

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 5 November 2024

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield.

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

The following matters will be debated:

Pages

1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council Meeting held on 16 October 2024.

4: Declaration of Interests

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.

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)

The Committee 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.

7: 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.

8: West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

11 - 20

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 19 September 2024.

9: Petition Debate - Dewsbury Sports Centre

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a, Council will discuss the subject matter of a previously submitted petition regarding the future of Dewsbury Sports Centre.

10: 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 12.

A schedule of written questions and responses will be tabled at the meeting. One supplementary question will be permitted.

11: Key Discussion - Elected Mayor (West Yorkshire Combined Authority)

The Elected Mayor (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) will be present for the Council's Key Discussion Debate, which will include an update on the Elected Mayor's current priorities.

12: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Gaza - a year on, urgent action is needed

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors J D Lawson, Arshad, Khan, Safdar, Anwar, Kahut and Bramwell.

"This Council notes that nearly a year on from the start of the latest conflict in Gaza:

- a) 10,000's of innocent men, women and children have been killed or seriously injured. Many more are missing in the debris of Gaza.
- b) Gaza is being raised to the ground. There has been

indiscriminate bombing of refugee camps, medical facilities, schools, places of worship of all denominations and the general infra structure.

- c) Aid is still not getting into Gaza in the quantity needed due to interference by the Israeli Govt this has resulted in widespread malnutrition and the remaining medical facilities running without even the basic of medical supplies.
- d) That the Israeli government is guilty of war crimes and breaching International Humanitarian Law. Creating an Apartheid State within the Palestinian Territories of Gaza and the West Bank.
- e) The International Court of Justice has declared the situation in Gaza to be genocide
- f) That many residents of Kirklees remain gravely concerned about the ongoing situation in Gaza and wish to see an end to the genocide in Gaza.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister to urge him to revoke licenses which allow the selling of arms and military equipment to Israel until a time the Israeli Government stops the on-going genocide in Gaza, ceases to occupy the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, abides by the IJC rulings and the numerous United Nations resolutions. That the Prime Minister lobbies his Israeli counterpart to immediately allowed in aid to Gaza unfettered by obstructions, in a bid to holt the humanitarian crisis that is occurring within Gaza. And that the Prime Minister uses all diplomatic channels at his disposal to call for a ceasefire and the return of the Israeli hostages

We ask that the Palestinian Flag be flown at Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury Town Halls in an act of remembrance for those who have died. This would be at no expense to local council tax payers as the flags would be purchased by a local group.

We ask that Kirklees Council where at all lawful and practical to avoid purchases of goods from Israeli companies illegally occupying the afore mentioned Palestinian Territories.

That the council commits to conducting a thorough review of its procurement practices to ensure that goods and consumables sourced from companies directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are not used.”

13: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

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

“This Council notes:

- The Labour Government’s recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.
- The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.
- The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Kirklees Council and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.
- The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.
- The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

This Council believes:

- That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.
- While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Kirklees Council sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.
- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The government’s approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

This Council resolves to:

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
 - Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging her to reverse the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
 - Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Kirklees Council are supported in claiming their entitlement.”
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14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Providing Similar Support Mechanisms as Ukraine to those impacted by Genocide in Palestine

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Darwan, Hussain, Moore, H Zaman, Bramwell, Safdar, Scott, Masood Ahmed, A Zaman, Daji, Kahut and Anwar.

“This Council notes that almost a year ago from the start of the recent conflict in Gaza:

- a) Israel’s ground and air campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,324 people and continuing, mostly civilians, and driven most of the enclave’s 2.3 million people from their homes Plus 90,830 Palestinian people injured and approximately 1,478 Israelis have been reported as killed.
- b) The Israeli crimes violate international criminal laws, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide, which the Israel Defense Forces, the military branch of the state of Israel, has been accused of committing since the founding of Israel in 1948. These have included murder, intentional targeting of civilians, killing prisoners of war and surrendered combatants, indiscriminate attacks, collective punishment, starvation, the use of human shields, sexual violence and rape, torture, pillage, forced transfer, breach of medical neutrality, targeting journalists, attacking civilian and protected objects, wanton destruction, incitement to genocide, and genocide.

- c) Many residents in Kirklees remain gravely concerned about the continued horrifying situation in Gaza. Most societies consider murder to be an extremely serious crime, and thus believe that a person convicted of murder should receive harsh punishments for the purposes of retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, or incapacitation. In most countries, a person convicted of murder generally receives a long-term prison sentence, a life sentence, or capital punishment.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer and to the Foreign Secretary David Lammy to immediately request the following:

1. Suspend both extant licenses for military equipment and technology and the issuing of new licenses while Israel continues to carry out widespread serious violations with impunity.
2. Adhere to its obligations under international law, respect the International Court of Justice ruling, and advocate for adherence to international law and accountability for all parties.
3. Use every diplomatic and economic lever at its disposal to help secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire, to stop the death and destruction, and to secure the safe release of hostages on both sides.
4. Significant and immediate aid and protection for Palestinians in Gaza who face imminent danger from hunger, disease, and military bombardment.
5. To look at a leadership change in Israel. It appears increasingly clear that a ceasefire will not happen with Netanyahu and his supporters in control of Israel's policy and military.
6. Control of Gaza to be given to the Palestinian Authority.

In addition to the above we ask that the Council Leader that the Palestinian Flag be flown at Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury Town Halls in an act of remembrance for those who have died. In the past Huddersfield Town Hall have flown the Irish flag. The flags will be donated by a local Kirklees group and at no cost to the Kirklees Council or to the Local Council Taxpayers. Furthermore, we request the Council to stop buying products from Israeli companies, who have illegally occupied Palestinian territories, and to ensure that goods and consumables sourced from companies directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are not used.”

15: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Situation in the Middle East

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Pattison, Crook and McLoughlin;

“This Council notes that here in Kirklees our heart goes out to all those who have been killed, suffered injury or have lost someone in the ever-escalating conflict in the Middle East.

The Kirklees Labour Group has brought to this Council two motions on standing up for Gaza and Palestinians since the conflict began. We asked that the Council call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza and that there should be an end to all violence in the Middle East making way for a lasting peace across the area.

These motions were explicit from the beginning in their demands for:

- An immediate and permanent ceasefire
- The immediate, safe and unconditional release of all hostages
- Immediate, urgent, humanitarian aid to the Palestinians and funding to help them restore water, food, electricity, medicines and homes
- Ending the civilian bloodshed
- UK arms sales not to be used in acts that may amount to war crimes under international law

As soon as the Labour Party came to power at the General Election, and they were in a position to have some influence on this situation, there was a huge government policy shift compared to the previous Government on this issue. Right from the start the new Government, having listened to our lobbying over the past 12 months, has:

- Called for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Palestine and Lebanon
- Restored funding to UNWRA, the UN’s aid agency for Gaza
- Completed a review of UK arms exports licensing to Israel and has suspended 30 export licenses where there was a clear risk that exports, where used for military operations in Gaza, might be used in serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.
- Dropped the challenge of the previous Government to contest the right of the International Criminal Court to seek an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant.
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The conflict in the Middle East has now escalated to involve far more countries and residents in this warfare and continues to cause much grief and anguish to all those directly involved and to our communities here in Kirklees. The Government continues to call for an immediate ceasefire, increased humanitarian aid and for negotiations to continue to find a lasting peace in the region.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Repeat our calls for an immediate, permanent and lasting ceasefire in the Middle East, the release of all hostages and reiterates the UK's clear obligations under international law to support international institutions, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
 - 2) Encourage all Kirklees residents and businesses to continue their support for all those affected by this conflict.”
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16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

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

“This Council notes:

- 1) The two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 and is currently supported by the new Labour Government. The cap restricts Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit to the first two children in most households;
- 2) The recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition, which has found that:
 - 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. This is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
 - In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
 - There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
 - Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
 - Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion. However, it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy over £39 billion a year. This includes increased public service expenditures and lost economic output, due to lower earnings potential among adults who grow up in impoverished conditions.

- 3) New data which reveals that the Yorkshire and Humber region, which includes Kirklees, is a hotspot for children hit by the two-child limit on benefits, with 13% of children in Yorkshire and Humber impacted. As a comparison, across the nations, the figure is 11% for both England and Wales. At the same time, the number of children living in poverty in Kirklees in 2021/22 was 34,969. That is 33.7% of all children living in the district;
- 4) The Liberal Democrat national party has consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017, 2019 and 2024 manifestos. Council notes with concern the stance of the Labour Government, who are committed to keeping the cap – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebel against this position.

This Council believes that:

The two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown that its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty and has been a key driver of child poverty in recent years. Furthermore, the policy has had a negative impact on many people's mental health, increasing stress and anxiety and harming their wellbeing, with knock-on effects on children's opportunities and wellbeing.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating Kirklees Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help many children and households in Kirklees;
 - 2) Further, instruct the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering Kirklees Council's area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments;
 - 3) Ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council."
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By Order of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mawson', written in a cursive style.

Steve Mawson
Chief Executive

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 16 October 2024**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Munir Ahmed	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Aziz Daji
Councillor Hanifa Darwan	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Zahid Kahut	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Hannah McKerchar	Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah	Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Joshua Sheard	Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Anthony Smith	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Alex Vickers	Councillor Habiban Zaman

70 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Mayor acknowledged that Black History Month was taking place during the month of October, providing the opportunity for communities to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

The Mayor also acknowledged Baby Loss Awareness week, which had takes place annually on 9 to 15 October, and provides an opportunity to raise awareness of baby loss and campaign for the provision of better bereavement care.

The Chief Executive advised Council that National Care Leavers Week would commence on 28 October 2024, which the Council would be extending to celebrate as Kirklees Care Leavers month, and that a number of events had been planned to take place over the borough which Councillors were encouraged to participate in.

71 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Davies, Holmes, McGrath, Marchington, K Pinnock, Moore and A Zaman.

72 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

73 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Taylor declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No.80 refers) on the grounds that he is Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

74 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

Council received a petition from Councillor Bramwell which requested the re-opening of Dewsbury Sports Centre dry side activities.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the subject matter of the petition be referred to the relevant Executive Director.

75 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council received a deputation from Sara Blagborough regarding the future of Claremont House and Castle Grange Care Homes.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

76 Public Question Time

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11, the following written questions were submitted;

(i) Question from Mike Forster

“According to the Cabinet figures, Castle Grange and Claremont House homes currently cost £1290 (per person per week) to run, but the Cabinet is suggesting the private sector will be able to run them for £853! That will leave a shortfall of £437. Who is expected to make up the difference?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

(ii) Question from Sarah Newton

“Currently most care homes in Kirklees that say they provide dementia care, only accommodate dementia residents. This often means that those with dementia are in a locked suite with limited movement reducing their quality of life. If the Council continue to transfer ownership to the private sector how will they guarantee the same quality of freedom, dignity and care for our loved ones receive in Castle Grange and Claremont House as a solely Dementia Care Home?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

(iii) Question from Sarah Newton

“If the Council continue to transfer ownership, how will they guarantee that the new owner will not change its use from solely dementia care or that they will say in 6 months time that dementia care is not financially viable and close the home to reopen as adults with learning difficulties, as your report to Cabinet, that was approved last week, states as a possibility?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

77 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 25 July 2024 were approved as a correct record.

78 Petition Debate - Cleckheaton Town Hall

Council held a petition debate on the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a.

79 Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - Annual Report 2023/2024 (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Homewood, seconded by Councillor Taylor and

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report be received and that the assurances that the Committee complies with CIPFA’s Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police be noted.

80 Report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Homewood and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That no changes be made to the 2024/2025 Members Allowances Scheme, other than to apply the same percentage pay award awarded to Officers to the basic allowances and that SRAs be backdated to 1 April 2024.

- 2) That the same percentage pay award awarded to Officers be continually applied to the basic allowance and SRAs in subsequent years, in accordance with the recommendation of the Democracy Commission (2017).
- 3) That it be noted that the Panel will reconvene to consider the Members Allowances Scheme for 2025/2026, in line with the issues identified in the report at Appendix A, along with any other additional issues as determined by the Panel.

81 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report (Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Smaje, seconded by Councillor Burke and

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report be received and noted.

82 Appointment of Chair - Licensing and Safety Committee

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

RESOLVED – That Councillor Eric Firth be appointed as Chair of Licensing and Safety Committee, with immediate effect, for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal year.

83 Appointment of Chair - Personnel Committee

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

RESOLVED – That Councillor Carole Pattison be appointed as Chair of Personnel Committee, with immediate effect, for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal year.

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

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12, the following written questions were submitted;

Question from Councillor Taylor

“When was the relevant Cabinet Member (at the time) first informed of the losses being incurred by the District Heating Scheme and what action did they take to ensure that the matter was rectified?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

Question from Councillor Taylor

“When was the Leader of the Council and other Cabinet members advised of the losses being incurred by the District Heating scheme and what actions did they take to check that the matter was being tackled?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

Question from Councillor Taylor

“How were the £1m losses in 2022/23 in District Housing accounted for in the subsequent budget planning for following years and when was this first recorded on the Corporate Risk register?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Khan

“Why have future changes to the criteria and decision-making process for Cllrs ward budgets been delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder? Does this not undermine democracy and make the Cabinet more officer led thus undermining democracy?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Khan

“When can the residents of Rawthorpe, Town Estate and Springbank Estates expect to hear from the Council in relation to the considered proposals for permit parking in their area?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

Question from Councillor Khan

“Once the dementia homes are privatised what powers will the Council have to control costs of care for those who do not exceed the upper capital limit for care?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“Residents in Netherton were promised an extension to the Greenway from Netherton Fold to join with Meltham greenway many years ago.

Can you update me on what progress has been made to date and when spades will go into the ground to start this work?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“At Cabinet on 8th October you eluded to Kirklees having a zero tolerance on fly tipping, could you inform us what this looks like?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“The residents of Crosland Moor are blighted by anti social parking around the post office and other shops on Dryclough Road and Blackmoorfoot Road. Will there be further recruitment of parking enforcement officers to stop these drivers parking on double yellow lines and the zig zag lines of the zebra crossing. I'm sure this problem is not just specific to Crosland Moor and other wards suffer this problem around shopping areas and schools as well?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

Question from Councillor Safdar

“The Council announced potential redundancies in August 2023 to date the unions have yet to receive a copy of the redundancy policy, when are they likely to receive this?”

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

“As Leader of a minority administration how do you intend to work better and more constructively with the other groups and independents who out number your group significantly?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison)

Question from Councillor Arshad

“With regards to the long-standing Ringway project, which has been in the pipeline for implementation by our Council for several decades. This project aligns with our policies for active travel, healthy living, reducing road congestion, and enabling access to safe outdoor exercise for minority communities.

Despite its importance, there has been no progress made on this project in decades. I would like to understand the council's plans for allocating resources to purchase the "ransomed" strip of land held by Thomas Crompton, which is crucial for finalising the project.

In the interest of the residents of Heckmondwike, Dewsbury Moor, Liversedge,

and beyond, can you supply me with information on the Council's willingness to work collaboratively with local groups to promote and progress the Ringway project and could you tell me if the Council is actively seeking and accessing all available funding sources to ensure the successful completion of this project?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

Question from Councillor Darwan

"What type of peace flag does the Leader intend to fly above Dewsbury and Huddersfield Town Halls?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

85 Minutes of Cabinet

Council received the Minutes of Cabinet held on 9 July and 13 August 2024.

86 Holding Executive to Account

Council received portfolio updates from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison) and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner), prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

87 Minutes of Other Committees

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

89 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Gaza - a year on, urgent action is still needed

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

90 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

91 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Providing Similar Support Mechanisms as Ukraine to those impacted by the Genocide in Palestine

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

- 92 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposing Racist and Islamophobic Violence**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 93 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposing Cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Vulnerable Pensioners**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 94 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Reforming the Right to Buy Scheme**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 95 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Winter Fuel Payment Cuts**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 96 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefits Payments**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Council
Councillor Martin Love	Bradford Council
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen (Substitute)	Bradford Council
Councillor Sue Holdsworth	Calderdale Council

In attendance:

Councillor Barry Anderson (Observer)	Chair of Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Ben Burton (Observer)	York Council
Ben Still (Chief Executive)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss (Chief Operating Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Warburton (Executive Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dave Haskins (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Felix Kumi-Ampofo (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Norreys (Assistant Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Jess McNeill (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Mayor's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and acknowledging new members. Congratulations were extended to Cllr Martin Love from Bradford Council, representing the Green Party, who had joined the Combined Authority as a political balance member. Cllr Ben Burton from York Council, attending as an observer in the absence of Cllr Claire Douglas, was also welcomed. The Chair then proceeded with the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Claire Douglas (York Council), Cllr Alan Lamb (Leeds Council) and Private Sector Representative, Mandy

Ridyard. Cllr Ben Burton (York Council) attended the meeting as an observer and Cllr Rebecca Poulsen (Bradford Council) attended as a substitute for Cllr Lamb.

3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests at the meeting.

4. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items present on the agenda which required the exclusion of the press and public.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 25 July 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 25 July 2024 were approved as a correct record.

6. Mayor's Update

The Chair opened the meeting by noting that 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the Combined Authority's first meeting in April 2014. The Chair highlighted significant achievements over the past decade, including investments in transport, flood protection, housing, and skills development. Emphasis was placed on the strength of the Combined Authority's partnership and the need to adapt as new powers from the English Devolution Bill are negotiated. The Chair also acknowledged the Chief Executive of Leeds Council, Tom Riordan's contribution to the region as he transitions to a new role in central government.

7. Appointments to the Combined Authority and Committees

The Combined Authority considered a report on membership and political balance changes. Officers detailed Kirklees Council's appointments and nominations to the Combined Authority and its committees, along with changes in political balance and committee appointments.

Resolved:

- (i) The Combined Authority noted the appointment of Cllr Carole Pattison to the Combined Authority, with Cllr Moses Crook as substitute member.
- (ii) The Combined Authority noted the appointment of Cllr Martin Love to the Combined Authority as a political balance member, with Cllr Andrew Cooper as substitute member.
- (iii) The Combined Authority approved the appointment of Cllr Carole Pattison to the Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee.
- (iv) The Combined Authority noted the changes to the appointment of

members approved in between the ordinary cycle of meetings as set out in paragraph 3.12 of the report.

8. Bradford Interchange Update

The Combined Authority considered a report on the closure of Bradford Interchange bus station due to safety concerns. Officers summarised survey findings, reopening strategies, and plans for a new interchange. Next steps included safety assessments, bus service improvements, and long-term development of a new facility.

The Chair acknowledged the hardship caused to the public by the closure of Bradford Interchange and expressed gratitude for their patience during this period. The closure, prompted by safety concerns, was deemed necessary, but recent survey results showed promising signs. The Chair anticipated the reopening of the station following necessary mitigations and highlighted ongoing collaboration with Bradford Council on plans for a new bus station to integrate with future transport developments.

Members voiced frustration over the closure's impact on the public and sought clarification on reopening timelines. Officers reiterated the closure's safety necessity and provided assurance based on favourable survey results. They committed to providing detailed updates in October. Concerns were raised about communication with local stakeholders and the decision-making process. Officers outlined plans for future asset management and recovery, emphasising the reopening's importance in alleviating public hardship and aligning with long-term transport development plans.

Resolved:

- (i) The Combined Authority noted the emerging conclusions relating to Bradford Interchange bus station following the completion of the initial stage of structural surveys and endorsed the proposed next steps in commencing work towards a plan for reopening.
- (ii) The Combined Authority noted that a further report would be presented in October updating members on the intervening activity including the outcome of further expert advice, subject to which a decision on the reopening of the Interchange would then be considered, including the timeline and future monitoring requirements.

9. Draft Local Growth Plan

The Combined Authority considered a report on the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan. Officers introduced key priorities, including improving transport connectivity, supporting high-growth sectors, enhancing skills development, and regenerating regional areas to address local and national growth challenges.

The Chair noted the aim was to deliver the plan within the next six months.

The Chair highlighted ongoing engagement with the Government and the collaborative efforts shaping the region's long-term growth strategy.

Members discussed the six-month timeline for delivering the growth plan, emphasising its importance in shaping the region's strategy and securing resources from the Government. Officers highlighted the October submission deadline and ongoing consultations. Members stressed the need to address underinvestment in West Yorkshire, attract private investment, and improve infrastructure to support economic growth and tackle inequalities.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority noted the latest position on government engagement and endorsed the Local Growth Plan development.

10. Managing the Combined Authority's Portfolio

The Combined Authority considered a report on managing its delivery portfolio and maximising funding. Officers introduced the report, highlighting the need for transparency, improved delivery timescales, and resetting the capital portfolio to align with funding and strategic priorities, particularly in transport and capital projects.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority noted the pressures on the Combined Authority's delivery portfolio and endorsed the proposals to the revised ways of working.

11. Employment Support and Business Start-up Support

The Combined Authority considered a report on the immediate risks to employment support and business start-up provisions in West Yorkshire. Officers introduced the report, highlighting funding uncertainties for the Employment and Enterprise West Yorkshire programmes, with options to address labour market needs and support high-growth sectors.

Members discussed the importance of providing certainty for employment programmes delivered in partnership with local authorities. They also emphasised the need for value for money and to avoid duplication, stressing the importance of measuring outcomes to ensure effective use of funds and continued programme success.

Resolved:

- (i) Members provided in-principle approval for retaining Employment West Yorkshire as the primary delivery model for addressing economic activity and supporting residents into work in the region.
- (ii) They accepted the recommended option for Enterprise West Yorkshire Start-Up.
- (iii) Members delegated authority to the Combined Authority's Head of Paid Service to approve the change request for the Enterprise West Yorkshire and Employment West Yorkshire programmes, if required, in line with future guidance from central government and subject to

approval of the Combined Authority's budget.

12. Project Approvals

11a Project Approvals - Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability

Members discussed how the region's housing contributed to carbon emissions. They emphasised the importance of retrofitting older homes and praised the Better Homes Hub as a platform for all residents, including landlords. Concerns were raised about ensuring quality installations and meeting ambitious retrofit targets. Officers confirmed robust procurement processes were in place, with ongoing assessments that showed early success in solar panel installations. Members stressed the need to exceed initial targets and ensure continuous reporting on progress.

Home Energy West Yorkshire Programme - Additional Approval

Resolved: The Combined Authority approved the change request to the Home Energy West Yorkshire programme for additional development costs of £400,000, to develop the future years business case was approved. The total programme development cost approval was £5,628,585.

Home Energy West Yorkshire – One Stop Shop

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved, subject to conditions, that:

- (i) That the Home Energy West Yorkshire One Stop Shop scheme proceeded through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commenced on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) The Combined Authority's contribution of up to £10,506,015 for the One Stop Shop scheme. The total scheme cost was £10,506,015.
- (iii) That future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the report.

Delegated Decisions

Resolved:

- (i) That, since the Combined Authority's meeting on 25 July 2024, the following decision points and change requests have been assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the delegation to the Director of Policing, Environment and Place.
- (ii) That the change request for the Better Neighbourhoods scheme was approved to increase the total scheme costs by £100,000 to £2,310,000, with a Combined Authority funding contribution of £100,000. The total scheme cost was £2,310,000.

11b Project Approvals - Investment Priority 5 – Delivering Sustainable, Integrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved:

- (i) That the change request for the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to accept the £13,373,000 of additional funding from BSIP Phase 3, increasing the total from £77,724,512 to £91,097,512, was approved.
- (ii) That the change request for the allocation of the £13,373,000 BSIP Phase 3 funding and the reallocation of funding from the existing BSIP schemes to the Mayor's Fares, Enhanced Safer Travel Partnership, and Network Enhancements and Superbus schemes was approved as follows:
 - Mayor's Fares – an increase of £17,400,000, from £33,974,070 to £51,374,070, to ensure the delivery of the scheme to 31 December 2024.
 - Network Enhancements and Superbus – a decrease of £2,548,000, from £29,100,000 to £26,552,000.
 - Enhanced Safer Travel Partnership – an increase of £316,000, from £1,000,000 to £1,316,000, to ensure the delivery of the scheme to 31 March 2025.
- (iii) That the Combined Authority provided the additional funding to bus operators for the Mayor's Fares and Network Enhancements and Superbus schemes using existing compensation arrangements. The bus routes supported by the Network Enhancements and Superbus (Tranche 1) scheme and the amount of funding allocated to each bus operator were delegated to the Executive Director, Transport.
- (iv) That future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the report.

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) - Highways Asset Management and Enhancement and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved:

- (i) That the change request to increase the indicative approval for the CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancements and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network programme by £9,266,000, from £257,924,800 to £267,190,800, was approved. The total programme cost was £267,190,800.

- (ii) That the £9,266,000 additional funding awarded from the Department for Transport's Network North Road Resurfacing Fund was apportioned to partner councils as follows to be spent in year 2 (2023/24) and year 3 (2024/25):
- Bradford Council - up to £1,899,530
 - Calderdale Council - up to £1,111,920
 - Kirklees Council - up to £1,843,934
 - Leeds City Council - up to £2,909,524
 - Wakefield Council - up to £1,501,092
- (iii) That the change request to the CRSTS Highways Asset Management and Enhancements and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network programme to change partner councils' programme spend forecast profiles and approve funding for delivery as outlined below was approved:
- Full approval to £3,749,912 was brought forward from Leeds City Council's forecast spend profile from years 4 and 5 (2025/26 and 2026/27) to be spent in year 3 (2024/25) to derisk a significant final year spend forecast.
 - Full approval to £3,347,000 was brought forward from Leeds City Council's forecast spend profile from year 5 to be spent in year 3 (2024/25) to fund the Dawsons Corner/ Stanningley Bypass scheme.
 - Full approval to £936,092 was brought forward from Kirklees Council's forecast spend profile from year 4 (2025/26) to cover a funding shortfall due to overprogramming of schemes in years 2 (2023/24) and 3 (2024/25).
- (iv) That the Combined Authority entered into addendums to existing funding agreements with all partner councils for expenditure of the apportioned Network North Road Resurfacing Fund of £9,266,000 and with Kirklees Council for a further £936,092, comprising reprofiled Highways Asset Management and Enhancement expenditure of up to £886,092 and Off Highway Walking and Cycling Network expenditure of up to £50,000, and with Leeds City Council for a further £7,096,912 of reprofiled Highways Asset Management and Enhancement expenditure, totalling the amounts below:
- Up to £34,507,362 with Bradford Council
 - Up to £21,065,952 with Calderdale Council
 - Up to £34,646,229 with Kirklees Council
 - Up to £60,042,988 with Leeds City Council
 - Up to £26,090,670 with Wakefield Council
- (v) That future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the report.

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) – Network Management and Enhancement Programme

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved:

- (i) That the change request to increase the indicative approval for the CRSTS – Network Management Renewals and Enhancements programme by £507,826, from £25,000,000 to £25,507,826, was approved. The total programme cost was £25,507,826.
- (ii) That the £507,826 additional funding awarded from the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant was apportioned to partner councils as follows, to be spent by 31 March 2026:
 - Bradford Council - £117,307.80
 - Calderdale Council - £34,532.17
 - Kirklees Council - £72,619.12
 - Leeds City Council - £210,747.79
 - Wakefield Council - £72,619.12
- (iii) That the Combined Authority entered into addendums to existing Funding Agreements with partner councils for expenditure as follows:
 - Up to £3,767,307.80 with Bradford Council
 - Up to £972,032.17 with Calderdale Council
 - Up to £2,352,619.12 with Kirklees Council
 - Up to £6,190,747.79 with Leeds City Council
 - Up to £2,182,619.12 with Wakefield Council
- (iv) That future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in the report.

Bus and Cycle Priority Corridor (BCPC) - Wakefield Road Sustainable Travel Corridor (Bradford)

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved:

- (i) That the Bus and Cycle Priority Corridor (BCPC) - Wakefield Road Sustainable Travel Corridor scheme proceeded through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commenced on activity 3 (outline business case).
- (ii) That an indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £20,000,000 was given, with the total scheme value being £20,000,000.
- (iii) That development costs of £2,709,504 were approved to progress the scheme to decision point 3 (outline business case), bringing the total scheme full approval to £3,308,128.

- (iv) That the Combined Authority entered into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for expenditure of up to £3,308,128.
- (v) That future approvals were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

Delegated Decisions

- (i) That, since the Combined Authority's meeting on 25 July 2024, the decision points and change requests have been assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the delegation to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive.
- (ii) That the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) – Leeds Station Platform Extensions Scheme was approved to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case), with work commencing on activity 4 (full business case). The total indicative value of the scheme is £29,200,000, with £10,000,000 in indicative funding from the Combined Authority.

13. Procurement Reform and Amendments to Contracts Standing Orders

The Combined Authority considered a report on future potential changes to procurement processes as a consequence of the new Procurement Act and in order to facilitate effective future delivery. At the time of publication of the report, it was anticipated that the Procurement Act would come into effect from 28 October 2024 and therefore the report sought a delegation to the Chief Operating Officer to make changes to the Authority's Contract Standing Orders. Members were advised at the meeting that the date for implementation of the new Act had now been delayed to 28 February 2025 which provided time for the revisions to the Contract Standing Orders to be presented to the Combined Authority for approval and members agreed a revised recommendation to reflect this.

Resolved:

- (i) That the scope and intention of making upcoming changes to Contract Standing Orders be noted and endorsed.
- (ii) That the revised Contract Standing Orders would be brought to a future meeting of the Combined Authority for approval.

14. Merger of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee with the Employment and Skills Committee

The Combined Authority considered a report on the proposed merger of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee with the Employment and Skills Committee to form a new Economy Committee. Officers introduced the

report, outlining proposed membership, draft terms of reference, and the meeting calendar. Appointment of members to the Committee would form part of a governance paper to be presented to the October meeting of the Combined Authority

Resolved: That the proposals contained within the report for merging the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee with the Employment and Skills Committee to establish a new Economy Committee be approved.

15. Governance and Risk Management

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting the draft Annual Governance Statement and updated Risk Management Strategy for approval. Officers introduced the report, highlighting governance improvements, risk management updates, and key recommendations for enhancing compliance and decision-making processes.

Resolved:

- (i) That the draft Annual Governance Statement at Appendix 1 to the report be approved for publication as part of the annual accounts.
- (ii) That the draft Risk Management Strategy at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

16. Minutes for Information

The Combined Authority noted a report which provided details of published minutes and notes since the last meeting.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Combined Authority was scheduled to be held on Thursday 31 October 2024.