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Friday 25 October 2024

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

The **Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Monday 4 November 2024**.

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

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Lawton'.

Samantha Lawton

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Zarina Amin (Chair)

Councillor Bill Armer

Councillor Aziz Daji

Councillor Alison Munro

Councillor Harry McCarthy

Vacancy - Community_Alliance

Jonathan Milner (Co-Optee)

Chris Friend (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Panel

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 6

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 23rd September 2024.

3: Declaration of Interests

7 - 8

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Panel.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel 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 submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

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

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

7: Proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reforms consultation and other changes to the planning system

9 - 24

To update members on the Government's consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system which took place between July – September 2024 and to identify potential implications for the Kirklees Local Plan update.

Contact: Johanna Scrutton Group Leader Planning Policy and Strategy. Tel: 01484 221000

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

GROWTH AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday 23rd September 2024

Present: Councillor Zarina Amin (Chair)
Councillor Aziz Daji

In attendance: Cllr Graham Turner, Portfolio Holder for Finance and
Regeneration
Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and
Regeneration

Apologies: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Jonathan Milner (Co-Optee)
Chris Friend (Co-Optee)

- 1 Membership of the Panel**
Apologies were received from Cllr Alison Munro, Cllr Bill Armer, Cllr Harry McCarthy, Chris Friend and Jonathan Milner.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the Panel meeting held on the 12 August 2024, will be submitted for approval at the next panel meeting.
- 3 Declaration of Interests**
No interests were declared.
- 4 Admission of the Public**
All agenda items were considered in public.
- 5 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 6 Public Question Time**
In accordance with Council Procedure rule 11, Mr Chas Ball, Secretary from Kirklees Cycling Campaign attended the meeting and asked a number of questions. Responses to the questions were provided by the Service Director for Skills and Regeneration.

7 Kirklees Major Transport Capital Schemes; Annual Report 2024

Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and Regeneration, provided an update on the Kirklees Major Transport Capital Schemes Annual Report for 2024. The Panel was advised that the aim is to bring an annual report through the democratic process. The annual report will look back in terms of what has been achieved and the progress and then looks forward for the next 12 months regarding what specific actions, delegations and decisions are needed to keep the transport programme moving. An approach like this is welcomed and is warranted given the scale of the programme.

This was undertaken last year; however, a lot of the focus last year was on the inflation review and particular effort on phasing the Cooper Bridge Programme which took up 90% of the attention last year. This year, the hope is that it will be business as usual. The appended report aims to set out what the key projects are, recognising that this is not the totality of the highways capital programme, this is just the transport infrastructure projects which are largely funded through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The report also sets out what those projects are and their current status. Some are delivered and completed and are being evaluated, some are currently on site and are being delivered, and some projects have planning permission and a contractor lined up and ready to go, and some are further out in time.

Some have been pipelined which means they are still a priority and there is an ambition to deliver them, however, at this moment in time there is no funding associated with the project. They are on the 'shelf' and while it is disappointing they are not being delivered, when funding does become available, the intention is to match pipeline projects to whatever funding opportunity comes along. There are a set of known projects either at concept or outline business case stage which will enable these projects to be matched to the requirements of funders which will stand the council in good stead for the future.

RESOLVED:

That Edward Highfield be thanked for providing an update on Kirklees Major Transport Capital Schemes, Annual Report 2024.

8 Our Cultural Heart

Cllr Graham Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, introduced the item advising the Panel that looking around Huddersfield town centre there is a great deal of work on demolition being undertaken. Initially the work was inside therefore it was not visible, however it is now possible to physically see boots on the ground working to deliver the vision for Huddersfield.

Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and Regeneration, presented an update on the Our Cultural Heart development. Referring to the presentation slides, the Panel was provided with a summary of progress so far, a reminder in terms of the masterplan, an update on the phasing and progress in relation to phases one and two and beyond.

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 23 September 2024

In summary, the Panel was reminded that the Huddersfield Blueprint, was launched in June 2019, with the aim of transforming the town centre. Cultural Heart is one of the six target areas and is not the entirety of the blueprint, but delivery of the Cultural Heart is the big standout flagship initiative within the blueprint. The blueprint sits under the priority of the Corporate Plan, to continue to invest in the towns and villages as a recognition of the economic future of Kirklees and the importance of the town centres despite the challenges being faced in local government. It is therefore important to remain ambitious, and talk about the economy as much as possible and what is going to generate future opportunities for residents and also the tax base of council, to ensure a strong alignment between this agenda and the council's Corporate Plan.

The Panel was informed that the overall construction budget for Cultural Heart is included within the council's Capital Plan, and while it may seem like a big number, it is over a period of time. This is not additional funding it is planned into the budget cycle over a long period of time.

In terms of construction, whilst the buildings are important, it is what happens inside the buildings that really matters, that is what people experience and the quality that it needs to offer. As work is being undertaken on the construction side, work is also being undertaken with council services to prepare the pre-opening and the opening and operation of the individual services.

To give some assurance, there is a Town Centre Operations Management Board, which co-ordinates the integration of the decision making of those individual services in terms of wider governance. The Cultural Heart project reports to the programme board internally, to an officer led programme board on a monthly basis, and also reports through to Cllr Turner, Portfolio holder for Regeneration.

The Panel was informed that progress is reviewed regularly by Cabinet through the gateway process. Going through the concept, the outline design, the more detailed design, and actual decision to proceed or not, is a Cabinet decision and this is done on a staged process through what is called gateways.

Phase one, has been through the contract award, and is on site delivering, and future reports will be brought through regarding phase two and beyond, using the same logical set of gateways to ensure that Cabinet is making the decisions. The next cabinet report is targeted to be towards the end of this calendar year and that will focus on Phase two. In between Cabinet dates, it has been helpful to come to scrutiny on a regular basis, with the last update being presented to scrutiny in November 2023.

David Glover, Senior Responsible Officer, in conjunction with Cllr Turner usually brings an item to scrutiny that looks back in terms of reporting on progress and looks forward in terms of decisions, and that gives members the opportunity to look into the programme in more detail, and offer challenge, comments and questions. The information being presented today is part of that regular sequence of events that is now well established.

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 23 September 2024

Referring to the presentation slides, Mr Highfield advised that although the detail, the timing and the phasing may flex, the overall masterplan is as the title suggests. It represents a significant part of the town centre and is broken down into different services and different offers such as the library, the food hall and the museum and gallery on what is called the Queen Street Plot. The final phase is the venue and multi-storey car park, surrounded by a public realm and a public park. The aim is to give a better quality and a new offer for people to come into the town centre and spend more time in the town centre and hopefully do other things while they are in town, it is well-established and embedded masterplan.

The Panel was informed that one of the big changes of recent times was to move to a phased approach. Rather than do this in one go, and the financial parameters of the council did not allow that, the last report to Cabinet focused on the principles of phasing.

Phase one – includes the library the food hall and the event square.

Phase two will be outlined in a report to Cabinet later in the year and will include the museum and gallery and the area around the building.

Phase three – will be the Queens Street Plot.

Phase four - will be the park.

Phase five – will be the venue and multi-storey car park.

A major benefit of phasing is that it allows the council to be more opportunistic and more responsive to any changes in the market. While these are the phases, and the aim is to step through them logically, there is an opportunity to move things around if that is deemed the best thing to do. Another important factor to consider is that when talking about phases it focuses on things that are above the ground, however there are some extensive basements under all these sites, with the exception of phase five.

The Panel was presented with information which outlined the timeline for phase one of the project. The Panel was informed that is important to have an ambitious social value strategy for cultural heart and wanted the cultural heart project to be best practice to be the best around social value. The aim is to demonstrate how it can be possible to extract social value outcomes through the contract and through working with the private sector and their supply chain. The intention is to make it an exemplar of social value and to date that is going well.

The Panel was provided with further details and the timeline for phase one of the project as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 24 | Enabling works instructed under Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA). There was an issue identified during the PCSA period relating to asset related structural works which identified significant failings in some concrete slabs which will need replacing |
| June 24 | Planning/LBC revisions approved |
| Aug 24 | Main contract commenced, construction compound on old car park plot, contractor SV deliver begins |

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 23 September 2024

Q4 25 Food hall operator appointment

April 26 Construction completion (Gateway 5)

Summer 26 Facilities operational

The Panel was provided with further details and the timeline for phase two which related to the museum and gallery, the public realm around it, and the significant basements underneath. The Panel was advised that, this is further behind because it is still in the development phase.

The Panel was informed that planning and listed building consent for the whole of the masterplan was approved in March 2023. There is coherence to the overall planning strategy and to the overall masterplan. In relation to the Queen Street plot, there were initial talks with Greenhead College about a potential expansion plot for the college, focused around science and technology, however, the college has subsequently withdrawn their interest in that plot. Alternatives for the plot is being sought.

In response to the information presented, the Panel made comment and asked questions including some of the following:

- Can you please provide further detail on the social value strategy?
- When visits are made to schools, do you ask what proportion of the students are from deprived areas and from BME backgrounds?
- Referring to phase one in relation to the failure in the concrete slabs, has that resulted in any additional costs above what the budget required?

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Graham Turner and Edward Highfield be thanked for providing an update on Our Cultural Heart.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Growth & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

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.

Proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reforms consultation and other changes to the planning system

Jo Scrutton Group Leader Planning Policy and Strategy

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

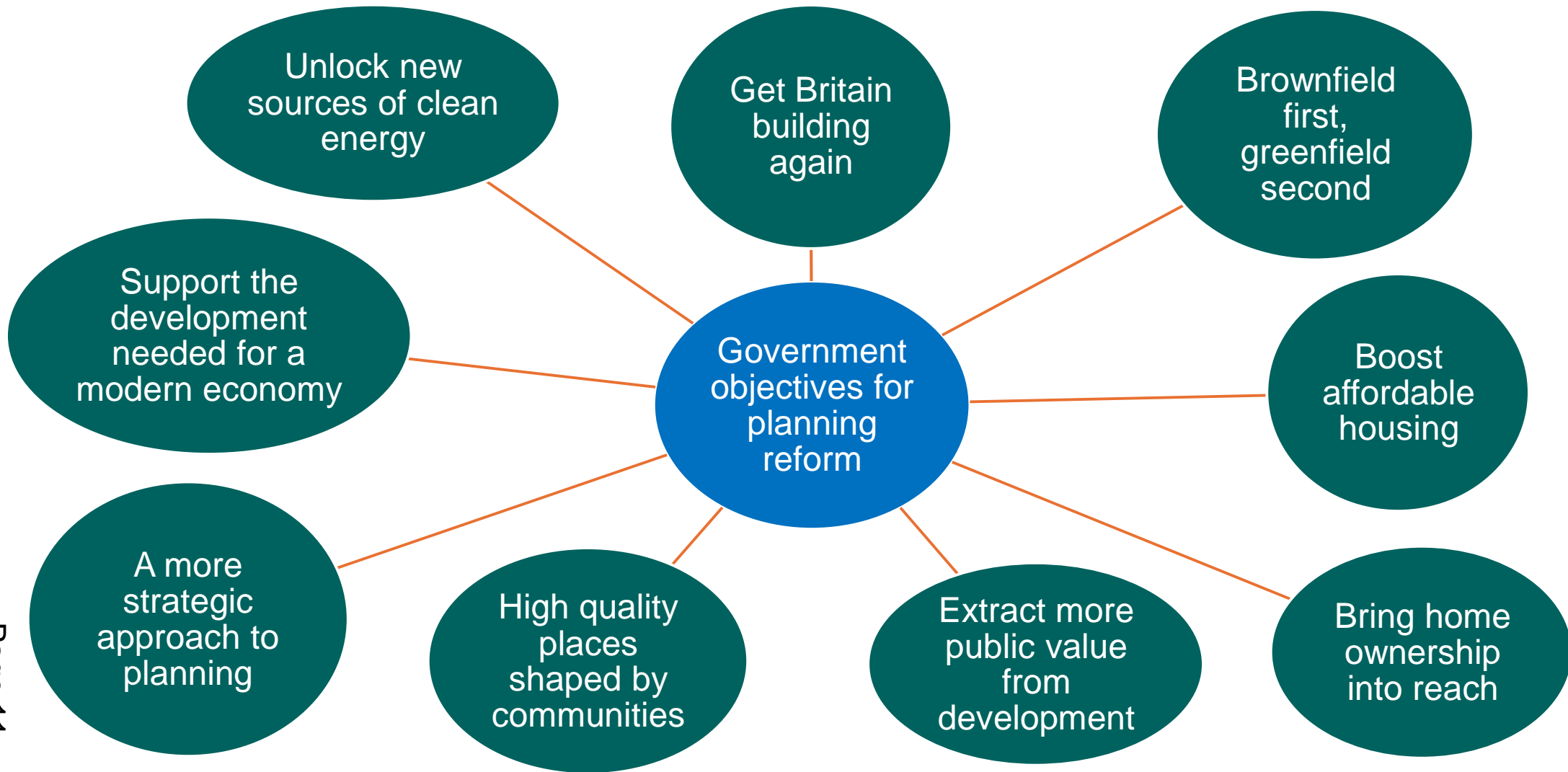
4th November 2024

Summary of key implications

Purpose of today – outline key reforms and implications for the Local Plan

- A Local Plan at pace is a must (Dec 2026 submission requirement).
- Annual housing need increase from 1,730 to 2,043. Delivery over last 3 years is 708, 985, 1,276.
- Proposed strategic planning will determine how unmet needs are delivered.
- Additional land take will be needed to deliver economic growth.
- Brownfield first/grey belt focus will not remove the need to consider green belt land.

Government objectives for planning reform



How the Government plans to achieve these objectives - Initial proposals

Proposed NPPF reforms consultation and draft NPPF.

- Consultation on 106 questions.
- Deadline for comments - 24th Sept 2024.
- Planned final version Dec 2024/Early 2025.
- Reversal of some NPPF 2023 changes and additional changes.

Other key statements

- Letter from Deputy PM/MHCLG – playing your part in building the homes we need (July 2024).
- Government press release: Housing targets increased.
- Policy statement on new towns (July 2024).

Further consultations

Planning and Infrastructure Bill – planned to follow finalised NPPF with further reforms to accelerate delivery of infrastructure and housing.

National Development Management policies – consultation on a suite of national policies that all local authorities will be required to follow. Potential for revised Planning Policy for Waste and Traveller sites.

Implementation of new plan-making system from summer/autumn 2025.

Increased focus on Local Plan

- Universal coverage of Local Plans.
- Once in place, they must be kept up to date.
- Revised intervention powers to ensure Local authorities do not delay process.
- New timetables for Plan production (transitional arrangements).

Implication

Kirklees would be required to submit an updated Local Plan for examination by December 2026.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan
Strategy and Policies

Adopted 27 February 2019



Local Plan timetable

Timetable and milestones	Dates	Purpose of the stages and role of communities/partners/stakeholders
Early engagement phase 1: Issues, vision, what policies you want to see in the Plan	November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the early engagement and raise awareness. • Outline any evidence to support local issues and policies (reports or your own consultations). • Review existing policies and scope any new areas. • Outline any good practice.
Early engagement: phase 2: development levels, draft options	April – May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further opportunities to scope whether the development strategy supports active communities.
Draft Plan Consultation	Sept-Nov 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in and contribute to public consultation and help raise awareness.
Publication Draft Consultation	Sept-Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in and contribute to public consultation and help raise awareness. • Provide supporting evidence when required in a form that the can be used in the Examination in Public process.
Submission to Secretary of State	March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate attend examination and assist the council with supporting the Local Plan proposals.

New method to determine housing requirements

What is being proposed?

- A new standard method - based on **housing stock** (0.8%) and adjusted to reflect **housing affordability**

Other changes to method

- **No cap** – restricting assessed need does not align with housing ambitions.
- **No urban uplift** – considered arbitrary by many in the sector. Focused on ‘most populous’ urban LPA only (as opposed to surrounding hinterlands) - and does not account for future growth ambitions of smaller urban areas.

Use of the standard method

- **The standard method will be mandatory.**
- Para 61 - **remove reference to exceptional circumstances** to use an alternative approach.
- Exceptions will be set out in PPG for National Parks, Isles of Scilly

Implications for Kirklees

- A 30% increase from 1,595 dwellings per annum (dpa) (uplifted to 1,730 dpa) in current Local Plan to **2,043**.
- Over the Kirklees Local Plan period 2024-2043, **38,817** homes required.
- All adjoining authorities' requirements have increased with exception of Bradford.
- Role of strategic planning in determining how unmet need be delivered is unknown.
- The focus on authorities being able to determine the levels and type of affordable housing is welcomed.
- Need to find land for employment as well as housing requirements.
- Development constraints – typography, environmental designation, flood risk areas, part of National Park.

LA name	Current method	Proposed method	Average annual net additions
Bradford	2,232	2,089	1,026
Calderdale	742	964	351
Kirklees	1,595	2,043	796
Leeds	3,987	4,159	2,983
Wakefield	923	1,721	1,376
Total	9,480	10,976	6,532

Strategic Planning

Why Strategic Planning?

- To deliver sustainable growth and address key spatial issues: housing needs (including unmet housing needs), delivering strategic infrastructure, building the economy and improving climate resilience.

Three Immediate Steps to Strategic Planning

1. Strengthening NPPF on cross boundary strategic planning and co-ordination.
2. Working with Mayors to extend existing powers to develop Spatial Development Strategies.
3. Identifying priority groupings of other authorities where strategic planning would provide benefits.

Implications for Kirklees

- Unknown implications if any on Local Plan timetable as strategic planning subject to legislation.
- Potential impact on resources (staff/budget) to support.



Brownfield, 'Grey Belt' and the Green Belt

Key Principles

- Take a brownfield-first approach and then release low quality “grey belt” land.
- Requirement to review boundaries and release Green Belt land where necessary to meet unmet housing or commercial need.
- Definition of Grey belt – “land in the green belt comprising previously developed land and other parcels and/or areas of Green Belt that make a limited contribution to the five purposes of GB (NPPF para 140) but excluding those areas or assets of particular importance listed in NPPF footnote7).
- Release of Grey Belt should be in sustainable locations, provide “Golden Rule” contributions (at least 50% affordable including social rent, infrastructure and improvements to accessible, local green space and not impact on Green Belt function.

Implications for Kirklees

- 68% of Kirklees is Green Belt.
- Lack of available and suitable brownfield land for development leading to consideration of Grey Belt and Green Belt.
- Housing, commercial, and other development on Grey Belt is not considered inappropriate where a local authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.
- Risk of increased speculative development on Grey Belt sites. Lack of clarity on sustainable locations and guidance on Grey Belt will increase pressure on development management decisions to ensure consistency.
- Green Belt Parcel Analysis has been commissioned as part of Local Plan update.

Reforming planning fees

Reforms include:

- Proposing to increase the fee for householder applications to meet cost recovery levels
- Seeking views on increasing and introducing fees for other application types
- Seeking views on two possible models that would allow local authorities to set fees (national subject to local variations or fully set by local authority.
- Seeking views on increasing fees to fund wider planning services

Why change:

- Current planning fees do not generate enough income to cover costs, results in funding shortfalls and delays in determining planning applications
- Enable authorities to cover the actual costs specific to that authority in determining planning applications
- Introduce greater accountability and transparency to the planning fees system

Additional changes to NPPF

- Requirement for well-designed development. Removal of beautiful.
- Supporting economic growth in key sectors (data centres, gigafactories and laboratories).
- Supporting skill development through post-16 education places.
- A vision-led approach to transport.
- Delivering community needs and healthy communities.
- Support for clean energy and the environment – views sought.



What do the reforms mean for Local Plan progress (1)

Progress to date	Implications/How we are managing risks
<p>Local Plan Timetable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Local Development Scheme(LDS) adopted March 2024 identifies a submission date of March 2027. • NPPF reforms are proposing a submission date of December 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised as part of NPPF consultation on the deadline as outcomes of the consultation unknown. • A meeting has been set up with the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Advisory Service to sense check progress. • Following confirmation of deadline for submission, a revised LDS will need to be presented to Cabinet.
<p>Evidence gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of specialist evidence including: Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Travellers, Employment Land Study, Green Belt, Retail and leisure, Minerals, Waste needs, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Sustainability appraisal. • Cross service/partner working to identify issues and evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of NPPF consultation will not be available until December 2024. All procurements will review evidence in the light of changes to NPPF/legislation. For example, Strategic Housing Market Assessment will consider both the existing and proposed new standard method. There may be a need to look at alternative scenarios. • The reforms are seeking views on climate change policy. This may require further evidence/viability assessments. Looking at good practice – Central Lincolnshire and working with Huddersfield University.

What do the reforms mean for Local Plan progress (2)

Progress to date	Implications/How we are managing risks
<p>Policy review (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing Local Plan policies and scoping new based on cross service/partner working and national planning policy requirements. Emphasis on climate change. • Regional working with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and adjoining authorities on areas of new policy including: Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain. • Potential SDF on mass transit to be produced by WYCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed National Development Management Policies will be consulted on following finalised NPPF. Dependent on policy content, this will require a further review of Kirklees policies. • The NPPF reforms are seeking views on the role that Local Nature Recovery Strategies could play in identifying areas of Green Belt which can be enhanced. To be considered through ongoing work. • Potential resource implications to support SDF work to shape policy content and align with evidence on the Kirklees Local Plan.
<p>Call for sites - Inviting submission of sites for development or potential protection e.g. Local green spaces (ongoing).</p> <p>Landowners of existing undeveloped allocations contacted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reforms do not impact on the call for sites process but outcomes on housing requirements, sequence of land to be developed will impact on the consideration of the sites as part of the development of the spatial strategy.

Questions