

# Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 30 August 2022

Dear Member

**The Council will meet on Wednesday 7 September 2022 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield.**

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

The following matters will be debated:

## Pages

### **1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

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### **2: Apologies for absence**

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

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### **3: Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1 - 12

To agree and authorise the Mayor to sign the Minutes of Council held on 13 July 2022.

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#### **4: Declaration of Interests**

13 - 14

Councillors 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 vote upon an item, or any other interests.

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#### **5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

To receive any Petitions from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

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#### **6: Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council will receive any petitions and/or receive 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 submit a petition at the meeting (any petition should relate to a matter on which Council has power and responsibilities).

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

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#### **7: Public Question Time**

Council will receive any questions from the general public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

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#### **8: West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

15 - 46

To receive the Minutes of the Meetings of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 17 March 2022 and 23 June 2022.

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**9: Financial Outturn Report 2021-2022, to include the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account Outturn Position and Annual Report on Treasury Management (Reference from Cabinet)** 47 - 116

To receive information on the Council's 2021/22 financial outturn position for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Plan, and consider proposals for revenue and capital rollover from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

Contact: James Anderson, Head of Accountancy

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**10: Council Budget Strategy Update; 2023/24 and Future Years (Reference from Cabinet)** 117 - 180

To consider the approach to the annual update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Contact: James Anderson, Head of Accountancy

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**11: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh (Reference from Cabinet)** 181 - 214

To consider the refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Contact: Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director – Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

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**12: Revised Gambling Policy - Statement of Principles (Reference from Licensing & Safety Committee)** 215 - 250

To consider the adoption of the Council's Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles).

Contact: Russell Williams, Operational Manager – Public Protection

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**13: Revisions to Terms of Reference - Health and Wellbeing Board (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)** 251 - 264

To consider proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference of Health and Wellbeing Board.

**14: Report of Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**

265 -  
312

To consider the recommendations of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel.

Contact: Samantha Lawton, Head of Governance

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**15: Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

To receive written questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

A schedule of written questions will be tabled at the meeting.

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**16: Key Discussion - Cost of Living Crisis**

A key discussion will take place on cost of living and the impact it is having upon communities within Kirklees.

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**17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Kirklees Council's Local Plan**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Munro and Marchington;

"This Council notes that:

- 1) Local authorities, including Kirklees Council, are responsible for identifying housing need in their areas. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out an approach to identifying 'objectively assessed housing need'. Government guidance in the National Planning Practice policy outlines a recommended approach to determining 'objectively assessed need' through a Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (SHMA). This guidance is based on outdated ONS population data from 2014.

- 2) Kirklees Council, like other local authorities, has set out a vision for future development in the borough through its Local Plan. This outlines the Council's housing and industry development strategy for the borough, including a target to build 31,140 new homes between 2013 and 2031 and is based on ONS data predictions on population growth in 2014, as recommended by the Government;
- 3) Kirklees Local Plan was adopted in February 2019;
- 4) There is a requirement for local authorities, including Kirklees Council, to review whether their local plans need updating at least once every 5 years, taking into account changing circumstances affecting the area or any relevant changes in national policy. The National Planning Policy Framework states that relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every 5 years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly.

This Council believes that:

- 1) There is a lack of clarity in the Government guidance to local authorities on calculating 'objectively assessed need';
- 2) Current national planning policy and strategy prioritises arbitrary and often inflated housing targets over local circumstances and local need. Local authorities, including Kirklees Council, are required to release land for development to ensure that housing targets are met. This is problematic, as local authorities are responsible for meeting the housing targets and are compelled, through national policy, to release more land for development in a bid to meet the targets. Creating higher than necessary housing targets mean that local authorities are required to identify additional sites for housing development. Inevitably, this means additional housing on inappropriate sites in the countryside, with developers often deciding to maximise profits and build on greenbelt land rather than brownfield land;
- 3) The housing figures set out in local plans are often unrealistic, which developers do not have the will or the capacity to meet. The outcome is that building rates stay low and housing targets are missed, while greenbelt land is built on and brownfield land remains vacant. When housing targets for building new homes are missed, this can result in reduced local planning control and greenbelt land being unnecessarily lost;
- 4) Housing targets are based on 2014 ONS data which may be considered flawed, with unreliable numbers and a flawed

methodology. It is a 'top-down approach' which imposes housing targets on local authorities and is not being balanced with a consideration of environmental constraints and housebuilder capacity and does not result in proper planning for infrastructure;

- 5) While Kirklees Council should review its Local Plan at the first opportunity to ensure that it reflects local need and is based on up-to-date population projections, it is guided by national planning policy. The Government had previously committed to the introduction of the Planning Bill, which would reform the planning system and impact on local plans, including Kirklees Council's Local Plan. However, there was a lack of progress with the legislation. Now the Government have introduced the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The Bill introduces a number of reforms to the planning system, but the finer detail is unknown. The Bill is currently progressing through Parliament in the early stages and is currently at the Committee stage;
- 6) The Council needs greater clarity and guidance from Government.

This Council, therefore, resolves that:

- 1) All Kirklees party leaders be invited to sign a letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to ask them to address the reliance on outdated 2014 data in the absence of the provision of clear guidance to better reflect local population growth;
- 2) Council officers be instructed to commence a review of the Kirklees Local Plan at the earliest opportunity."

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By Order of the Council



Chief Executive