



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

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Decision Summary

Committee:
Date:
Committee Clerk:
TEL:

COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025
Andrea Woodside
01484 221000

Chair

Councillor Nosheen Dad

Councillors Attended

Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy
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 David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson

Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Gwen Lowe
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 Kath Pinnock
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Alex Vickers

Apologies

Councillor Munir Ahmed, Councillor Bill Armer, Councillor Martyn Bolt, Councillor Aziz Daji, Councillor Zahid Kahut, Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton, Councillor Anthony Smith, Councillor Adam Zaman and Councillor Habiban Zaman

9: Proposed Revision to Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 - 2030

To consider adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2025 to 2030.

Contact: Fiona Goldsmith, Licensing

RESOLVED – That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 to 2030 be approved and adopted.

10: Cumulative Impact Assessment (Cumulative Impact Assessment for Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres, relating to premises licensed to sell alcohol with off sales only)

To consider the adoption of the Cumulative Impact Assessment for Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres, relating to premises licensed to sell alcohol with off sales only.

Contact: Fiona Goldsmith, Licensing

RESOLVED – That the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy be adopted, and reviewed every three years in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act.

13: 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."

RESOLVED – Motion not carried.

14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Family Farm Tax

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

"This Council notes that:

The recent 2024 Autumn Budget change to Inheritance Tax relief announced by the Labour Government will introduce a Family Farm Tax and will have a detrimental impact on Family Farms and farmers' ability to pass on their farms

to the next generation of farmers.

This Council believes that:

- The Labour Government have committed a shameful betrayal and let down farmers by breaking their promise to not introduce a Family Farm Tax.
- The Family Farm Tax will damage the ability of farmers to pass on their farms to their children.
- Labour's Family Farm Tax will threaten food security by forcing the sale of family farms.
- The Labour Government's Family Farm Tax will make British food production harder.
- That the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed and Keir Starmer promised not to introduce a tax like this.
- Numerous rural and farming organisations such as the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association have warned that countless farms will be harmed, threatening food security and rural areas.
- The comments made by Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed that already struggling farmers will have to 'do more with less'.
- At a time when many farmers across Kirklees are struggling with soaring costs and energy prices, this sudden tax rise will damage the future of their farms.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's dismay at this decision and calls on the Government to stop the Family Farm Tax.
- That the Leader of the Council engages with local farmers and community representatives on what the Council can do to support them.
- That the Council seeks to support local farmers by using local produce, produced in Kirklees wherever possible."

RESOLVED – Motion approved.
