

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 1 November 2022

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 5.30 pm at 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.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 8

To agree and authorise the Mayor to sign the Minutes of Council held on 12 October 2022.

4: Declaration of Interests

9 - 10

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.

5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)

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

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

Council will receive any petitions and/or 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 (any petition should relate to a matter 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.

7: Public Question Time

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

8: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022

11 - 64

To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

Contact: Leigh Webb, Governance Manager

9: 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.

10: Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

65 - 76

To receive the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 5 September and 21 September 2022.

11: Holding the Executive to Account

- (a) To receive portfolio updates from (i) the Leader of the Council in regards to collaborative working West Yorkshire Combined Authority and (ii) the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Armed Forces (Cllr Mather).
 - (b) To receive oral questions/comments to Cabinet Members on their portfolios and relevant Cabinet Minutes;
 - The Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)
 - The Deputy Leader of the Council / Housing and Democracy Portfolio (Councillor Scott)
 - Children's Portfolio (Councillor Kendrick)
 - Corporate Portfolio (Councillor P Davies)
 - Culture and Greener Kirklees Portfolio (Councillor Simpson)
 - Environment Portfolio (Councillor Mather)
 - Health and Social Care Portfolio (Councillor Khan)
 - Learning, Aspiration and Communities Portfolio (Councillor Pattison)
 - Regeneration Portfolio (Councillor Turner)
 - Transport (Councillor E Firth)
-

12: Minutes of Other Committees

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- (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
- (ii) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- (iii) Strategic Planning Committee

13: Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

To receive oral questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(4):

- Appeals Panel (Councillor Reynolds)
- Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (Councillor Hussain)
- Corporate Parenting Board (Councillor Kendrick)
- Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Kendrick)
- Licensing and Safety Committee - including Licensing and Regulatory Panel (Councillor A U Pinnock)
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Councillor Smaje)
- Personnel Committee (Councillor Pandor)
- Planning Sub Committee - Heavy Woollen Area (Councillor Lowe)
- Planning Sub Committee - Huddersfield Area (Councillor Ullah)
- Scrutiny Panel – Childrens (Councillor Marchington)
- Scrutiny Panel – Corporate (Councillor J Taylor)
- Scrutiny Panel - Economy and Neighbourhoods (Councillor Hussain)
- Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care (Councillor Ramsay)
- Standards Committee (Councillor J D Lawson)
- Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor S Hall)
- Kirklees Active Leisure (Councillor Sokhal)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Councillor Pandor)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee (Councillor Butt)
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor O'Donovan)
- West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee (Councillor Zaman)
- West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Sokhal)

14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Tackling Speeding and Reviewing Road Safety Measures

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors J Taylor and D Hall;

“This Council notes that:

Concerns about speeding across Kirklees is one of the issues raised most frequently with elected members particularly in villages and other residential areas.

The responsibility for addressing speeding is split with enforcement the responsibility of West Yorkshire Police, whilst the operational priorities are set by the West Yorkshire Mayor.

The criteria for installing a speed camera are set out in the 2007 Department of Transport Circular and implementation of this sits with the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership.

The responsibility for monitoring speeds and for road safety sits with Kirklees Council.

A review of speed limits across the district was initiated by the Council in 2019 but the final report has not yet been made public and there have been no indication if any recommendations contained in it have been, or will be, actioned.

This Council therefore resolves to:

a) Write to the West Yorkshire Mayor and ask her to update the Council on her plans for addressing speeding across Kirklees and to provide quarterly updates on progress.

b) Write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask him to review the criteria for the installation of speed cameras under the 2007 Circular to reflect the highlighted concerns locally with regard to continued speeding.

c) Undertake a review of road safety and speeding reduction plans in Kirklees by 31 January 2023 and publish the results of this including proposed outcomes and how these will be measured.”

15: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to a Renewable Energy Strategy for Kirklees

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Cooper, Lee-Richards and Allison;

This Council believes;

That, if Kirklees is to play its part in achieving the Paris Climate targets, meet its net zero target by 2030 and address the cost of living crisis, we need to reduce energy demand through energy

efficiency measures such as retrofitting homes and other buildings; and to significantly raise the amount of energy we produce from renewable sources.

Having more of our energy produced from renewable sources helps us control costs by having secure forms of energy generated locally. Energy security means that the UK is less at the mercy of dubious and undemocratic regimes with poor human rights records that are often the suppliers of fossil fuels.

This Council resolves to ask Kirklees Cabinet to:

i) Conduct an audit of the potential for renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures on all Council land and property, draw up a priority list for installations based on the most potential to save energy and generate clean energy, and present it to the Cabinet within 6 months.

ii) Develop a financial case to install solar photovoltaics on all new build Council owned buildings where technically feasible, recognising that integrated roof systems are cheaper to install than retrofitting solar systems after construction

iii) Create a Local Area Energy Plan for Kirklees that has the buy-in of the wider community and lead a local area energy planning process that involves both the network operators and other key stakeholders, including developers, energy experts and community energy groups

iv) Investigate establishing strategic partnerships with renewable and energy efficiency installers to help ensure certainty on cost and delivery of measures and report back to Full Council within 6 months.

v) Maximise external funding to finance installations using Government, WYMCA and any ethical sources.

vi) Encourage wider community investment in local renewable energy projects through a range of measures including but not limited to Community Share Offers and Municipal Bonds

vii) Develop a proposal for a compelling offer for private householders and Landlords to support the installation of solar photovoltaics and high cost energy efficiency measures.

viii) Encourage best practice in Planning to support renewable

energy installations by developers and to create a low carbon energy supply;.

ix) Encourage renewable and energy efficiency skills by establishing links and relationships between our partners in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency sectors with appropriate local training and education providers.

x) Ensure training opportunities and new skills are included in all projects and contracts related to energy efficiency and renewables should include commitments from contractors on providing training opportunities and new skills for local people. Funding from WYMCA to support training and skills should be utilised to support this proposal.

xi) The Council should require new energy generation projects of 5MW or above to have at least 5% local ownership.

16: 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.”

17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Investment Zones

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

“This Council notes that:

- 1) On the 23rd of September this year, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced the Government’s intention to set up ‘Investment Zones’ across the country as part of his ‘mini-budget’ and as part of the Government’s ‘pro-growth’ agenda;
- 2) The Government has claimed that the Investment Zones are designated sites which will allow businesses in these areas to benefit from time-limited tax incentives. The Government has also claimed that they would streamline planning rules, help to deliver investment, accelerate housebuilding and infrastructure development, and create new jobs;
- 3) Mayoral combined authorities, upper tier local authorities and unitary authorities have been invited to submit expressions of interest to apply to host Investment Zones in their areas. Council notes that Kirklees Council submitted an expression of interest before the deadline;
- 4) The Government’s plan to create Investment Zones across the country is controversial and has been subject to criticism from a range of national organisations, including nature charities such as The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as well as conservation charities such as the National Trust.

This Council resolves that:

The matter is debated at Council before Cabinet makes any decision about next steps and whether Investment Zones are implemented in Kirklees.”

By Order of the Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Geelman".

Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 12 October 2022**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Masood Ahmed) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Paul Davies	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor Adam Gregg	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Steve Hall	Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Lisa Holmes	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Aleks Lukic	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds	Councillor Mohammad Sarwar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Anthony Smith	Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Lesley Warner
Councillor Michael Watson	Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

57 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Mayor or Chief Executive

58 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Anwar, Bamford, Dad, Loonat, Lowe, Perry, A U Pinnock, K Pinnock, Stephen, K Taylor and White.

59 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

60 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

61 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were submitted from Members of the Council.

62 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

There were no deputations or petitions received from members of the public.

63 Public Question Time

No questions were received from members of the public.

64 Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 (Reference from Cabinet)

It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Pandor and

RESOLVED – That the Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027, as attached at Appendix 1, be adopted.

65 Corporate Governance and Audit Committee – Terms of Reference (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor J Taylor and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Council amend the Terms of Reference of Corporate Governance & Audit Committee as described in paragraph 2.3
- 2) That Council note and endorse the arrangements for the appointment of an Independent Person, in accordance with the role profile as set out at Appendix 2 and the methodology as set out at Appendix 3.

66 Member Attendance Rules

It was moved by Councillor Sokhal, seconded by Councillor Pandor, and

RESOLVED – That Council note the non attendance of Councillor Fran Perry and give approval to the waiver of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972,

permitting Councillor Perry to continue to be a Member of the Council, and adding a six month period for her continued recovery.

67 Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Cllr R Smith to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Pandor)

“What are you doing to assist Kirklees residents with the cost of living?”

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate responded thereto

Question from Cllr McGuin to the Cabinet member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Cllr Simpson)

“I asked a question about the capacity of Huddersfield Crematorium at July's meeting. After checking on the booking system on Wednesday 5th October, there were only bookings until 12:15 being taken. Will Councillor Simpson amend his answer given at July's meeting?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto

Question from Councillor Andrew Pinnock to the WYCA Transport Committee Spokesperson (Councillor Butt)

“There have recently been considerable cuts in bus services by Arriva in North Kirklees, about which I have had a number of complaints from local residents. What is the Combined Authority able to do to ensure that our public transport system is capable of providing users with ample opportunity to take advantage of the Mayor's recent fare offers?”

The WYCA Transport Spokesperson responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Paola Davies to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Cllr Turner)

“Have the Council fully assessed the impact of rising Capital borrowing costs and of their impact on the costs of the Huddersfield Blue Print and the Cultural Heart. Especially as these will be in addition to the spiralling inflation construction costs that are being felt in all sectors.”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Paola Davies to the Cabinet Member for Corporate (Cllr Paul Davies)

“Have the Council fully assessed the impact of rising energy costs and their impact on bills faced by the Council in the running of Council properties and public buildings?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr A Smith, Cabinet Member for Transport (Councillor E Firth)

“Are any Kirklees West Yorkshire Combined Authority funded projects at risk due to funding changes or gaps due to inflationary or other pressures?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr A Smith to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Mather)

“Could you clarify the Council’s policy on materials used to replace and repair road pavement surfaces in high-profile public and conservation areas?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Pandor)

“I am concerned that this year’s increase to councillors’ allowances, despite warnings at the time, may be in excess of some members’ expectations when the matter was considered last month. Will you please confirm the percentage increase to councillors’ basic allowances that is currently expected, and whether you would consider that amount to be appropriate given the severe financial pressures the council is facing?”

The Leader of the Council to responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Mather)

“Last week I received a letter from the Department for Transport that confirms its guidance for speed camera site selection is not mandatory, and that non-compliance by local authorities does not provide any defence for speeding offences. The DfT has also confirmed that its guidance supports camera installation on roads that don’t meet casualty limits but are still of community concern, and that our Local Casualty Prevention Partnership is free to set its own speed camera site criteria. Will you therefore please acknowledge that the A653 Leeds Road dual carriageway at Chidswell is a site of long-standing significant community concern over speeding, and agree that it should have permanent speed cameras installed?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Corporate (Cllr Paul Davies)

“As I have discussed with you previously, would you please provide an update on whether the council will enable online reporting of traffic signal faults to help relieve some of the demand on the phone lines, and whether there are any other extensions planned to online reporting for common issues?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Pandor)

“Will you please provide details of any proposals or suggestions that any members of your administration might have been aware of for accommodation to be provided within Dewsbury Town Centre for people who have entered the country illegally?”

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Cllr Turner)

“In your position of responsibility over planning, is our planning service properly prepared to stop any potential changes of use of buildings in breach of planning control to provide accommodation for people who have entered the country illegally?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Transport (Cllr E Firth)

“In your position of responsibility for Dewsbury Town Centre regeneration, do you consider that the town centre is an appropriate location for accommodation to be provided for people who have entered the country illegally?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded thereto in the absence of Cabinet Member for Transport.

Question from Councillor Munro to the WYCA Transport Committee Spokesperson (Cllr Butt)

“Recently Arriva announced cuts to bus services across Kirklees including the 231 and 232 which serve Lepton. What is the Council doing about these cuts?”

The WYCA Transport Committee Spokesperson responded thereto.

Question from Cllr McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy (Cllr Scott)

“Can the Cabinet Member for Housing explain why the flats in Lepton have still not had their porches repaired after I was promised they would be done by February?”

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

Question from Cllr McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Cllr Turner)

“Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration tell me if the Council supports planning applications that do not want Section 106 payments or affordable housing as part of their conditions for approving building?”

The Cabinet Member to responded thereto.

Question from Cllr D Hall to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care (Cllr Khan)

What action can or will you take against care providers who are not carrying out their duties satisfactorily?

The Cabinet Member to responded thereto.

Question from Cllr D Hall to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Cllr Turner)

What is now the average time to determine a minor planning application in Kirklees?

The Cabinet Member to responded thereto.

Question from Cllr D Hall to the Cabinet Member for Corporate (Cllr P Davies)

What is the target for asset and land disposals this year, and are we going to meet it?

The Cabinet Member to responded thereto.

Question from Cllr D Hall to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Pandor)

How many officer vacancies have we, and what is this as a proportion of our workforce?

The response was delegated to the Cabinet Member for Corporate who responded thereto.

68 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Council received the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 5 July, 26 July, 9 August and 5 September 2022 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 23 March, 21 June and 18 August 2022.

RESOLVED –That the Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee – Local Issues, be received and noted.

69 Holding the Executive to Account

Council received a Portfolio Holder update from the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Kendrick.

70 Minutes of Other Committees

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

71 Written Questions to Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

72 Oral Questions to Committee Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

- 73 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Tackling Speeding and Reviewing Road Safety Measures**
Item not considered (due to time constraints).

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

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Name of meeting: Council

Date: 9 November 2022

Title of report: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

Purpose of the report: In line with constitutional requirements, this report presents the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the 2021/22 municipal year to Council.

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	Not applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall 31.10.22
Is it signed off by the Director of Finance?	Not applicable
Is it signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 31.10.22
Cabinet member portfolio	Not applicable

Electoral [wards](#) affected: None specific

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public Report

Have you considered GDPR?

Yes - GDPR has been considered. This report contains no information that falls within the scope of the General Data Protection Regulation

1. Summary

The Annual report sets out a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels during 2021/2022.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Council's Constitution requires the Chair of Scrutiny to submit a report to Council at the end of each municipal year, highlighting Overview and Scrutiny work in the previous twelve months.

Attached at Appendix One is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22. The Council is asked to receive and note the Annual Report.

3. Implications for the Council

The work of Overview and Scrutiny contributes to all the Council priorities set out below by considering proposals and pieces of work that contribute to delivering the priorities:

- Working with People
- Working with Partners
- Place Based Working
- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Improving Outcomes for Children

3.1 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

There are no financial implications for people living or working in Kirklees.

3.2 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

The Annual report is submitted in line with the requirements of the Constitution. There are no financial or Human Resource implications.

4. Next steps

Following consideration by Council, the Annual Report will be available for information on the Council's website.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council receive and note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable

7. Contact officer and relevant papers

Leigh Webb, Governance Manager

Tel: 01484 221000 Email: leigh.webb@kirklees.gov.uk

8. Background papers and history of decisions

- Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Scrutiny Panels during 2021/22
- Lead Member Reports to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in 2021/22

9. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance & Commissioning

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Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2021/22



Chair's Foreword

The start of the 2021/22 municipal year saw the re-appointment of four Scrutiny Panel Chairs and I would like to thank them for their hard work throughout the year. In person meetings returned during 2021/22, though Panels did continue to build on the positive aspects of remote meetings and in many cases allowed witnesses/officers to attend remotely whilst presenting information and giving evidence.

Over the last year, we have discussed topics covering a wide range of topics and policy areas and were given insight into some complex issues. Some of the highlights of the wider work of the Panels are outlined in this report, including an update on the work of the Climate Commission; monitoring of the Council's Plan; continued examination of the Covid 19 response; input into the refresh of the Communities Partnership Plan; scrutiny of key environmental issues relating to the Resources and Waste Strategy; and focus on Educational Outcomes and the aims of the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy.

2021/22 saw the receipt of one call-in of an executive decision, relating to the Cooper Bridge Improvement corridor. Following detailed consideration of the issue, the decision was referred back to Cabinet with a number of recommendations which were accepted in full.

For the first time, this year's annual report includes details of scrutiny at a West Yorkshire level, where a new expanded function has been introduced. Awareness of scrutiny at a regional level is important and I am keen to continue to have regular meetings with our representatives on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels.



I am continually grateful to members of the various scrutiny panels for their hard work and contributions throughout the year and would like to thank all the Scrutiny Councillors, Voluntary Co-optees and Governance Officers for their hard work and commitment during the year. This year sees the end of a 4 year term for our Voluntary Co-optee's, and I would like to pay tribute to them all for their valuable input to the scrutiny process in Kirklees. I am also grateful to all the local groups, organisations and individuals who have attended meetings, made presentations and provided evidence, and to council officers and Cabinet Members for their attendance and contributions.

Looking forwards, I am keen to build on the positive impacts outlined in this annual report and further embed pre-decision scrutiny into the decision-making process. This early engagement is key to inclusive decision making and it is important to ensure that the input and impact of scrutiny is demonstrated and referenced in Cabinet reports.

Chair of Scrutiny

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Smaje". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

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Overview and Scrutiny Management **Committee 2021/22**

Committee Membership
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Harpreet Uppal
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Habiban Zaman

Work Programme 2021/22

- Leader's Priorities.
- Our Council Plan.
- Crime and Disorder:
 - Communities Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027.
 - Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2027.
- Climate Emergency Response.
- Inclusive Communities Framework.
- Corporate Safeguarding Policy.
- Local Flood Risk Management.
- Inclusion and Diversity.
- Armed Forces Covenant.
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Investment Strategy.
- Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan 2022 – 2025.
- Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Health and Safety Compliance in Residential Housing Stock.

Committee Highlights

Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel - Health and Safety Compliance in the Residential Housing Stock

The Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel was formally established by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in March 2021, to carry out a focused piece of work to consider the Council's policies, procedures and arrangements for managing the health and safety of its tenants and its residential property portfolio, with a particular focus on high rise and multiple occupancy blocks.

The Panel worked throughout the year to gather the evidence needed to produce its final report, including its findings and recommendations to the Cabinet. It is anticipated that the final report will be submitted to Cabinet in mid 2022-23.

Leader's Priorities

The Leader of the Council attended the Committee in August 2021 to set out his priorities and in February 2022 returned to give an update on the progress that had been made, responding to comments and questions from Members on each occasion.

Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027

In November 2021, the Committee was invited to comment, at an early stage in the development of the latest version of the Communities Partnership Plan which would cover the period 2022 to 2027. This plan sets out the strategic priorities for partners, including the police, health, fire and probation services, in terms of addressing multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents. The plan was informed by the latest Strategic Intelligence Assessment for Kirklees and the proposed strategic objectives were:

- Tackling Violence, Abuse and Exploitation.

- Reducing Re-offending, Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Crime.
- Building Resilient Communities.
- Reducing Risk.

The discussion included the Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Learning, Aspiration and Communities and a representative of West Yorkshire Police.



The Committee recommended that a number of points be considered in the development of the Communities Partnership Plan, including:

- The importance of early intervention and prevention.
- The visibility of partnership working and early intervention/prevention at ward level.
- The need for improvements in the mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of Ward Councillors, to keep them informed and to engage them in respect of setting local priorities.
- Improvement in tension monitoring documents and involvement of and feedback to Ward Councillors in respect of incidents of serious violence.

The final plan came back to the Committee in June 2022 for further pre-decision scrutiny prior to submission to Cabinet for endorsement.

Response to the Climate Emergency

In September 2021, the Committee received a report which provided updates in respect of:

1. The Climate Emergency and Phase 1 climate emergency actions.
2. The Council's annual internal carbon emissions reporting, against the 40% reduction target set in 2010.

3. The development of the Council's road map to becoming carbon neutral by 2038.
4. The Kirklees Climate Commission.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Greener Kirklees and Professor Peter Roberts, the Chair of the Climate Commission joined the Committee to discuss the establishment of the commission, the progress to that point, the vision for the future and the expected next steps.

Members welcomed the Commission as a great resource for the district and commended the proposed approach to engagement stressing that it was important that this was accessible and incorporated a diversity of experience and voices from across Kirklees.

The Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel would undertake scrutiny of the Climate Change Action Plan in 2022/23, prior to submission to Cabinet.

Low Carbon Housing Pilot Project

Pre-decision scrutiny of a Low Carbon Housing Pilot Project was undertaken in March and the Committee requested that the following points be taken into account in moving forward with this scheme:

- The ambition should be to achieve more than the minimum number set out in the design brief.
- Consideration should be given to whether the numbers of Passivhaus and zero-carbon homes proposed in the pilot will be sufficient to gather the necessary data and demonstrate the principles and benefits.
- The alignment between addressing the climate emergency and fuel poverty should be acknowledged.
- Clarity is needed in respect of how the data will be collected and the skills and learning shared.
- The focus should be on the outputs achieved and outcomes should be specified.

These points were reported to Cabinet on 5th April 2022 when approval was given to the appointment of a specialist company to provide architectural, planning and development services to design, cost and obtain an implementable full planning permission for the project.

Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025: 'Aspire, Achieve and Include'

Pre-decision input was sought from the Committee in respect of the Kirklees Post-16 Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025: 'Aspire, Achieve and Include'.

This was a co-produced, locally specific plan, which set out a list of priorities and actions, agreed with key partners, to act as a focus for a collaborative approach to develop the local employment and skills system over the next three years. The plan aimed to build upon the work already being done and would help to maximise the opportunities arising from devolution and the Levelling Up White Paper.

The Committee was told that the plan was expected to evolve over its lifespan; being amended and updated as the work progressed and recommended that a number of points, including those noted below, be taken into account in the further development of the plan:

- The need for clarity in the definition of sustainable homes, to ensure that training is provided to the appropriate level and standards.
- Consideration should be given to the provision of money management and life skills.
- The importance of building capacity; reach across communities; skills progression; upskilling; and the sustainability of jobs.
- Consideration should be given to the provision of support for local employers in respect of apprenticeships.
- The need for a balance of representation on the Partnership Board, a whole-system approach and to hear the voice of different businesses of all sizes.

- The importance of the engagement with young people.
- Prioritisation of unemployed people over the age of 50 as a group.
- Reference to the linkages to specialist discussion groups.

The plan was adopted by Cabinet on 26th July 2022. Cabinet requested the submission of regular progress reports on the delivery of the plan and the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel would undertake further scrutiny, as necessary.

Development of Kirklees Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Investment Strategy

A report was presented in November 2021 which sought the Committee’s input in respect of the approach and work undertaken to develop a Kirklees Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Investment Strategy.

Hilary Thompson the chair of Kirklees Third Sector Leaders and Helen Orlic, the external consultant joined the discussion.



The Committee recommended that consideration be given to:

- Achieving reach across all communities and areas within Kirklees.
- Building a better understanding of communities.

- Communication and engagement with Ward Councillors.
- Developing understanding about funding and how people can find out what is available.
- The sustainability of the strategy.

In response to this feedback a survey of groups was undertaken, between 6th April and the end of May 2022, to understand if there were any gaps that needed further work and Councillors were sent a briefing paper in early April 2022.

The final version of the strategy would be considered again by scrutiny in 2022/23 prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

Corporate Safeguarding Policy

The Committee received a report in respect of the refreshed and strengthened Cross-Council Corporate Safeguarding Policy in February 2022. The policy aimed to establish safeguarding as being the responsibility of everyone across the Council.

The detailed and comprehensive policy and the adoption of a corporate approach was welcomed, and the officers involved were thanked for their work.

The Committee requested that a further report be provided, following the rollout of the refreshed policy, to include an update on how it had worked in practice, the outputs, and feedback in respect of the training.

The Policy was approved by Cabinet on 8th March 2022 and approved and adopted by Council at its meeting held on 13th July 2022.

Looking Forward 2022-23

The Committee will consider the final report of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Residential Housing Stock Health and Safety Compliance, undertake the annual review of the Council’s Flood Risk Management Plan and gather evidence in

respect of the impact of the pandemic on loneliness and social isolation in Kirklees.

Amongst other things, pre-decision scrutiny is also planned in respect of:

- The Inclusive Communities Framework.
- The Communities Partnership Plan.
- The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy.
- The latest iteration of the Council Plan.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel **2021/22**

Panel Membership
Councillor Habiban Zaman (Chair)
Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Lesley Warner
Councillor Fazila Loonat
David Rigby (Co-optee)
Lynne Keady (Co-optee)

Work programme 2021/22

- Financial position of the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Economy.
- Impact of Covid-19 on the Health and Adult Social Care Sector.
- Integration of Health and Adult Social Care.
- Digital Technology.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- Quality of Care in Kirklees.
- Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) 2020/21 Annual Report.
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) Response Times.
- Kirklees Public Health.
- Update on Winter Planning.
- Effectiveness of smoking cessation arrangements in Kirklees.
- Kirklees Care Homes Programme Board including analysis of the home care market.
- Healthwatch Kirklees.

- Air Pollution.
- Rainbow Child Development Unit at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT).
- Reconfiguration of Bed Capacity in Kirklees supporting Intermediate Care and Dementia Care.

Panel Highlights

Kirklees Public Health

The Panel included in its work programme for 2021/22 an overarching theme that looked at the work of Kirklees Public Health. Areas of focus included consideration of the impact of and local response to Covid-19; the work being done on population health management; and an initial look at the impact of air pollution.

As was the case in the previous year Kirklees Public Health continued to play a lead role in ensuring that the Panel was provided with relevant and timely data and was fully briefed on the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

The public health theme featured at three meetings during the year and included input from Kirklees Public Health colleagues, the Kirklees Public Protection Team, Healthwatch Kirklees, the Kirklees Energy and Climate Change Team and representatives from the Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group.

Specific areas that were covered included: the work that was being undertaken locally to respond to the rising numbers of infections; details of the initiatives to increase the uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination; the focus and activities that had taken place to reduce health inequalities; the approach being taken by Public Protection to offer businesses guidance and information on health and safety measures; population health management in Kirklees; the increase in respiratory infections in young children; the approach to dealing with the Covid booster vaccination and flu vaccination ; and impact of air pollution.

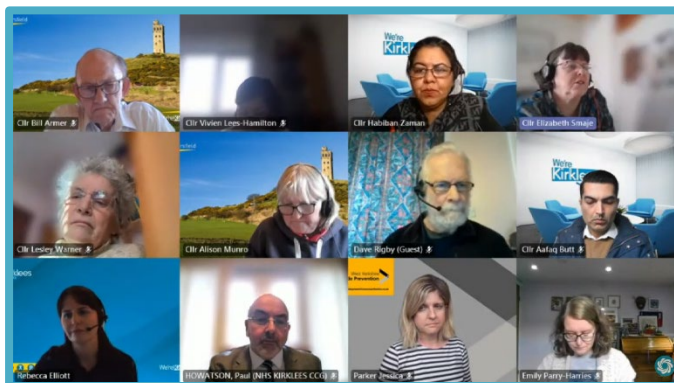
Outcomes

The detailed discussions provided the Panel with a good overview of the work that was being done locally to respond to the pandemic and how population health management was being used in Kirklees to design and target interventions to prevent ill health; improve care and support for people with ongoing ill-health; and reduce health inequalities.

Panel members highlighted a number of areas where they felt further work and information was needed that included: providing information and data that covered the outcomes of the new approaches and initiatives in working with the population to improve their health; providing information on the Public Health Outcomes Framework; information on the uptake of financial assistance to qualifying individuals who have had to self-isolate; and an assessment of the impact on people diagnosed with long Covid.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

In February 2022, the Panel was presented with an update on the work that was being done across Kirklees on suicide prevention. The Panel also received a response to several areas of concern surrounding mental health services that had been highlighted during an earlier scrutiny meeting with representatives of the Care Quality Commission that panel members felt could have an impact on the prevalence of suicide.



The complex nature of suicide prevention means that an integrated approach to tackling the issue is required and for this reason the Panel welcomed input from a range of partners from the local health and adult social care system

that included Kirklees Public Health, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group.

The discussions were detailed, constructive and robust and covered many aspects of suicide prevention that included: the work undertaken by Thriving Kirklees which is a partnership of local health and wellbeing providers working together to support children, young people and their families to thrive and be healthy; details of the Northorpe Hall training offer that was available to schools on mental health; and the programme of funding to enhance mental health expertise in primary care.

The Panel also sought assurances regarding the approach being taken to reach out to the BAME community to raise awareness of mental health issues; and questioning the work that was being done to ensure that primary care was provided with adequate support to enable health professionals to respond to individuals that were showing signs of distress.

Outcomes

The Panel endorsed and supported the recommendations that all partners should proactively promote and raise awareness of the training offers via Northorpe Hall; and that the Zero-suicide alliance training should be recommended to all to help with consistency of language and approach to help more people to stay safe.

The Panel also requested that a broader discussion be arranged to focus on the work that is being carried out through the Thriving Kirklees Single Point of Access Service.

Integration of Health and Adult Social Care

The NHS Long Term Plan has set out the aim for increased collaboration and integration of services which is seen as a key enabler to improving outcomes for people who use health and social care services. This direction of travel is being supported by legislation that aims to promote collaboration in the health system, including by establishing new integrated care systems across England.

The Panel included in its work programme an integration theme that was aimed at reviewing and assessing the progress and effectiveness of these new ways of working across the local health and adult social care system.

During the year, the Panel hosted two meetings on this issue. The first focused on community care services delivered by Locala that included: the development of integrated structures across community health and social care and how it interlinked with wider services such as primary and secondary care; and details of the proposals to merge the Gateway to Care Service and the Locala Single Point of Contact Service.



The second meeting looked at the development of Primary Care Networks (PCN) which included the details of partnership working with other stakeholders to focus on the health needs and inequalities within each PCN area. The discussions also focused on access to primary care and the approach being taken to managing demand.

Outcomes

The Panel was supportive of the direction of travel being taken to increase the integration and collaboration of services across the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care System and agreed that the Panel should continue to assess the progress of PCNs and to look at the work being done to continue to build an efficient and effective GP service.

The Panel also recommended that that the section 'How it Feels' within the Gateway to Care and Single Point of Contact Integration Blueprint should include the addition of i) as a carer and ii) as a community partner.

Richard Parry - Strategic Director for Adults and Health

“As always, members of the scrutiny panel added real value through their considerations of the issues facing the health and care system in Kirklees and their comments on the reports received. This has been particularly helpful at a time when the health and care system is facing operational challenges and there have been significant changes to the way in which the NHS is organised through the new ICS arrangements.”

Emily Parry-Harries - Head of Public Health

“Conversations with scrutiny panels bring helpful insight and a real focus to the difference that Public Health is making to the population of Kirklees. By working together with scrutiny, Public Health colleagues are able to support and implement a whole range of important priorities – including mental health, children and young people and population health management. The scrutiny process facilitates the support and challenge of Public Health priorities as well as the work of teams across the system to reduce inequalities.”

Amanda Evans - Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations

“I have generally attended as part of a wider partnership to respond to support for hospital discharges/ system pressures. The sessions have provided an opportunity to reflect the role of adult social care as a key system partner and have been well coordinated with helpful questioning and comment from scrutiny members. I have valued the recent pre-meets to ensure the scope is clear and clarity regarding who is coordinating amongst partners. The questions from scrutiny members are well considered. I think the reduced focus on slides and presentations increases the opportunity for dialogue with reference to the wider information contained in the information pack to support the sessions.”

**Chris Lennox - Director of Services, Adults and Older People Mental Health,
South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

“The organisation and administration of the panel including the advance notice, meeting arrangements and clarity of correspondence is really good. The expectation (polite) of attendance in person is difficult to accommodate and perhaps doesn’t fit with the way organisations now have to work in terms of demand and capacity. The offer of pre-meets is highly valued and the running of the panels on the day is very efficient. The panel and chair are very polite and welcoming and the questions to presenters well chaired.”

Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees **2021/22**

Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)

Kirklees Membership
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Joint Chair)
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Harpreet Uppal

During the 2021/22 municipal year the JHOSC met twice in August 2021 and November 2021 and continued its focus on reviewing the revised proposals to include assessing its impact on patients and the public.

The meeting held in August 2021 included a further update on the reconfiguration programme timeline; the structure and content of the business case documents; and an update on the engagement that Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) had undertaken during 2021.

The meeting also included an update on the work that was being undertaken to help manage demand for hospital services through the development of community services (Care Closer to Home); and details of how the pandemic was impacting and informing the plans for service reconfiguration and estate development programmes of work.

At the meeting in November 2021 the JHOSC was presented with a summary of the draft Full Business Case for the new Accident and Emergency service at

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and a summary of the Strategic Case section of the Draft Outline Business Case for the reconfiguration of services.

West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Kirklees Membership
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Jackie Ramsay

The JHOSC met 3 times during 2021/22 and covered a variety of issues that had implications for the West Yorkshire region.

Issues covered included: a presentation on the Health and Care Bill 2021; an update on Covid-19 related issues that had West Yorkshire-wide implications; considering the revision of the Committee's Terms of Reference; reviewing the draft constitution of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB); considering issues relating to the provision of ambulance services in West Yorkshire; an update on the development of the West Yorkshire People Plan; agreeing the recommendations of the working group that looked into the establishment of the Nightingale Hospital in Harrogate; receiving a presentation covering the work of the West Yorkshire Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative.

Corporate Scrutiny Panel 2021/22

Panel Membership
Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor James Homewood
Philip Chaloner (Co-optee)

Work programme 2021/22

- Financial Monitoring.
- Council Risk Register.
- Capital Plan.
- Council Plan.
- Access to Services.
- The People Strategy.
- Technology Strategy.
- Leaving the EU.
- Comms Strategy.
- Photo ID at elections.

Panel Highlights

People Strategy

At its meeting on the 21st March 2022, the Panel received an update on the People Strategy, which highlighted some of the recruitment and retention challenges facing the Council.

The Panel was informed that the refreshed strategy had only recently been launched, because the original plan to relaunch the strategy in 2021, was pushed back because the pandemic had delayed some of the work being undertaken. Much of the learning from the pandemic, has helped to inform the refresh of the People Strategy as the world of work has completely transformed.

The vision of the strategy is that:

“We will achieve our shared outcomes through people with the right skills, values and behaviours working in partnership in our places.”

The four key outcomes of the strategy are:

- To have highly skilled, flexible, and engaged people.
- To have effective and compassionate leadership.
- To be an inclusive employer of choice.
- To have healthy and well people.

During the update, the Panel was informed that one of the biggest programmes of work being undertaken is workforce planning. This project aims to ensure that workforce planning is embedded across the Council going forward and workshops are being piloted in critical service areas where there are difficulties in recruitment, retention, and succession planning.

The Panel questioned whether in the areas where it is difficult to recruit, whether it could be addressed at a regional level through collaboration with other councils to build up the sector for example in highways, engineering, and adult social care.

Outcome

The Panel welcomed the update and agreed to continue to monitor the progress of the strategy in addressing the recruitment and retention challenges.

Council Plan

At an informal meeting of the Panel in September 2021, the Panel received a draft copy of the 2021/23 iteration of the 'Council Plan' for comment. The document presented an 18-month extension to the 2020/21 Council Plan, which set out the Council's ongoing commitment to People, Partners, Place, and its Shared Outcomes. The plan introduced a new shared outcome – 'Shaped by People', and outlined the plans for recovery and included priority actions (with deliverables and milestones) for the next 18 months.

Following consideration by Corporate Scrutiny Panel, the final Council Plan would be considered for sign off by Cabinet before progressing to Full Council.

Outcome

The Panel will include the Council Plan on its work programme and monitor the priority actions included in the plan.

Technology Strategy

In March 2022, the Panel received a presentation on the Technology Strategy which outlined the vision to deliver innovative, effective, and sustainable technology services, designed around the diverse places and the needs of local people, partners, and businesses.

The Panel learned that key to the strategy's success is:

- Getting the 'basics right'.
- Enabling resilient and available infrastructure.
- Commissioning applications fit for the future.
- Using data intelligently and securely.
- Developing inclusive technology and skills.
- Connecting people, business, and technology.
- Delivering class leading internet services.



In response to the information presented, the Panel raised concerns regarding how would households who are struggling financially, and unable to afford access to the internet be catered for, and, with the phasing out of the traditional telephones, and people becoming more dependent on an internet connection, how will the elderly with no telephone or access to the internet, seek help, for example.

Outcome

The Panel welcomed the update acknowledging that it is a five-year strategy, and agreed that this should be added to the future panel work programme in order to continue to monitor the strategy.

Terence Hudson - Head of Technology

“Through the development and implementation of the Technology strategy we’ve had valuable conversations with Corporate Scrutiny both informally and formally. The Scrutiny panel have steered us towards working better with the voluntary sector and

around providing assurance that the technology and access strategies are working together to deliver better access to services both face to face and on the phone.”

Philip Chaloner - Voluntary Co-optee

“Once again thanks must go to IT for making the on-line meetings run so well.

Finance, particularly issues around revenue accounts, were well presented and when further explanation sought. It is clear that Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) funding still needs to be resolved for the longer term. I recognise some further contribution was made by Central Government.

The issue regarding reserves was discussed more thoroughly and it would have been interesting to get further feedback regarding success regarding those assets transferred to the community.

Sharing the Corporate Risk Register helped the panel to understand how risks were identified and rated. It also allowed panel members to consider whether impact needed review and whether other issues may need to be considered for the Risk Register. The challenges regarding Election Bill which has now been passed was informative and I appreciate the effort of the presenting officer in responding to my questions and remarks that I submitted prior to the February meeting as I was unable to attend”.

Councillor Andrew Cooper – Lead Member

“One of the real challenges we examined on the Corporate Scrutiny Panel was how Kirklees going would recruit staff for the key functions of the Council for everything from Highways to Housing. The Peoples Strategy showed how the Council is going to address these challenges which affect all Councils. It is not necessarily going to be easy to address the problems given the shortages of skills in the Labour market, but the Council is seeking to address them.

Our IT services have kept the Council going during the most challenging of circumstances and are now adjusting to a new world of work that embraces home working and hot desking in a way that may not have happened for many years hence. What has also been good to see, is Kirklees staff helping schools and community organisations get to grips with IT issues.

An area that we examined in some detail was the Council's financial management and I have been impressed at the depth of information we were provided with. For the Corporate Scrutiny Panel going forward it will be interesting to see how Kirklees manages in what looks like being even more challenging times."

Looking forward to 2022/23

At the start of the new municipal year the Cabinet Member and Strategic Director with responsibility for Corporate Services will be invited to the meeting to assist the Panel in shaping and developing its work programme for the year ahead.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel **2021/22**

Panel Membership
Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)
Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Robert Iredale
Chris Friend (Co-optee)
Andrew Bird (Co-optee)

Work Programme 2021/2022

- Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy.
- Dewsbury Town Centre Update.
- A62 Cooper Bridge Improvement Corridor.
- Review of Winter Maintenance Services (including the link to planning).
- The Cultural Heart.
- Waste Disposal Interim Arrangements.
- Hot Food Takeaway SPD.
- Kirklees Housing and Neighbourhoods Update (including Estate Management).
- Procurement of Waste Treatment Services.
- Smaller Towns Programme.
- Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy Refresh.
- Place Partnership Leads: Active Travel Update.
- Huddersfield Blueprint Update including the Cultural Heart.
- Bus Stations update part of the Transforming Cities Fund.

- Playable Spaces Update.

Panel Highlights

Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy

The Panel considered the Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy 2021-2030 prior to adoption at full Council in September 2021.

In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and published its vision of a clean, green, sustainable future for Kirklees with zero waste to landfill. The aim was to make Kirklees completely carbon neutral by 2038.

The Panel were informed that development of the waste strategy played a large part in realising that vision and noted that a key part of the strategy was the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' initiative which aimed to reduce the waste produced locally. This involved



working with local communities, businesses, and residents to change their relationship with waste, to instead see the materials that they usually throw away as resources.

When undertaking its pre-decision scrutiny of the forthcoming strategy the Panel considered a number of key areas, including what steps would be taken to reducing contamination, the education and involvement of local communities and understanding how the success of the strategy would be measured.

Outcomes

The Panel welcomed the Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy and highlighted that it was important to embed its key principals across the Council. The Panel also noted the significance of the educational aspect of the strategy and in focusing on

encouraging local communities to engage within themselves the scheme would bring local knowledge, experience, and contacts together.

The Panel further felt it was important to measure the success of the scheme following implementation and it was agreed going forwards that the key performance indicators in relation to the strategy be provided to the Panel along with specific statistics which showed what the current picture in Kirklees was, and what was to be achieved going forwards.

Waste Disposal Interim Arrangements and Procurement of Waste Treatment Services

The Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy set out the future requirements for waste treatment and processing services to enable the delivery of the ambition.

In relation to this, the Panel considered a report on the commercial offer to secure an interim 2-year extension to the waste disposal contract. The interim contract arrangements were agreed by Cabinet on 21st September 2021.

This was followed by the Panel's pre-decision scrutiny of the report Procurement Options for Waste Management, where the Panel considered the key outcomes and recommendations of the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the procurement of the new Waste Management Contract.

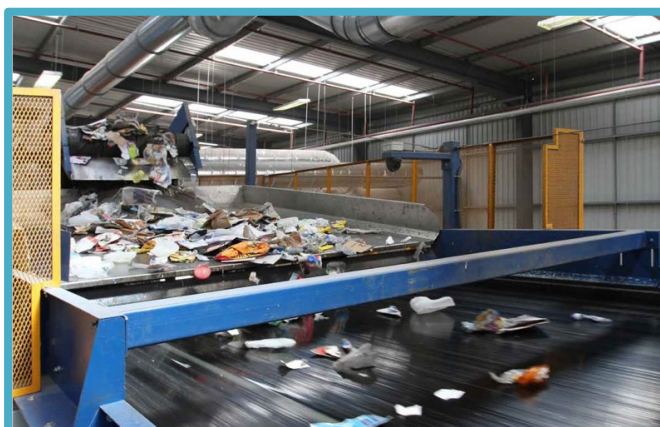
Outcomes

The Panel highlighted that the information provided was clear and transparent which helped members to understand the process that identified the preferred option. The Panel commended the approach taken noting it as an exemplar of good pre-decision scrutiny and decision making.

The Panel recommended that:

- Clear timescales be set in relation to communication and public engagement.
- Engagement with residents continued to be a key focus moving forward, including the education of children and communities in the changing approaches and attitudes to waste.
- Further monitoring was undertaken around the energy from waste facility and any changes to emissions.
- Further investigation was undertaken to provide clear details of the connection between the energy from waste facility and the district heat network.
- Where there was a long period of delegated authority, public updates should be provided to the Cabinet.
- That visits to the Energy from Waste Facility and Materials Recycling Facility be arranged for Panel members.

Energy from Waste Facility and Materials Recycling Facility Scrutiny Visit



Arising from the Panel's scrutiny of the Procurement of Waste Treatment Services, Panel members were invited to visit the Energy from Waste Facility and Materials Recycling Facility in Huddersfield.

The visit took place on 17th March 2021, where Panel members were joined by the Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change and other senior officers from the directorate for a tour of the waste and recycling facility located on Diamond Street in Huddersfield.

During the tour, Panel members were shown how recyclable material is processed, separated and baled ready for re-use, and how non-recyclable material is put to

good use as an alternative to fossil fuels creating enough electricity to power over 15,000 homes.

Call in of Cabinet Decision in relation to the A62 Cooper Bridge Improvement Corridor

On 2 November 2021, the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel considered a call-in request on the decision made by Cabinet on 12 October 2021 relating to the A62 Cooper Bridge Improvement Corridor.



During the meeting, the Panel received evidence from the Councillors who were signatories to the Call-In, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and senior Officers from Growth and Regeneration Department on the rationale for the decision. The Panel also considered verbal and written submissions from members of the public and Ward Councillors.

The Panel focused on the areas outlined in the validated Call-in notice which included issues connected with clarity around responses to technical questions asked at Cabinet. Key issues included the impact on traffic flow, air quality and the locality during the works; reference to modern transport design guidance; lack of measurable outcomes and insufficient details of alternatives considered.

Having considered the evidence, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Panel had three options available to it:

- To take no further action and free the decision for implementation.
- To refer it back to Cabinet with recommendations for amendment.
- To refer it back to the next Council, if the Panel considered that the decision was not made in accordance with the budget or policy framework.

When making a decision the Panel considered all the information presented at the meeting and assessed the call-in notice against three specific decision-making principles which were:

1. **Relevant considerations** (issues relating to a number of unanswered technical questions).
2. **Clarity** (in respect of the objectives and the measurable outcomes the scheme hoped to achieve).
3. **Options** (As no details of the alternatives considered were presented as part of the Cabinet report).

During their deliberations, the Panel concluded that the report and information provided at the Cabinet meeting held on 12 October 2021 should have been clearer in relation to what exactly the decision committed the Council to with regard to the Outline Business Case and what issues would return for further decision as part of the process for agreeing the Full Business Case. The Panel further identified that clarity was also needed in respect of the delegations given to the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration.

With regard to the issue of Options, the Panel were advised that work had been undertaken to consider up to 30 options. The Panel acknowledged that a process had been followed to discount several schemes but felt that that the Cabinet report should have provided a summary in relation to this process.

Outcomes

The Panel agreed to refer the matter back to the Cabinet with the following recommendations for amendment:

Relevant consideration

1. That the scheme needed to demonstrate clearly how it fit with the Master Plan for the area and the wider issues for Bradley.

Clarity

2. The delegations and the language within the report needed to be clearer and reference that they related specifically to the Outline Business Case as stated during the Scrutiny Panel meeting.
3. Officers' recommendations also needed to be clearer in the Cabinet paper to demonstrate that the Cabinet were deciding on the Outline Business Case and that the Full Business Case would be returning to Cabinet for approval.

Options

4. Further clarity and awareness were required when explaining the process of developing both the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case.
5. A high-level summary or short narrative of the 30 options should be included within the Cabinet report for consideration.



The Panel further recommended that the following key Learning Points arising from the Call-in meeting also be considered by the Cabinet:

1. Clearer language needs to be used in reports to help people to understand the process of the different stages of this type of project.
2. That future reports should be drafted using clear and simple language.

3. Answers to the technical questions were provided at the Scrutiny Panel meeting, but these should have been answered at Cabinet prior to the decision being taken.
4. The Panel recognised the scheme had been an evolving process over many years and many areas had been addressed in informal processes and meetings. However, in some areas, particularly in reference to the options available, were not made clear in the formal report before Cabinet.

Looking forwards, the Panel also requested a commitment that regular reports be submitted to the Panel for Pre-Decision scrutiny as the scheme develops. These updates should include issues around modal shift, air quality measures and community engagement. Cabinet accepted all recommendations.

The Huddersfield Blueprint, including the Cultural Heart

The Panel considered a detailed update on the Huddersfield Blueprint including a focus on the Cultural Heart.

During the meeting, the Panel were joined by officers from Growth and Regeneration, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and the Architects from Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios.

The update included a presentation which highlighted the key points in respect of the 10-year vision for Huddersfield and covered a variety of key projects such as the George Hotel, Northumberland Street and the Huddersfield Market, the Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor, New Street, the Bus Station Improvement Plans and Town Centre Living.

The Panel also considered a report in respects of the Council's vision for a new Cultural Heart to be built around Queensgate Market and the existing Library and Art Gallery building. This was followed by an update from the Architects from Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (who had been appointed through a public competitive

process for master planning and architects) who provided the Panel with a summary of activities to date.

In the discussion to follow, the Panel focused on the following key areas:

- Engagement with elected members and scrutiny as the Huddersfield Blueprint and the Cultural Heart progressed.
- Connectivity and Accessibility, including how people travel to and from the town centre and encouraging active travel.
- Safety, creating family friendly places and reducing antisocial behaviour.
- Sustainable design and reducing emissions in the town centre.

Outcomes

The Panel welcomed plans relating to the Huddersfield Blueprint and the Cultural Heart highlighting that safety, accessibility, and sustainability should be the key priorities of the schemes and that these areas should be the central themes considered at every stage of development.

There were some concerns around consultation with elected members and the Panel recommended that detailed consideration continue to be given to improving engagement with Local Councillors and Scrutiny as the projects developed. The Panel also made the suggestion that Cross Party Working on the plans would be beneficial looking forwards.

The Panel felt that improving connectivity was important, including how people travel around the town centre and particularly to and between the bus and train stations. To benefit the pedestrian and to reduce emissions in the town centre, the Panel also highlighted that consideration should be given to the use of underground tunnels for deliveries.

Children's Scrutiny Panel 2021/22

Panel Membership
Councillor Andrew Marchington (Lead Member)
Councillor Paul White
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Dale O'Neill (Co-optee)
Linda Summers (Co-optee)
Toni Bromley (Co-optee)

Work Programme for 2021/22

- Review of the Improvement Journey.
- Educational Outcomes and Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy.
- Multi Systemic Therapies (MSTs).
- Number of children in care.
- Youth Justice Plan (services and initiatives) and anti-social behaviour.
- Partnership arrangements and visits.
- Special Educational Needs and High Needs.
- Performance Information.
- Elective Home Education.
- Voice of the child.
- Engagement of Families Together.

Panel Highlights

Educational Outcomes and Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy

In June 2021, the Chair of the Panel attended the Futures Expert Strategy Group on 30th June and found that there had been very positive engagement from school leaders and officers at the meeting. All information discussed at the session confirmed that all cases had been investigated and that no children were found to be at risk.

In July 2021, the Panel considered an update on the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy, focusing on the aims of the Strategy and how these were to be met, what would be achieved, and how the aims would be assessed and measured.

The Panel received a copy of the report on “Our Kirklees Futures - the Kirklees Learning Strategy” approved by Cabinet on the 5th October 2021 which summarised its co-production and development and outlined the future strategic approach to learning in Kirklees. The report requested approval for the Council to adopt the strategy and sought delegated authority to progress the implementation and planned delivery of activity in line with proposed timelines and governance with the Council’s key strategic partners.

In March 2022, the Panel considered the draft Kirklees Annual Education Quality and Standards Report which outlined the challenges faced by schools in 2020/21, information in relation to how the system responded to the pandemic, the supportive challenge throughout the academic year and the impact as a result and ongoing school improvement priorities aligned with the Kirklees Learning Strategies ‘Our Kirklees Futures’.

The Panel acknowledged that it was good to have a framework in place to look at the future and help children / young people to achieve the best outcomes. The data told

its own story, acknowledging that it opened appropriate doors for the future and provided good foundations for lifelong learning, and for children / young people to be happy and healthy in Kirklees. Jo-Anne Sanders thanked the Panel for their feedback which would help inform the 'Our Kirklees Futures' report and noted that it was important to reflect back over the past 2 years, particularly in relation to the dedication and commitment of colleagues which needed to be amplified.

Outcomes

- In June 2021, the Chair of the Panel agreed to report back to future meetings on issues of relevance considered by the Quality Assurance Panel.
- In July 2021, the Panel agreed to submit questions to officers of any further areas they wished to scrutinise on Educational Outcomes, and the Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief on the Learning Strategy and its development.
- In March 2022, the Panel agreed that information in relation to place based working and strong partnerships which existed and continued to develop be added to point 3.3 of the report to Cabinet to help strengthen it.

Multi-Systemic Therapies (MSTs)

The Panel visited the Multi-systemic Therapy Team on the 10th March 2022 and received a very warm welcome from the team. The Panel met with the Team Manager, Therapists and Psychologists and observed and gained an understanding of the impact of the work being undertaken by the team. The Panel asked questions which focussed on data collection and performance, how the voice of the child was considered in supervision of the team and future development of staff.

An account of a real-life scenario was played back to the Panel via video of a father who had received the support from the MST team in connection with his son and successful parenting techniques. Officers delivered a presentation on the 'Voice of the Parent' which covered an explanation of MST, Adaptations of MST-FIT, the journey of MST so far in Kirklees, outcomes and cost benefits of MST and MST-FIT

and next steps. Some members of the panel also spent time with the team to meet staff and observe the supervision and consultation process.



In May 2022, the Chair of the Panel was invited to meet with the MST Lead in the United Kingdom and Ireland to learn more about education research being completed with the Royal Holloway, University of London. The Chair met with Dr Simone Fox, one of the leading MST experts from Seattle who was visiting the MST Team.

Outcomes

The Panel agreed to visit the Healds Road Residential Home during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Youth Justice Plan

In July 2021, the Panel received a verbal update on the Youth Justice Plan which highlighted the following key points:

- The Youth Justice plan was currently on route to Lead Members and Cabinet which outlined the ambition and intention in taking the Youth Justice Service forward.

- An overview of the service, annual performance and priorities for the next 4 years.
- An explanation that the Plan's priorities was to reduce the number of first-time entrants, reduce re offending, reduce the use of custody, improve participation of Children and Families to develop approaches and desistence, tackle disproportionality and reduce serious youth violence.
- The priorities would be approached through People, Partners and Places. Disproportionality was a priority within the plan and tackling inequalities was a theme through the entirety of the plan.
- The plan had been created and aligned with the wider council priorities and plans with reference to Vision, Approach and Values.

The Panel visited the Youth Engagement Service, Exploitation Screening Panel and Youth Justice Service on the 18th November 2021 and met with Team Managers and staff. Discussions took place regarding:

- The HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection, which recognised the interaction within the team and young people within the Youth Justice Offending Team and the restorative practice which took place with the offender and victim.
- Child Sexual Exploitation and names of offenders that had been released. A concern was raised by the Panel around the impact on the wider family.

Outcomes

- In July 2021, the Panel agreed to re-visit the Youth Offending Team to follow up on their previous visit made in 2020.
- At the visit to the Youth Engagement Service in November 2021, the Panel agreed that a detailed discussion would take place at a future meeting of the Panel, along with a discussion around the practices as the team were moving into a contextual safeguarding process.

Partnership arrangements and visits by the Panel

The Panel visited both internal teams and external partners during the 2021/22 municipal year. The following information gives a summary on a few of the visits which took place:

Liquid Logic Development Group

On the 9th March 2022, the Panel visited the Liquid Logic Development Group via a Teams meeting. The Panel's main findings from the visit were:

- Everything in Liquid Logic was linked with tableau so officers could see clear live data.
- The Partner relationships were strong and worked together to find the best outcome.
- Children were able to provide feedback through portals.
- Clinics were held where families were able to provide feedback that allowed the service to work with all partners and provide good training.

Children's Social Care Team at Slaithwaite

On the 21st September 2021, the Panel visited the Children's Social Care Team at Slaithwaite Town Hall and met with Social Workers and Team Managers. The Panel's main findings from the visit were:

- There were 4 Social Work Team Clusters based in Dewsbury, Batley, Central and the Valleys (Slaithwaite) with 3 team managers and 18 Social workers, ensuring workload was evenly balanced across teams.
- 5 student social workers had been based in the team during the previous year and all had stayed to successfully gain employment with the Council.
- A data run was produced daily, if any deadlines had not been met, the Social Worker had to provide their manager with a narrative of the problem.
- Service managers had performance meetings every 2 weeks; a service action plan was in place for each cluster.

- Partnership working had increased considerably, relationships with education teams had increased as it was essential the clusters worked with health and education colleagues, they also worked with partners across domestic violence, health and CAMHS.
- Liquid Logic allowed officers to capture the voice of the child.
- Social workers felt they were valued, they got the right support from practitioners and managers and felt there were opportunities for progression within the team.



Quotes from officers on the day were:

“With babies that can’t speak for themselves and are non-verbal, we see that they have a voice, and we have to understand are they happy, and use this in terms of decision making of what is best for that child.”

“I attended a panel on Friday to discuss a baby and we agreed to formalise the adoption which would provide permanence for the child. I got feedback that it was my ability to bring the voice of the non-verbal child alive, and how I had articulated it which had brought it to life on paper and had helped the right decision to be made for that child.”



Early Support

Members of the Panel visited the following areas of the Early Support service:

- Crow Nest Adventure Playground – Fearless people doing ‘out of school’ club on the 21st December 2021.

- Detached Youth Work on the 8th February 2022.
- Early Years Support Senior Leadership Team on the 2nd December 2021.
- Local Offer and Inclusion Support Offer on the 18th January 2022 and received feedback from Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators.

Front Door

On the 14th October 2021, members of the Panel visited the Front Door Team at Civic 3 and met with the Head of Service, Team Managers, Early Support Consultant, Senior Practitioner and a Police partner. The Panel's main findings from the visit were:

- Decisions about children were made on how to act upon information about health, well-being, and safety and these decisions were explained, and it was about who would be the best partner to provide that information.
- Partners the team worked with were Schools, Health Services and Police.
- A meeting took place every Monday to review data from Tableau, the meetings were an opportunity for all parties to attend, and share best practice on cases discussed.
- The voice of the child was captured through speaking with partners, parents/carers, and the children themselves.



Quotes from Officers on the day were:

“We provide training with other partners to provide information on processes and why it is important to capture the child’s voice.”

“We would assume an 18-month-old child would want to live in a loving home that was warm and free from Domestic Violence, it’s what a child would expect”.

Engagement of Families Together (Family Hubs)

In September and October 2021, members of the Panel were invited to attend a session with Councillors to give an update on the implementation of the Families Together Scheme. The sessions discussed the structuring of the programme and establishing partnership boards. There are 4 geographical areas, and each were to have their own families together Area Partnership Board.

In December 2021, the Panel considered a presentation on the Kirklees Families Together Area Partnerships which outlined how they were established and how effectively they were working.

Outcomes

- The Panel agreed to observe local groups of the families together project when these had been set up (March 2022 onwards) and during these visits would consider the services on offer and how these were communicated, and sign posted to the residents of Kirklees.
- The Panel agreed to consider a future update on the review of the Families Together hubs and the review of the Hub Co-Ordinator role and noted that some Head Teachers had agreed to be part of the review.

Looking forward to 2022/23

The panel agreed that as well as considering reports on important issues relating to children, they would continue to visit key teams and partners, for example, Children’s

Social Care Teams, PCAN Social meetings with parents, Healds Road Residential Home and the new YPAT premises in Ravensthorpe.

The Panel also hope to liaise with the One Voice Team to engage with young people to seek their views on being home educated. The Panel plan to meet with parents who were involved in the Ad Hoc Panel on Elective Home Education to seek feedback from them on how well the Action Plan agreed at Cabinet in December 2020 has been progressed and implemented.

There are a number of areas where the panel will continue to scrutinise progress, including the Review of the Improvement Journey for Children's Services, Educational and Learning Outcomes and the Special Educational Needs and High Needs which will include seeking Feedback from PCAN and parents on SENDACT and the Outcome of the SEND Inspection and Transformation Plan.

The Panel will focus on some new areas of scrutiny such as the Independent Review of Children's Social Care – White Paper. The Panel also agreed to look at the Ladder Project (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley) and other work directly in schools (Spen Valley) around children's mental health and explore how the roll out of NHS mental health support for children and young people was progressing in those areas.

Comment from Cllr Andrew Marchington, Chair

“As always, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the panel in 21/22. My particular thanks go to the teams and external partners who have made us so welcome during the year. We have had the privilege of observing work with and on behalf of young people which has been most helpful and has given the panel a deeper appreciation of the challenges facing children, young people and their families and carers, and what is being done to help.

Several panel members have made additional visits, especially Councillor Ramsay and Councillor Reynolds, and they have provided detailed feedback at our Panel meetings.

We are already well into the work of 22/23 and are looking forward to seeing and hearing about continued progress in the improvement journey.”

Comments from Co-optees and previous Panel Members

Councillor Jackie Ramsay said

“I thoroughly enjoyed my year on the Children’s Scrutiny panel. It was clear from the start that the Chair understood the Children’s Services agenda, and that the Children’s Services Managers were keen to ensure the services were continually improving. Like other services we became aware of some recruitment issues that were delaying improvement plans, but overall, we were assured by the data we were provided, alongside service feedback and visits, that genuine improvements were being made. I liked the proforma for visits as I felt we were capturing our views in a consistent manner. I particularly enjoyed meeting with the small detached youth team one evening, who were working closely with a local community centre to offer something for young people other than ‘hanging about’ on the local sports field.”

Toni Bromley (Co-optee) said

“I feel very proud to be able to help some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Kirklees and make sure the systems in place are in their best interests. It’s been a positive experience too and has given me a purpose again and the confidence to do more than I was doing before I started as a co-optee”

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Scrutiny 2021/22

Prior to the election of the first mayor, the Combined Authority had a generalist single overview and scrutiny committee. Following the agreement of the devolution deal, and during the formation of the constitution, it was agreed to adopt a multiple thematic committee structure to expand the number of scrutiny members from 18 to 48.

The Combined Authority currently has three scrutiny committees:

1. **Corporate Scrutiny Committee** (*chaired by Cllr Peter Harrand, Leeds*): this committee oversees the organisation's '**corporate assets**', resources, plans, policies and projects – such as finances, audit, human resources, technology and systems, governance, procurement, property assets, assurance, and overall strategy and performance.
2. **Economy Scrutiny Committee** (*chaired by Cllr Richard Smith, Kirklees*): this committee oversees the region's '**economic assets**', resources, policies, plans and projects – such as the economy, international trade, inward investment, businesses, employment sites and enterprise zones, people and skills, colleges, universities, culture, media and sport.
3. **Transport & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee** (*chaired by Cllr Amanda Parsons-Hulse, Calderdale*): this committee oversees the region's '**physical assets**', resources, plans, policies and projects – such as transport network and infrastructure (bus, rail, roads, bikes, active travel), infrastructure projects, place (planning, housing and communities), and the natural environment and resources (including the waterways, climate, forests, green land).

Each committee has 16 members – 3 from each of the 5 WY districts, and 1 non-voting York member – and is politically balanced.

The 2021/22 municipal year saw the implementation of a new expanded Scrutiny Function. During 2021/22, time was dedicated to financial matters, particularly receiving detailed updates on budget and business planning. Workshops were held on budget planning and inward investment (including Channel 4) with focus on behaviour change relating to the usage and service provision of public transport. Three Mayor's Question Times were held in which Members questioned the Mayor on her direct and soft powers relating to each of the Committees' pre-agreed topics.

Team contact details

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Monday 5th September 2022

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Cathy Scott

50 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Scott.

51 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 July 2022 and 9 August 2022 be approved as a correct record.

52 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

54 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

55 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

56 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following oral questions, in accordance with the provision of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“We’ve recently seen the announcement from the Mayor of West Yorkshire about the £2 maximum fare for buses, which is great, its good to see the government is

also funding a freeze on bus prices of £2 during the winter period, but for people to benefit from that they need buses in the first place. Farnley Tyas, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland currently have no buses. My question is, is the Council aware of that and what are we doing to work with and lobby WYCA to make sure some provision is provided for people who are very isolated?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor J Taylor

"One of the things that the Democracy Commission was about to look at pre covid was the relationships with Parish and Town Councils. We do have an agreement with Town and Parish Councils but it is probably long overdue a refresh. We are coming up to elections for Town and Parish Councils and I wondered what plans Councillor Scott has, as Chair of the Democracy Commission, to pick up that piece of work again? In terms of cost of living, there is potentially a role for Town and Parish Councils as well as ourselves."

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

57

Update of the medium term financial plan 2023-24 and following years

Cabinet gave consideration to the Council budget strategy update, prior to the submission of the report to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, which set out the framework for the subsequent budget setting process and future financial planning.

Cabinet noted that the report reflected upon financial challenges which had arisen in recent months, and forecast the impact upon the Council's future planning. The report advised that the financial settlement during the Autumn, and the potential for an emerging national spending review would have a significant impact upon any assumptions.

The report provided an overview of the national context, including the UK economic outlook, national government policy developments, financial planning framework 2023/2024, government funding changes and cost of living pressures.

It was noted that work would continue to take place to reduce the in-year forecast £18.8m general fund revenue overspend as far as possible and that the updated budget plans provided the planning framework to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/2024, indicative forward plan budget forecasts, and updated multi year capital plans and associated funding. Appendix D to the report set out the key budget timetable milestones.

The following amendments to the considered report were noted during the meeting; (i) para.1.5.2 to read '... additional pressure in 2022/2023 on energy costs' and (ii) para. 1.5.4 to read '...increase more incrementally at 10%...'

RESOLVED - That the report be referred to the meeting of Council on 7 September 2022 with a recommendation that;

Cabinet - 5 September 2022

- 1) The funding and spend assumptions informing the updated budget forecasts as set out in the report, including the minimum usable reserve requirement advised by the S151 officer, being £47m (para 2.2.7 refers), and the budget gap figures (para 1.3.9 refers), be noted.
- 2) That the current and forecast earmarked reserves and general balances as set out at Appendix A be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to the financial planning framework (section 1.3 refers) for the general fund revenue and Housing Revenue Account (section 1.9 refers).
- 4) That approval be given to the financial planning framework for general fund and HRA capital (section 1.10 refers).
- 5) That the corporate budget timetable, as set out at Appendix D to the report, refers.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate portfolio holder, to consider expression of interest to continue to participate in the Leeds City Region business rate pool for 2023/2024, by the Government deadline of 22 September 2022.
- 7) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), the Service Director (Finance) and the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning), to conclude contract negotiations and, on behalf of the Council, enter into a new contractual arrangement in a timely manner for Council electricity supplies either directly or through a preferred broker, from 1 April 2023 onwards. (Delegated authority is requested to (i) re-procure the Council's electricity supply contract via a call off from a framework from an established central purchasing body and (ii) grant authority to award a contract for the Council's electricity supply from April 2023).
- 8) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health) to agree the approach to budget consultation and relevant timescales in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services).

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison

58 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mather and Pattison.

59 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

60 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information was submitted in relation to Agenda Items 15 and 16 (Minute No.s 72 and 73 refer).

61 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

62 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

63 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet the following received oral questions under the provision of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor Armer

“In recent years in my ward of Kirkburton, we’ve witnessed two unauthorised encampments by members of the travelling community, one of which was on a Kirklees play area. Given recent changes to the law relating to such encampments,

in what ways has the Council reviewed its policies, especially in liaising with police to regain early possession of KMC land?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

Question from Councillor D Hall

"With regards to the recent announcements to bus changes, which have heavily affected my ward, has Kirklees been consulted about any of these changes, the public don't seem to have been consulted?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

64 Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 (Reference to Council)

Cabinet received the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027. The report provided an overview of the plan and set out the key priorities of (i) reducing violence and tackling exploitation and abuse (ii) reducing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime (iii) building resilient and inclusive communities and (iv) reducing risk. It was noted that the priorities were aimed at making Kirklees communities safer and more cohesive. The report sought the endorsement of Cabinet of the proposed plan, prior to its submission to Council on 12 October.

Cabinet were advised that the 2018-2021 Communities Partnership Plan had expired and that the newly plan had been developed using insight, data and analysis from the most recent partnership strategic intelligence assessment, and engagement with stakeholders and partners. It was noted that the plan had been agreed by the Communities Board on 14 June 2022 and that it was intended for the Board to review the document on a quarterly basis, and that there would be an annual review of the plan in response to the strategic intelligence assessment.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 be endorsed and referred to the meeting of Council on 12 October 2022, with a recommendation of approval.
- 2) That, subject to approval at Council, a report be submitted to Cabinet annually detailing (i) any changes to the delivery of priorities and (ii) progress on delivery.

65 Kirklees Social Value Policy

Cabinet received the Social Value Policy, which was an update to the policy statement that had been adopted in 2013 following the Social Value Act 2012. The report advised that the Social Value Policy, along with the Procurement Strategy, supported the key corporate objective of delivering holistic benefits for residents and communities. It was noted that the Procurement Strategy would be submitted to a later meeting of Cabinet.

The report advised that, since 2013, the Council had developed its understanding of social value and the opportunities to achieve it and that it had become evident that

areas of council work, including employment practices, use of assets and the role of the local authority in local development planning processes provided significant opportunities to achieve social value. Cabinet noted that the new policy aimed to articulate these opportunities and explain how the Council intended to capitalise upon them.

The report provided an overview of the content of social value policy, capacity to deliver social value, performance reporting and measuring impact. It was noted that the social value policy key performance indicators would be incorporated into the corporate reporting framework.

RESOLVED - That the Social Value Policy be approved.

66 Community Plus Investment Scheme "Do Something Now" Amendments

Cabinet gave consideration to a report that sought approval for amendments to the existing Community Plus Investment Scheme, which provided for investment in community activities delivered by individuals and community organisations in the Kirklees voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

The proposed amendments were set out at paragraph 2 of the report, along with a rationale as to why each change was proposed.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the amendments to the existing scheme, as set out at paragraph 2 of the report.

67 Resource and Waste Strategy Delivery Update

Cabinet received a report which requested that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director to draw capital funding from the waste strategy reserve and associated revenue reserves for the delivery of the Waste Transformation Programme, for 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 in order to deliver projects associated with the resources and waste strategy adopted by Council earlier this month.

The report advised that good progress was being made on the Resources and Waste Strategy Action Plan and set out the timeframe for several projects. It was noted that a capital sum of £33m had been provisionally set for the delivery of improved waste and recycling facilities and that, to enable the delivery of the projects, it was requested that the following capital funds be drawn down for delivery; (i) Community Reward Scheme Phase 2 - £50,000 (ii) Reuse shop, Huddersfield - £70,000 (iii) Improved litter bin facilities - £2,000,000 (iv) Investment in innovation to target environmental enforcement - £100,000 (v) Glass collection £150,000 (vi) Bulky collections - £100,000 (vii) Depot review - £500,000.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) for expenditure of capital sums up to £2,970,000 maximum (section 2 of the report refers) in order that the projects associated with the Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy can be delivered in a responsive way that is in keeping with the timeline set out in the strategy.

- 2) That, pursuant to (1) above, (i) the delegated authority includes the ability to vary the budget lines within the overall capital allocation in conjunction with approval from the Service Director (Finance) and that it be acknowledged that several of the projects are in the planning stage and that exact costs may vary from those estimated as the projects develop and (ii) the delegated authority enables the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) to draw on revenue transformation reserve with agreement from the Service Director (Finance).

68 Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Cabinet received a report which sought approval of the adoption of the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report. It was noted that the document provided clear guidance as to how the Council would implement Local Plan Policies LP16 and LP47, and how decisions would be made which would balance the need to consider the vitality and viability of centres whilst promoting healthy, active and safe lifestyles. The report advised that the document was considered to be an important tool in supporting the Council's health objectives and promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

Cabinet were advised that the Supplementary Planning Document would provide improved clarity in the determination of planning applications in accordance with the Local Plan and had been appropriately amended following public consultation in November and December 2021.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the consultation responses, as set out at appendices 2 and 3, be noted.
- 2) That the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document be adopted.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to make any further minor modifications to the document that relate exclusively to factual updates, grammatical and formatting corrections for the purposes of publishing the SPD and supporting documents.

69 Huddersfield Decentralised Energy Network (HDEN) Outline Business Case Approval

Cabinet received a report which (i) provided an update on the outcome of the Huddersfield District Energy Network Outline Business Case Study and requested approval to progress to the full business case stage and (ii) requested that support be given to progressing the capital requirements of the scheme for consideration as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/2024 onwards.

The report summarised the work that had been undertaken to date regarding a Huddersfield District Energy Network, which was one of the Council's key carbon reduction projects, following the Cabinet decision to undertake an outline business case in February 2021. It set out the results of this stage of the work and explained how the Council could achieve the successful delivery of a heat network.

It was noted that, in terms of timescales, the commercialisation stage workstreams would take place between October 2022 and January 2024, which would be

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followed by the full business case approval at the beginning of 2024 and with the construction of Huddersfield District Energy Network scheduled for April to December 2024.

(Cabinet gave consideration to exempt information at Agenda Item 15 (Minute No. 72 refers) prior to the determination of his item.)

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the results of the Outline Business Case, dated 30 March 2022, be noted, along with the considerations relating to the Green Heat Network Fund application timing (sections 2.38 and 2.42 refer).
- 2) That approval be given to the proposed commercial delivery model, procurement and funding strategy up to full business case as set out in the outline business case.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) to apply for, in retrospect, and to accept in principle external funding of the Huddersfield District Energy Network (HDEN) from the Green Heat Networks Fund (GHNF) and other appropriate sources of external funding necessary to progress the project to full business case, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 22.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Cabinet Member (Culture and Greener Kirklees), in order to progress the next steps as set out in Commercial and Management Cases, specifically; (i) a detailed assessment of the Energy from Waste(EfW) power export value (ii) alignment with procurement of Waste Services Contract (including EfW) to agree the supply of heat and power (iii) to agree the compliant procurement route, prepare and undertake the procurement exercise for the delivery of the HDEN, as set out in the Commercial Case of the OBC (iv) customer acquisition – preparation and agreement in principle of heat and electricity supply arrangements with District Energy Network customers (including Council owned sites) (v) securing funding for the HDEN commercialisation stage (vi) procurement and operation of HDEN assets (vii) HDEN operational arrangements (viii) heat offtake agreement between HDEN and EfW (ix) to prepare and submit full planning application/s for the construction of the proposed Energy Centre and the other elements of HDEN falling with the scope of Planning Permission regulations and (x) any further steps to progress the scheme from outline business case to full business case, which could reasonably be anticipated.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change), in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to delivery any minor alterations to what is set out in the outline business case and which are in the interests of the Council to ensure that the project is delivered up to full business case completion, and that any significant alterations be referred to Cabinet.
- 6) That the funding requirements for the HDEN, as set out in the financial case of the outline business case, be noted and that approval be given to supporting the Council investment and borrowing requirements as set out in the financial and management cases (sections 3.15 to 3.22 refer) in

conjunction with (and anticipating) a successful application to the Green Heat Networks Fund.

- 7) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) to make all necessary preparations to set up the special purpose vehicle (ESCo) and that a further report be submitted to Cabinet following detailed evaluation by the Solicitor to the Council and the Chief Finance Officer to agree the establishment of the special purpose vehicle for the Huddersfield District Energy Network.
- 8) That a report be submitted to Cabinet following the completion of the commercialisation stage of work, in order to consider the resulting full business case for the HDEN and determine whether to progress the scheme to construction and delivery.
- 9) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to sign any legal agreements, documents or instruments which the Council is required to enter into up to the full business case stage (this does not extend to the transaction documents which will be entered into at financial close for which specific authority will be sought as part of the approval of the final business case).
- 10) That the Service Director (Development) be authorised to appropriate the Council owned land at 37 Old Leeds Road for the purposes of the proposed Energy Centre for the Huddersfield District Energy Network.

70 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 2: Outline Business Case

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the development of the cultural heart programme following the approval of the strategic outline case in November 2021. The report requested that Cabinet give consideration to the outline business case and the associated Royal Institute of British Architects stage 2 masterplan at this Gateway 2 stage.

The report sought approval for the Gateway 2 proposals and further development of the preferred masterplan option, and approval to proceed to Gateway 3. In order to progress to Gateway 3, the report requested that Cabinet release up to £10.5m to enable the Council to carry out necessary work with partners to progress the scheme, the costs of which were set out at paragraph 2.8 of the considered report.

The report detailed information in regards to (i) programme development to date (ii) a comprehensive overview of the outline business case (iii) design development achieved during stage 2 (iv) ongoing resource requirements (v) the preferred method for the procurement of construction and other contractors and (vi) an itemised cost breakdown of the resources required to progress to Gateway 3. The report also provided an overview of progress made on sustainability and social value strategies.

Cabinet noted that, as part of Gateway 3 and further milestones, there would be an opportunity to consider updated reporting on market conditions, phasing and design detail before progressing to further phases of the programme, including construction.

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Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 16 (Minute No. 73 refers) prior to the determination of this item.)

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to proceed to the next stage, in line with the proposals and recommendations as set out in the Outline Business Case.
- 2) That approval be given to proceed in line with the Preferred Way Forward masterplan, and the associated RIBA Stage 2 design.
- 3) That approval be given to the Gateway 2 to Gateway 3 budget of up to £10.5m.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Regeneration), to take decisions on the programme timeline so that the Cultural Heart masterplan and the associated strategic objectives can be completed within an appropriate timescale, reflecting the Council's financial position.
- 5) That necessary Council staff and resources be allocated to support the programme, and that it be noted that, in the absence of sufficient internal resources, additional resources will be sourced from existing/future framework agreements.
- 6) That approval be given to extend the appointment of the Strategic Development Partner/Project Manager to Gateway 3 under direct award from the SCAPE, Place Shaping Framework in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules.
- 7) That approval be given to extending the appointments of the architect and the engineer to Gateway 3 in compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules and Finance Procedure Rules.
- 8) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to conclude the construction contractor strategy, as set out at section 2.5, and to progress that strategy for the Cultural Heart to the next stage.
- 9) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to conclude the strategy on all necessary third party operators, as set out at section 2.6, and to progress that strategy for the Cultural Heart to the next stage.
- 10) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Regeneration) and the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), to conclude the Social Value Strategy, and then implement the same for the Cultural Heart, to include the mechanism for administration of the trust fund.
- 11) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Regeneration), the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) and the Service Director (Finance), to appoint third parties in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules.
- 12) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), in liaison with the Head of Procurement, to work within approved budgets to deliver the programme to Gateway 3.

71 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 items 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.

72 Huddersfield Decentralised Energy Network (HDEN) Outline Business Case Approval

(Exempt information 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.)

The exempt information was noted prior to the consideration of Agenda Item 12 (Minute No. 69 refers).

73 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 2: Outline Business Case

(Exempt information 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.)

The exempt information was noted prior to the consideration of Agenda Item 13 (Minute No. 70 refers).

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 30th September 2022

Present: Councillor Yusra Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor John Taylor

In attendance: Eamonn Croston, Service Director, Finance
Stephen Nixon, Grant Thornton
Sarah Brown, Acting Head of Welfare and Exchequer
Julian Hobson, Acting Head of Service, Financial, Transactional Services
David Stickley, Senior Legal Officer
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk, Financial, IT and Transactional Services
Laura Burrell, Electoral Services Manager
Simon Straker, Audit Manager
Samantha Lawton, Head of Governance
Councillor Paul Davies (Ex-Officio)
Councillor Jo Lawson (Ex-Officio)

Apologies: Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ammar Anwar and Councillor Liz Smaje. Councillor Alison Munro substituted for Councillor Kath Pinnock.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Democracy Commission Update

The Committee received an update relating to the recent work of the Democracy Commission.

Cllr John Taylor advised the Committee that the Democracy Commission had met with the final Local Authority asking them to give evidence on their governance model.

The Committee heard that the Commission had viewed written responses from Partners and Members and would be considering Officer responses at the next meeting. The Commission would then begin to draw all the evidence together and prepare a report to be considered by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee by the end of 2022.

RESOLVED: That the work of the Democracy Commission be noted.

8 Interim Polling District Review

The Committee received a report which asked for approval to amend the polling district boundaries following the conclusion of an interim polling district review.

The report advised that in accordance with section 18c (subsection 1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Kirklees Council had conducted a review of polling districts DE02, DE03 and DE04 located in the Dewsbury East Ward along with LG05 and LG06 located in the Liversedge and Gomersal Ward.

The review had been conducted to address immediate polling station issues which related to the development of a new housing estate in Dewsbury East, and the lack of unsuitable buildings within the current polling district boundaries in Liversedge and Gomersal. The review sought to improve accessibility to polling stations for electors within the defined areas.

RESOLVED: That the amendment as per the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals be approved.

9 Update on Representation on Outside Bodies

The Committee received an update on the Representation on Outside Bodies.

The Service Director, Legal, Governance & Monitoring had delegated authority, in consultation with Group Business Managers, to receive and process nominations to the Outside Bodies. Any Changes in the Council's representation on Outside Bodies are reported to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for Information.

Kirklees Council upon its formation in 1974 was given responsibility for appointing two trustees for the Mitcheson Bequest that benefited the poor of Heckmondwike. The term of office for Trustees was four years. Cllr Steve Hall and Cllr Viv Kendrick had been nominated as trustees and agreed by the Group Business Managers.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mitcheson Bequest be added to the list of Outside Bodies for Kirklees Council
- (ii) That Cllr Steve Hall and Cllr Viv Kendrick be approved as trustees to the Mitcheson Bequest with immediate effect.

10 Annual report on bad debt write-offs - 2021/22

The Committee received a report on Bad Debt write-offs 2021-22.

Overall write-offs for 2021-22 were less than 2020-21. The overall percentage written off had reduced year on year for the last two years. It was noted that there was a likelihood of more suppressed bad debt, which could be reflected in future years write offs, alongside some continued economic volatility depending on the pace of global, national and local recovery from Covid.

The figures for write offs of Adult Social Care debt, Housing Benefit Overpayments recovery, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Business Rates and Council Tax made up the top 5 areas for write offs and demonstrated how important it was for everyone to pay their share of the charges to help fund essential Council Services. The recover action highlighted was to ensure that all collectable debts outstanding were to be pursued through appropriate recovery action and support for the customer. Additional resources were to be deployed to recover unpaid Council Tax or Business Rates quicker and more effectively once older debts that had been through the recovery process had been removed. Tighter processes and procedures continued to be put in place to maximise recovery of collectable debts earlier in the process.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual report on bad debt write-offs-2021/22 be noted
- (ii) That the Committee acknowledged and thanked the team for all their work on debt recovery.

11 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

The Committee received a draft report noting the 2021/22 Draft Annual Governance Statement prior to it being signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader, and to consider whether the issues raised reflected the state of the governance and control framework during 2021/22.

The Statement covers the period up until the 2021/22 Annual Statement of Accounts are approved, but there may be a need for revisions to be made in the text, reflecting the findings from the external audit and anything material in the intervening period. The Statement concluded that overall the governance arrangements remained fit for purpose. It was reported that good progress had been made since the last Statement in addressing several of the issues highlighted and these had been omitted from the current statement, as they no longer represented a threat to the organisation. Similarly, where there had been a change of focus or circumstance, this had resulted in several issues being combined and revised. It was reported that the Action Plan would be the subject of internal monitoring, with reporting back to Executive Team and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee during 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted
- (ii) That the report be approved for public comment.

12 Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

The Committee received a verbal update from Stephen Nixon from Grant Thornton. It was reported that further to the submission of the Audit Plan at the June 2022 meeting of the Committee, work had progressed well with engagement and prompt responses from the finance team, with most of the audit fieldwork being complete by 30th September 2022.

It was noted that the financial statement audit would not be complete until confirmation had been received from the Authority's Pension Fund and their external auditor regarding the pension fund liability, and completion of audit work on infrastructure asset valuation. A statutory instrument was due to be issued by the Government setting out reduced disclosure requirements of valuation of infrastructure assets.

The Committee heard that the Value for Money Audit was being undertaken throughout October and November by the Firm's specialist value for money auditors. Findings were to be reported in the Auditor's Annual Report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

13 Appointment of an Independent Member to the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee

The Committee received a report to consider the appointment of an Independent Member of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

In summer 2022, the government indicated an intention to create a statutory obligation for local authorities to have an Audit Committee, including an Independent Member. In discussion at the Committee meeting on 17th June 2022, the Committee considered that there would be merit to adopting the proposal which included an Independent Member.

The Committee heard that if they were minded to progress the proposal, it would need to seek authority from Council to amend its terms of reference.

In a discussion, it was noted that the preference would be to appoint an Independent Member who had a financial background, and that the terms of reference should allow for an independent person to remain over the 3 years in specific circumstances.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the process for the appointment of an Independent Member be approved
- (ii) That the necessary changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference be referred to Council

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- (iii) That subject to agreement, Cllr Kath Pinnock, as the longest serving Member of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee was included in the recruitment process.

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 4th October 2022

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Jackie Ramsay

Apologies: Councillor John Taylor

22 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor John Taylor.

23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chair provided updates as follows:

(i) The Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025, which had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by this Committee in April 2022, had been adopted by Cabinet on 26th July. Cabinet had requested the submission of regular progress reports on the delivery of the plan and the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel would undertake further scrutiny as necessary. (Minute 78, 2021/22).

(ii) Further to pre-decision scrutiny by this Committee at meetings in November 2021 and June 2022, the Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 had been endorsed by Cabinet on 21st September. It would be submitted to the next meeting of Council, on 12 October 2022, for approval. (Minutes 27 (2021/22) and 10 (2022/23)).

24 Interests

No interests were declared.

25 Admission of the Public

All items were heard in public session.

26 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

27 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

28 **Community Anchor Network - Update**

A report was submitted which gave an update on progress in respect of the Community Anchor Network Contract.

Jill Greenfield the Service Director, Customers and Communities and Mags Rogerson the Head of Service, Local Integrated Partnerships attended the meeting to present the report and answer Members' questions. The following points were highlighted:

- The aim was to build a network with strong relationships rather than focussing on specific target-driven outcomes.
- Partnership working with the social prescribing service across Kirklees.
- There were fifteen community anchors across Kirklees with a lead anchor in the Huddersfield, Rural, Batley and Spen, and Dewsbury and Mirfield areas.
- Monitoring of the contract.
- Engagement had taken place with over 300 community organisations.
- Each anchor was developing a locality plan in conversation with local communities which would set out priorities, concerns, opportunities and connections. These plans would be widely shared.
- Promotion of the network and engagement with Ward Councillors.

The Panel also welcomed Tom Taylor from Third Sector Leaders Kirklees and Carole Roberts from Huddersfield Mission to share their experience of the project. Third Sector Leaders Kirklees was responsible for co-ordinating and managing the development of the anchors and the network and Huddersfield Mission was one of the local anchor community organisations.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In respect of how the network would grow and support smaller organisations serving different geographical areas; it was explained that the lead anchors were well established organisations with strong infrastructures and the community anchors were very well embedded in their local communities. The lead anchors would provide peer support to smaller groups to aid in their development.
- Staffing capacity in the lead anchors could be funded, funding for the local organisations was flexible to allow it to be best used to support their needs.
- From the point of view of a lead anchor organisation this was a different way of working to previously; it had taken some time to develop new relationships and establish aims and boundaries. There was a positive and supportive relationship with the relevant Council officers. At a more local, community level it was considered that partnerships had been strengthened and trust was being built within the sector.
- The principle of using those 'best placed' to address a need was correct; established community organisations had the necessary experience, knowledge and connections. New or struggling groups would be able to go to them for support.
- Some areas currently had fewer local anchors. One of the five aims for the lead anchors was to reach out to groups and organisations that it did not already have contact with and, if they wished to engage, the local anchor network would

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respond with help and support as appropriate. This would also be forthcoming if requested by a smaller local group.

- The level of awareness of smaller local groups about this offer was queried and how would they know that this support was available.
- Some development of the lead anchors was still ongoing but they were established organisations who could provide the necessary advice, training and support to others.
- Competition for funding and duplication could be a concern particularly when the resources were limited and it was hoped that this would be discussed with groups.
- It was considered that this way of working would assist in avoiding competition and duplication, local groups had a much higher level of communication with each other, and a much greater awareness of what others were able to offer, this was backed up by good support from the lead anchors. As the connections developed it had become less focussed on geographical location and more about what skills each organisation may be able to offer to others within the network.
- The draft locality plans aimed to capture the insight and intelligence from the conversations with local communities about their concerns and difficulties but it was acknowledged that there may be a need to simplify them and align them with other things, such as the Council's aspirations for youth services.
- The level of meetings between the lead and local anchors varied depending on the area and what was felt appropriate to ensure effectiveness. It was important that groups were able to focus on their core work. The network as a whole met on a quarterly basis, the lead anchors on a monthly basis, and informal meetings were also an important element.
- It was considered that this work was an integral part of building resilient communities that were able to respond to the issues affecting them, in partnership with the Council. By enabling communities to do what they wanted to do and to use resources and assets as they considered appropriate this would encourage organisation and inclusion.
- It was recognised that different areas may need different levels of support; the starting point would be to establish their concerns, assets and skills and support them to build on these. The development of the network would also lead to the sharing of skills, resources and support with other areas of the district.
- It was important that the geography of the different areas was understood.
- Anchors should speak to all community groups to ask what they needed and to explain what they could do to assist; this would help to build a stronger network.
- The locality plans were at an early stage and how they would fit alongside other action plans, ward plans and partners' priorities was an important point for consideration as they developed, It was hoped that the planned Councillor Workshops would assist in this cross-referencing.
- It would be a good idea to evaluate why some areas had lower levels of activity and to take learning from areas that were operating more effectively.
- From the viewpoint of a local anchor organisation, it was considered that this different way of working and mindset; connecting, uniting and supporting community groups, was powerful.

Resolved -

1) That the comments of the Committee, as set out below, be taken into account in the further development of the Community Anchor Network:

- The need to support capacity in local communities.
- Communication with all community groups and raising awareness of the network.
- Further development of the locality plans to link in with other plans and priorities.
- Building capacity and developing the network in places where additional support may be needed.
- Taking learning from areas where the community groups are operating effectively.

2) That the Head of Service be asked to share the locality plans with Members of the Committee in twelve months time.

29

Loneliness and Social Isolation in Kirklees - Loneliness Steering Group

Jill Greenfield – Service Director, Customers and Communities, Mark Wearmouth – Service Manager, Local Integrated Partnerships and Helen Gilchrist – Project Manager, Local Integrated Partnerships presented a report in relation to role of the Kirklees Loneliness Steering Group.

The group had been established by the Council and partners, further to the development of a partnership vision to make Kirklees a place where communities are more connected and support each other to develop meaningful relationships and reduce loneliness.

The report was part of the ongoing scrutiny of this topic by the Committee and the Chair gave a brief update on visits undertaken with:

- Yorkshire Children’s Centre
- A local Long Covid Support Group
- Luv2MeetU (a charity which organises events for small groups of people with learning disabilities or autism to address issues associated with independence and/or loneliness).

She had also observed a recent meeting of the Loneliness Steering Group.

The report set out background to the group including its vision and key priorities, the work undertaken prior to and during the pandemic and an ongoing review of its terms of reference and membership. It also set out the key challenges faced in addressing loneliness.

It was reported that there was a strong commitment from the group and the aim was to strengthen its focus and purpose post-pandemic with key objectives that could make an impact. A review had been undertaken, with a range of options considered, and a decision made to continue with a broad strategy group with a wider membership. The role of group was highlighted, as set out below, and comments were invited from the Committee:

- Owning and driving forward the strategy across the life course.

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- Understanding local needs, identifying opportunities for development and setting priorities for action.
- Continuing to make tackling loneliness/ meaningful social connection everyone's business.
- Keeping a 'watchful eye' on progress and helping to unblock barriers to progress.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The steering group was quite large and appeared to have significant engagement, but further clarity was needed in respect of the impact it was having, other than ensuring awareness at a strategic level in the organisations involved.
- It was recognised that there was a need for the steering group to develop an achievable and purposeful work programme aligned with the identified priorities and, further to this, for discussion to take place with partners about their responsibilities and accountability, and consideration of the resources that were necessary to re-shape the agenda.
- The training of staff at grass-roots level to identify loneliness and to build their confidence be able to address the issue, with the necessary sensitivity, was an aspiration of the steering group and a guidance note had been produced in 2021. It was noted that most large organisations had training and development programmes and an issue such as this could be accommodated under the wellness agenda.
- In respect of links with the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and ownership of this issue, it was explained that there was need to ensure that everyone had the ability to identify and respond at points of contact. It was acknowledged that a number of key points of contacts were within the PCNs; there were a number of council staff involved with the networks and this issue was a high priority for them; it was also believed to be a focus for GPs practices.
- Loneliness and social isolation was an important issue to address in light of the potential impact on individuals.
- In terms of internal connections and with anchor organisations, Third Sector Leaders Kirklees were represented on the steering group. There were also strong links with the Integrated Partnerships Service including the Personalised Care Team and Community Plus. The community anchors would be a useful source of intelligence and information as the work moved forward.
- The links to the PCNs and GPs were through the personalised care roles. It was believed that partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board had a very good understanding of the impacts of loneliness but it was important to ensure that the issue was in view and there may be a need to reinforce this within the work programme. There was strong awareness in the PCNs and it had been a driver for the creation of the social prescribing link worker roles.
- Further information could be provided in respect of whether the issue was on the agenda for GP commissioning groups.
- The steering group needed to provide a strong lead and drive the priorities forward ensuring that they fed through to partners.
- There were working groups sitting beneath the steering group which focussed on specific projects to support the priorities.

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- The importance of the careful definition of loneliness was acknowledged. It was a normal part of the human condition and covered a spectrum, having an impact when someone was experiencing chronic loneliness and this was negatively affecting their health and wellbeing.
- There was no single solution or approach and strategies were needed across the different life stages; addressing what people needed rather than what organisations wanted to provide.
- It had become apparent from the visits undertaken to date that there was a need for individuals to have access to someone that they could talk to when in crisis, particularly when they might be unable to talk to someone to whom they had a personal connection.
- The work of the steering group was evidence based, using national and local sources, and aimed to be pro-active in the areas highlighted by data, such as young adults.
- Members expressed an interest in further information on the work being undertaken, including the staff guidance.

Resolved –

That officers be thanked for their report and presentation and be asked to consider the following points in taking this work forward:

- The need for the steering group to establish an achievable and purposeful work programme aligned with the identified priorities, and for responsibilities and accountability to be discussed with partners alongside consideration of the resources that are necessary to re-shape the approach to tackling loneliness.
- The potential for making identifying and addressing loneliness a priority within organisations' training and development programmes
- Links to the community anchor organisations and within the Primary Care Networks.
- How support might be provided to people at a point of crisis.
- The definition of loneliness in the context of this work.
- Links with the Health and Wellbeing Board; highlighting the strategy so that it is visible at the top tiers of partner organisations.

30 Lead Members Update

Councillor Yusra Hussain, Lead Member for the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by this panel.

An update was submitted on the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Panel by Councillor John Taylor, the Lead Member.

The updates were noted and the panels thanked for their work.

31 Work Programme 2022-23

The latest version of the Work Programme was submitted for the Committee's consideration.

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The next meeting would be held on 1st November 2022 and the following items had been provisionally scheduled:

- Draft Inclusion and Diversity Annual Report
- Inclusive Communities Framework Implementation
- Lead Members' Updates from Children's and Health & Adult Social Care Panels.

32 Any Other Business

The Chair reported that, since the last meeting of the Committee, she had been consulted, in her role as Chair of Scrutiny, on an urgent key decision in respect of the award of grant funding from the Department of Work and Pensions to deliver the Local Supported Employment Initiative.

She had agreed that call-in could be waived as a decision was required to receive the grant and enter into a funding agreement. Confirmation of the successful application for funding had been received on 16th August 2022 with instructions to return the signed grant agreement by 26th August 2022, hence the need for urgency.

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Contact Officer: Richard Dunne

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 6th October 2022

Present: Councillor Steve Hall (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Andrew Pinnock

1 Membership of the Committee

All Members of the Committee were in attendance.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

Councillors Sokhal, Davies, Pattison, A Pinnock, Thompson, Armer and S Hall declared that they had been lobbied on application 2022/90505.

Councillor Armer declared an "other" interest in application 2022/90505 on the grounds that he had previously expressed concerns regarding a number of aspects of the scheme in his capacity as a ward councillor and felt that this could result in some people questioning his impartiality should he vote on the application.

It was noted that Councillor Armer did not participate in the Committee discussion on application 2022/90505 or vote and that he made a representation to the Committee in his capacity as a ward member.

4 Admission of the Public

All items on the agenda were taken in public session.

5 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

6 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

7 Planning Applications

The Committee considered the following applications.

8 Site Visit - Application No: 2020/92331

Site visit undertaken.

9 Site Visit - Application No: 2020/92350

Site visit undertaken.

10 Planning Application - Application No: 2021/94120

The Committee gave consideration to Planning Application 2021/94120 Change of use from haulage and distribution to a breakers yard Foxhill Owler Lane Birstall Batley.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37 the Sub Committee received a representation from Andrew Barlow (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED -

Delegate approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice to the Head of Planning and Development in order to complete the list of conditions including those contained within the considered report including:

1. Commencement of the development within 3 years
2. Development to be in accordance with the approved plans
3. Restriction on height and location of stored end of life vehicles
4. Restriction on noise from fixed plant and equipment
5. Hours of operation
6. Reporting of unexpected land contamination

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows:

For: Councillors: Armer, Davies, S Hall, Pattison, A Pinnock, Sokhal and Thompson (7 votes).

Against: (0 votes).

11 Planning Application - Application No: 2022/90505

The Committee gave consideration to Planning Application 2022/90505 Change of use of agricultural land to Sui Generis for private dog walking with associated works Land adj, Moor Top Lane, Huddersfield.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37 the Sub Committee received representations from Andy Rushby (agent) and Shauni Macken (applicant).

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36 (3) the Committee received a representation from Councillor Bill Armer (ward member).

RESOLVED –

Delegate approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice to the Head of Planning and Development to complete the list of conditions including those contained within the considered report and the planning update including:

1. In accordance with the approved plans.

Strategic Planning Committee - 6 October 2022

2. Development to begin within 3 years.
3. Hours of operation between 07:00 until 21:00 (April to September inclusive) and 08:00 to 19:00 (October to March inclusive).
4. No artificial lighting to be installed.
5. Details of scheme to clear and maintain clearance of the visibility splay.
6. Replacement hedge to be planted where removed in conjunction with condition 5.
7. Access gate to be repositioned and parking spaces to be provided prior to the site being bought in to use.
8. Operated via a booking system, with a maximum of 2 bookings at any one time, and a restriction of a single vehicle per booking.
9. Report of unexpected contaminated land.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows:

For: Councillors: Davies, S Hall, Pattison, A Pinnock, Sokhal and Thompson (6 votes)

Against: (0 votes)

12 **Position Statement - Application No: 2020/92331**

The Committee received a position statement in respect of Planning Application 2020/92331 Outline planning application for demolition of existing dwellings and development of phased, mixed use scheme comprising residential development (up to 1,354 dwellings), employment development (up to 35 hectares of B1(part a and c), B2, B8 uses), residential institution (C2) development (up to 1 hectare), a local centre (comprising A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/D1 uses), a 2 form entry primary school including early years provision, green space, access and other associated infrastructure Land east of, Leeds Road, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a presentation from Stephen Evans, Christian Colbeck and Nolan Tucker (on behalf of the applicant).

The Committee noted the contents of the report and presentation and made comments on the proposals.

13 **Position Statement - Application No: 2020/92350**

The Committee received a position statement in respect of Planning Application 2020/92350 Outline application for residential development (Use Class C3) of up to 181 dwellings, engineering and site works, demolition of existing property, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure Land south of, Heybeck Lane, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a presentation from Stephen Evans, Christian Colbeck and Nolan Tucker (on behalf of the applicant).

The Committee noted the contents of the report and presentation and made comments on the proposals.

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