their Shopping Centre Report (March '21), property consultants Lambeth, Smith, Hampton posed the question of what were the critical changes needed to rescue shopping centres post pandemic. Respondents across the industry put as the top three:

- **More community** – amenities and service
- **More diversity** – of offers and occupiers
- **More surprise** – of events and experience

Our contention is that our group is best placed to provide those. A community business provides the focus and agility of the private sector, while maintaining the social objectives of the public sector. The objectives of the Council and the community business are similar – to develop a fully occupied, profitable Arcade, filled with creative, independent entrepreneurs that acts as a spark to regenerate the rest of the town centre.

That position is supported by a recent report from Power to Change / National Lottery (Saving the High Street – Sept '20). The case studies showed the benefits of community business ownership of high street assets (page 5):

- **Ability to create a destination place**
- **Increasing diversity of high street users**
- **Building links with other businesses**
- **Shaping a vision of the high street**

4

Any profit made by the business will be ploughed back into the Arcade or other town centre projects. Once the Arcade is successfully launched, we foresee the group acting as a Dewsbury town centre community development company, backing up the Town Plan – drawing in, supporting and publicising entrepreneurs willing to take on a venture in the town.

No governance structure guarantees success; the performance of individuals involved will always be critical, particularly the skills of management. However, there is no increased likelihood of business failure with the co-operative model; quite the opposite.

The strengths of a rooted, independent organisation were shown at the time of the Arcade community business launch in Feb '21. The group were able to raise grant money from the Architectural Heritage Fund and build an effective communications infrastructure that within two weeks gained:

850 Facebook page likes
200 sign ups to the Newsletter
18 expressions of interest in taking a shop unit

5

A capable and enterprising Board

'The Arcade – Dewsbury' will be registered as a community benefit society with the Financial Conduct Authority once the Council awards it 'preferred bidder' status; a limited company run on a one-member-one-vote basis with an asset lock that prevents private gain from any value it builds. The business is currently managed by a Board of 6 experienced entrepreneurial people who live or work in Dewsbury (see Appendix) and meets bi-monthly. Chris Hill as the Council's Arcade Project Manager is Secretary to the Board and takes the lead on business development.

Recruitment to the Board is on the understanding that time as well as knowledge will be contributed, with a guideline of a minimum of 4 hours a week.

The Board will employ a part time manager (2 or 3 days a week) prior to taking the lease who will be responsible for tenant and facility management as well as promoting the Arcade. The possibility of combining the role with funded business support work is being explored.

The Board's responsibilities will be:

- **Appointing and guiding the work of the manager**
- **Overseeing the finances and business model**
- **Ensuring a suitable mix of tenants**
- **Raising the profile of the Arcade through events and appropriate marketing**
- **Maximising the involvement of Dewsbury residents**
- **Developing partnerships and business opportunities that will aid town centre regeneration**

¹ The survival rate for co-ops over the first 5 years is 76%, compared to 42% for private start-ups (The Co-operative Economy 2020, Co-ops UK)

6

Protecting Council interests in the lease

The Council will be concerned about reputational and financial damage of the community business failing. The chances of this are small (see Risks) but the creation of non-traditional lease, can eliminate financial risk to the Council and minimise the chance of management failure.

Terms of the lease need to give the community business and its shareholders a sense of ownership while at the same time protecting the long-term interests of the public and Council

Essential elements would be:

- **Granting of a long lease (30 years or more)**
- **Payment structured on a base payment + income related**
- **Conditions that the Arcade cannot be used as security against a loan. Surplus can only be used for regeneration purposes**
- **As well as usual duty of care clauses, council able to break lease on occupancy dropping below agreed level (e.g 50%)**
- **Ability of the community business to break the lease on reasonable notice if it no longer felt able to manage the Arcade**
- **Council officer representation on the Board**
- **Annual building inspections and report to the Council on financial, maintenance and regeneration performance**

The lease should be based on Heads of Terms agreed as soon as possible. Granting of preferred bidder status to the community business in the summer of '21 will give plenty of time for the group to work with the Council team on the terms of the lease prior to signing after completion of refurbishment works in 2022. Preferred bidder status is required to draw down grants and begin the process of raising capital from shareholders.

7

Council Control

Councils by their nature are multi-layered and can be slow moving. A price that has to be paid in a democratic structure using other people's money. In addition, local authorities are under-resourced, making it very difficult for over-stretched officers to focus on single projects.

We see the Arcade as a Team effort. The Council through the Community Business Board will provide the policy context, networks and advice, the community business will make things happen on the ground, involving residents and creating the positive outlook that can be lacking in Dewsbury.

In an executive sense, the Council will lose some control, but there will be no price to pay in policy outcome. The Council will earn a return and be spared responsibility and effort, while the community business will work with the Markets, Business Team and Town Fund team to boost enterprise in the town centre.

Curating the Tenants

The Council project team and community business share a vision of Arcade occupancy. Tenants will represent the creative end of the independent retail sector. Many will produce off-site (though even better if they can find the room to produce on-site) and sell on-line as well as running a small shop (c 200 sq ft). Collectively they will present a unique offer that will make the Arcade worth visiting.

Gambling, vaping, take-aways and business services generally will not be welcome. No position has been taken on housing community services, but it will be important not to dilute the retail buzz of the Arcade.

The 18 expressions of interest that followed the launch offered a mix that was not far from our vision. Among them were - craft, soaps, antiquarian books, antiques, zine shop, florist, cakes, sauces, hats, games, bath bombs and a chai café.

The role of food in the Arcade will need close co-ordination with Market management (as will rents) as they need to lead in that area, but there may still be room for some speciality food shops. That discussion has begun with Chris Cotton (Strategic Lead for Markets) and shows the advantage of partnership approach over leasing to a private operator.

The small shops will act as a retail incubator where entrepreneurs can trial their ideas at low cost. We would hope some would move on to occupy larger town centre shops and we will be exploring with the Princess of Wales Centre the possibility of subdivision of larger units and creating move-on space.

Two or three of the four larger units at the ends of the Arcade (2 x 1,000 sq ft, 2 x 3,000 sq ft) are likely to offer food and beverage. These units are critical in providing the anchor tenants that will ensure financial viability as well as creating the atmosphere of the Arcade. The search has already begun to find a flagbearer for the Arcade.

One of the end units on Corporation Street (the only unit that will be served by a lift), has an attractive second floor of 1,000 sq ft that everyone is keen to keep as a lettable space for children, parties etc and we will be seeking a tenant who would like to operate it in this way.

Early market testing has indicated that the seven first floor studios could be suitable for artist studios and we are working with the Cultural Development Team (Daniel Dearnley), Creative Scene, BEAM and Kirklees College to explore possibilities.

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Management and systems

Again, objectives are shared with the Council - to create a low cost, responsive management system that can promote the Arcade and contribute to town centre regeneration.

Through Chris Hill, the Board will work with the Arcade Project Team (particularly Matthew Garbutt in his corporate landlord function) to optimise the management system prior to the granting of the lease. The community business is being advised by Lynette Howgate – www.lhc-retail.co.uk – an experienced retail management consultant who brings particular enthusiasm to the project having been brought up in Dewsbury.

Both sides are clear that a dedicated manager will be needed and there cannot be reliance on a voluntary Board for the day to day running of the Arcade. The duties of the manager will be:

- **Facility management**
- **Financial management**
- **Marketing and administration**
- **Working with the Council and other partners**

A cleaner will be employed and there may be a need to pay for opening and locking as well day time security.

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The case will be made that similar outcomes could be achieved by the Council employing a manager directly, but they face barriers:

- **A hierarchy of decision makers and the internal processes those decisions entail**
- **Harder to jump on to enterprise opportunities as they arise**
- **Difficulties of building a community of supporters and volunteers and running the independent social media needed to achieve that**
- **Limited access to grants to expand activity**
- **A loss of the direct relationship between being paid a wage and the success of the Arcade.**

A directly employed Council manager would not be a disaster, and in all likelihood the Arcade would initially be filled, but if the aim is to maximise regeneration potential over the longer term and keep the Arcade full, it is not the best option.

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Wider Social Benefit

Supporting business in the town centre

The community business needs to focus on the Arcade until it is successfully established, developing a tight working relationship with the Market.

Thereafter, supporting the strategy within the Town Plan, there is a role for a community body to promote enterprise in the town centre. Groups working to a similar end include Nudge, Plymouth (<https://nudge.community>) or White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures, Hastings (<https://wrnv.org.uk>).

Of particular interest to us as a future model is the Midsteeples Quarter in Dumfries <https://www.midsteeplesquarter.org/>. Here the community benefit society has purchased six empty town centre shops and associated land over the last 4 years with a mix of grants and community fundraising and is turning them into retail, enterprise and housing units.

There is a need for such a body to galvanise and promote enterprise and move beyond negativity. It will gather people who want to do things and not expect others (particularly the Council) to solve the problem.



Exactly what the community business will engage in will depend on the opportunities that arise and its capacity to undertake them. It may be organising specialist markets in collaboration with Market Services, pop-up shops in the Princess of Wales shopping centre, working with the business centre team to promote town centre co-working or undertaking direct property / business development.

Much of the work will need to be grant supported in the first instance and the community benefit society will be well placed to access support. As a first step, the group is applying to the Lottery's Growing Great Ideas programme (£150,000 minimum grant) to develop a programme with other partners that would provide project officers to develop such activity.

There is also up to £250,000 match community ownership funding available to purchase community assets (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

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The Plan



Retail Environment

The steady decline in Dewsbury town centre footfall is well documented and is a core argument within the Town Fund bid, but Dewsbury is not an isolated town without potential demand. Two million people live within 10 miles. If we give them a reason to come back, they will. Redbrick Mill has long shown that if the offer is right, you don't have to be based in the middle of Leeds.

The Arcade on its own is unlikely to have the pulling power to attract visitors. It needs to work with the Market and there needs to be more places to eat and drink, a greater sense of security and more going on.

The post Covid future for town centres and retail is uncertain, but the recent CACI research – 'Preparing for the New Consumer Reality' (Feb '21) identifies four trends our community business will exploit through events, use of social media, curation of tenants and retail training

- **Integration of on-line and in-store experience**
- **The surge in brand ethics**
- **The rise in localism**
- **The need to entertain, inform and engage rather than just sell**

Creating The Brand

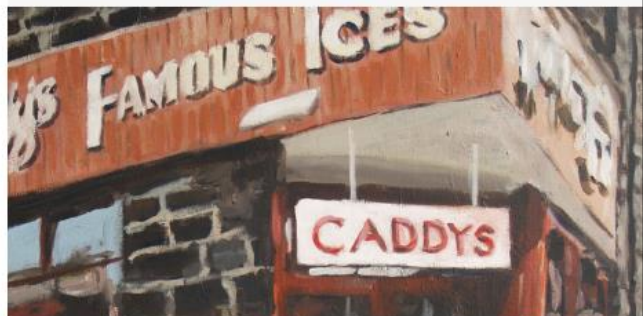
Above all, the Arcade has to be interesting. We will generate that interest by attracting independent retailers selling stock that is not commonly available, and who add services to the stock they sell.

We will curate tenancies carefully, not committing necessarily to the first people willing to pay the rent. All tenants will be asked for a basic business plan and a 'mood board' for how the shop will look. The tenant handbook will lay out expectations of how the feel of the Arcade will be maintained.

The Arcade will rely heavily on building an identity and using social media and events to achieve that. We will make sure that all cultures are represented in the retail offer and such fusion will be part of our identity.

It would also be worth exploring, using Town Fund resources, promoting Dewsbury and its independent traders in a way that builds identity and attracts visitors. Independent Life (<https://independentlife.co.uk/>) undertake this work in York and Leeds and similar could be done in Dewsbury.

Co-marketing with Dewsbury Market will be important and we will work together as closely as possible



Competition

Structurally, the Arcade splits three ways:

- 17 ground floor small shops
- 4 larger end units over two or three floors, ideally suited to food and beverage
- 7 first floor studios, possibly targeted at artists

Small Shops

While general town centre retail vacancy rates are high, research by Aspinall Verdi for the Council's 'Getting Building Fund' application (Jan '21) suggested that "the evidence shows there is limited units currently available in the town centre which are of a similar size to the units situated on the ground floor of the Arcade. Our research indicates that the current supply is generally larger than the small/ micro-scale available with the Arcade and this suggests that there is an opportunity for this type of space"

We want to make the shops accessible to start ups, particularly young entrepreneurs wanting to trial ideas at low financial risk, so rent levels are critical.

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End Units

These four anchor tenants are likely to include 2 or 3 food and beverage outlets. At approximately £15psf inclusive rent (service charge and rent combined), they will produce at least around a third of the Arcade income and sourcing these tenants is a priority.

Three of the respondents to the February community business launch showed serious interest in the end units – Emojis wanting to open a Chai Café, a town centre retailer wanting to relocate and an entrepreneur who previously ran a Café in the Arcade who runs a successful wine bar in Mirfield.

We will run a targeted campaign ourselves, but have also had discussions with Hunters (estate agents opposite the Arcade) and Baker Proudlove (agents for the Princess of Wales Centre) about assistance if required.

First Floor Studios

There used to be artist studios in Dewsbury. The eight first floor units are enough to create a cluster, particularly with the possibility of the artists selling direct to shoppers. Waiting lists exist at the two studios in Mirfield (Creative Art Hub and Print Studios) that indicates demand. Price will need to be kept to around £40 a week to be competitive.

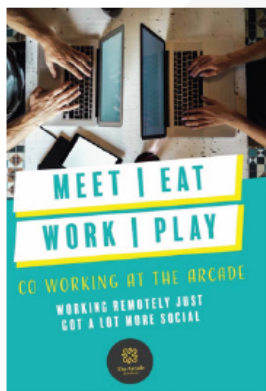
We are working with Daniel Dearnley (KMC Creative Management) and Nancy Barrett (Creative Scene) to develop a common strategy. If the units are felt suitable for artist studios, we will develop a targeted event in the autumn to test the market.

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18/20 Corporation Street

We would welcome the use of 18 / 20 Corporation St as managed workspace, linked to a café facility in 16 Corporation. It would add to the impact of the Market and Arcade and could share in the marketing.

However, to keep the focus of the community business in its first stages, the development would need to be led by the Business and Skills team if sufficient demand was felt to exist.



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Arcade Pricing

Researching previous lease levels, the current market through Aspinall Verdi's research and our own conversations with Hunters and Baker Proudlove, we estimate that rents + service charge of £15 psf on the end units, an average of £100 a week on the internal shops and £40 a week on the Studio units will be attractive to potential tenants.

For presentation reasons, an inclusive rent is preferred rather than a separating service charge and rent.

Service charges have been based on the operation of other centres. Management and marketing costs are one of the reasons it is high, but following competitive tendering, there is the prospect of reducing the cost and passing that on to tenants. Within the model, rents of studios and small shops are both slightly higher than we would like.

Internal shops and studios would be on a monthly licence, end units possibly five-year leases with break possibilities (to be discussed). The possibility of using turnover rents – starting lower but ending higher if the business is a success – requires further discussion. Decision likely to depend on demand.

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Marketing

A marketing strategy, co-ordinated with the Market and the Town Fund projects generally, will be critical to the Arcade's success.

The community business has the advantage of marketing authenticity. We are local, transparent, not-for-profit and with the single focus of bettering the town centre. If, as we believe, the Arcade will be the first community run shopping centre in the UK, we will lever that to maximum advantage.

We have consulted with Mercury Retail who specialise in retail marketing. The whole package envisaged here would cost around £30,000. However, we intend to do much of it ourselves with the help of volunteers, bringing in specialists when required. The full array of social media, events, art and personal contact will be deployed in the time scales laid out below. It amounts to a rolling public campaign of over a year that should ensure that the Arcade opens as near to full as possible.

Plan to Opening

1. Heads of Terms

Agreed as soon as possible

2. Events

Hold public events over the summer and autumn prior to the refurbishment contract starting. The purpose will be to draw interest from residents and potential tenants and grow our supporter list, including community engagement work associated with the public art work being put on the Market Place end of the Arcade.

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Launch Party on the afternoon of Saturday August 14th, combined with 'unveiling' of the art work. Public art producers Rob Pearson and Kelly O'Reilly were appointed by BEAM in April '21 with £1,000 from the Arcade community business for public engagement work directed at students and residents along the theme of the Arcade past and future.

Other events to be organised in the autumn:

- Tenant open evenings
- A market day
- Arts event

Targeted activity to find the anchor tenants will start in summer '21 and continue throughout, working with agents if necessary.

A £14,000 grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund's High Street fund awarded in February '21 supports this work

3. Community Share Issue

Co-ops UK granted the Arcade Dewsbury £10,000 in April '21 to develop a Shariah compliant community share issue along with a conditional offer of £50,000 match funding to the investment raised.

The group will register as Community Benefit Society once it has preferred bidder status. A final business plan and share issue prospectus will be drawn up to raise a minimum of £150,000 (£50,000 from Co-ops UK) to capitalise the community business and fund cash flow needs. £50 minimum share issue purchase, target of 200 members. Share issue likely to take place in Spring '22.

The share issue is about much more than raising money. It will raise the profile of the Arcade, create customer loyalty and generate new waves of volunteers and potential tenants.

September '21 onwards – focused search for anchor corner unit tenants working with key agents as well as marketing efforts of the Team.

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4. Appointment of Manager

April '22.

With finance and Heads of Terms in place, a part time manager will be appointed in time to take ownership of tenant recruitment and the launch, working alongside Chris Hill.

5. Lettings Campaign

June to Sept '22.

Adaption of web site to promote lettings. 4-month integrated marketing campaign aimed at attracting small start-up retailers and unique market traders. Creation of a lettings brochure, PR appealing for potential retailers to express their interest, social media profile raising, digital marketing and printed literature distributed to traders already operating in Dewsbury.

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6. Launch Campaign

Early '23 (timing dependent on completion of refurbishment)

Fully integrated launch campaign, creating a real buzz around the opening of The Arcade, to include:

- Town centre-wide launch event, driving footfall over to The Arcade
- Social media campaigns and competitions, generating engagement from local people and potential shoppers
- Formulation of themed days/nights within The Arcade to create a call to action and give shoppers a reason to put a visit to The Arcade in their diaries



² Chris Hill has managed six previous share issues. All have exceeded their target, raising between £50,000 and £250,000 (average £110,000 and 220 members each)

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Risks

The following are seen as the major business / strategy risks once the refurbishment of the Arcade is complete. Mitigation appears alongside.

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to agree lease terms	Agreement to heads of terms should form part of granting of 'preferred bidder' status, with lease details being discussed over the following six months. Council would run the Arcade in the case of failure to agree.
Occupancy levels being below breakeven point	Response to the initial launch combined with competitive rents and a yearlong marketing campaign should ensure high opening occupancy
Emptying out of Arcade in third year and beyond if town centre footfall fails to recover	The biggest challenge. 'Excitement of the new' should fill the Arcade at the start, but unless town centre footfall can be increased, the businesses within the Arcade may not be sustainable. It will take the contribution of community partners, not just the Council to achieve the increased activity
Management failure of the community business leading to poor service and financial control	At all stages, the community business will work closely with the Council's Corporate Landlord team and will report on both the financial and physical state of the Arcade. Early warnings will be available and break clauses in the lease triggered if the financial situation is not remedied
Arcade maintenance costs become unaffordable	Maintenance costs should be low in the early years, but profits will contribute to a sinking fund to meet a 20-year planned maintenance programme developed as part of the refurbishment
Reputational impact of community business going into administration	From the outset, the Council and community business should declare this a ground-breaking partnership that offers a new way of shaping town centres. That the community business is being given a chance to succeed, but that controls are in place through the lease for the Council to take back the Arcade if the business is not a success. The Council can be seen to be supporting Dewsbury self-help while protecting public investment
Community business adopting policies that conflict with the Council's	The Council will be represented on the Board, the social aims are shared and written into the objectives of the community benefit society rules. Activities of the community business are open to public scrutiny and any profits go to its charitable aims of town centre regeneration. Conflict is unlikely to arise

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Financial Projections

Financial projections are provisional and attached separately. They are being discussed with officers and when general agreement has been reached, will be inserted into this document prior to general circulation

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Appendix

Arcade - Dewsbury Committee Members

Peter Mason – Director Mood Developments (Field House, Black Bull)

Anis Dadu – Director XYZ Legal - commercial lawyer

Sarah Barnes (Treasurer) – Director Barnes Field Pub Chain (West Riding, Old Turk etc)

Yunus Patel – Director YMG construction (based in Savile Town, multiple development sites)

Keith Shaw – Chief Exec Wilby Transport, Dewsbury

Natalie Liddle – Director WSA Arts (event organiser / vintage clothes seller)

Chris Hill (Secretary) – Arcade project manager, Kirklees Council

All Committee members must live or work in Dewsbury. We see the Committee / Board being strengthened by 2 or 3 additional people over the next year as people with the appropriate skills and commitment are identified. Attention will be paid to keeping a balance of gender and ethnicity.



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Our Purpose

WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS MEAN TO US

The Arcade at Dewsbury represents the new vitality of multicultural and multi-ethnic Dewsbury. We want to cultivate togetherness and a new experience in town. "A new experience in an old building"



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Our Vision

OUR VISION IS BRIGHT

Dewsbury is lucky. It is lucky because it is 10 years ahead of many other towns who are only now starting to address the challenges of the internet era. Dewsbury no longer has the problem of large brands starting to vacate premises – they all went a long time ago. So we can start from a clean sheet and build the new structures which will attract the 21st century citizen to the town centre.

Just as the Dewsbury Pioneers created a vibrant co-operative movement in 1857 so we will focus on the same dynamic to create the new Arcade at Dewsbury. The Pioneers did not just create a shop they created a theatre and a bank which could lend money to people in need. In the same way the Arcade will not be just a list of shops it will be a place where you come to experience new things and where you can learn as you visit. "An experience not just a transaction"

The Arcade at Dewsbury is a community venture so no-one will say at some time in the future, such and such has let the arcade fall into rack and ruin and we can't do anything about it because the simple answer would be YOU CAN (and together WE WILL).

Everyone can have a share of the success of this new enterprise by becoming a stakeholder in the project. Once we have gathered the stakeholders, we will put into action our plan to create a vibrant new space with all the concerted energy of the group.

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Our Mission

WE ARE COMMITTED

To inclusivity. Of all ethnic groups and all types of people. We are Dewsbury together. The Arcade at Dewsbury is a "fusion" concept.

We want the new Arcade to be a balance of new and old. We are conscious that the new shopping centres will attract the young and mobile but we want to make sure we do not exclude the elderly who we want to feel proud that 'their Arcade' has been reclaimed.

Similarly, we want to balance the old craft-based themes with the new digital technology and design era.

Each generation can learn from the other



Our Values

HOW WE DO BUSINESS SHAPES OUR BRAND

Social responsibility

While we accept premises where alcohol is consumed under the supervision of a Designated Premises Supervisor, we do not want any shop to act as a 'cheap booze' off-licence and we do not want any betting shops.

Safety

We want our customers to feel safe as they discover the Arcade. Since Dewsbury has a problem of theft and antisocial behaviour, we may need human security until the sense of group community deals with the problems without it.



The Arcade
Dewsbury

The Arcade – Dewsbury
Partnership Proposal



The Arcade Dewsbury Group
May 2021

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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