



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

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## Decision Summary

**Committee:**

**Date:**

**Committee Clerk:**

**TEL:**

**COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024**

**Andrea Woodside**

**01484 221000**

### **Chair**

Councillor Nosheen Dad

### **Councillors Attended**

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 Martyn Bolt

Councillor Tanisha Bramwell

Councillor Damian Brook

Councillor Cahal Burke

Councillor Aafaq Butt

Councillor Andrew Cooper

Councillor Moses Crook

Councillor Hanifa Darwan

Councillor Paola Antonia Davies

Councillor Eric Firth

Councillor Charles Greaves

Councillor Tyler Hawkins

Councillor Lisa Holmes

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 Andrew Marchington  
Councillor Harry McCarthy  
Councillor Tony McGrath  
Councillor Hannah McKerchar  
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin  
Councillor Paul Moore  
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 Graham Turner  
Councillor Sheikh Ullah  
Councillor Adam Zaman  
Councillor Habiban Zaman

### **Apologies**

Councillor Aziz Daji, Councillor David Hall, Councillor Gwen Lowe, Councillor Kath Pinnock, Councillor Mark Thompson and Councillor Alex Vickers

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## **2: Apologies for absence**

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Daji, Hall, Lowe, K Pinnock, Thompson and Vickers.

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

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> Novemver 2024.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

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#### **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.

Councillors Armer, Firth, Kendrick, Longstaff, Pattison, Sewell and Sokhal declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 13 in their capacity as former recipients of Winter Fuel Allowance payments.

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

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

Councillor Hussain submitted a petition which requested action in regards to the provision of burial space in Dewsbury and Batley.

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#### **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.

Sara Blagborough submitted a petition which sought to save Kirklees specialist dementia care homes from privatisation.

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#### **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."

**RESOLVED** – Motion approved.