

Public Document Pack



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

Samantha Lawton

Governance and Commissioning

PO Box 1720

Huddersfield

HD1 9EL

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Jenny Bryce-Chan

Email: jenny.bryce-chan@kirklees.gov.uk

Friday 10 January 2025

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 20 January 2025**.

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 - 4

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 9th December 2024.

3: Declaration of Interests

5 - 6

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: Draft Kirklees Transport Strategy, Policy Themes & Consultation Plan

7 - 12

To present the Draft Kirklees Transport Strategy including policy themes contained within the Draft Strategy document. Decisions are needed to commence a district wide public consultation on the Strategy and to endorse the Consultation Plan.

Contact: Rory Davis, Transport Strategy & Policy Lead Tel: 01484 221000.

8: Community Asset Transfer

The Panel will receive an update on Community Asset Transfer by way of a presentation.

Contact: Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development.

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

GROWTH AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday 9th December 2024

Present: Councillor Zarina Amin (Chair)
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Harry McCarthy

Co-optees Jonathan Milner

In attendance: Cllr Grahm Turner, Cabinet member for Finance and
Regeneration
Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and
Regeneration
Jonathan Nunn, Policy and Partnership Officer
Chris Duffill, Head of Business and Skills

Apologies: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Aziz Daji
Chris Friend (Co-Optee)

1 Membership of the Panel

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Armer, Cllr Aziz Daji and Chris Friend.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 November 2024, were approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

In accordance with Council Procedure rule 11, Mr Andrew Wilson 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 Inclusive Economy Strategy - draft for consultation**

The Panel was presented with information which outlined the Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy draft for consultation. Cllr Graham Turner, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration, introduced the item advising the Panel that initially when work was being undertaken to review the strategy, it was decided that the vast majority of it was still relevant, therefore, it would be refreshed to bring it up to date. The basic fundamentals of wanting strong economic growth, creating well paid jobs and to drive the local economy are still there, therefore it is a refresh rather than a total redraft of the strategy.

Edward Highfield, Service Director for Skills and Regeneration, informed the Panel that the current economic plan expires in 2025, and therefore it is timely to refresh the strategy, and it will sit alongside the other top tier strategies. As a result of being considered a top tier strategy, once finalised, the draft will need to progress to Cabinet for endorsement and finally to Full Council, and the view of Scrutiny is part of the development process. Comments from the Panel and other comments received through other partnership forums will all be taken on board in a final draft that will go to Cabinet in the new year.

The aim of this is inclusive growth, a more inclusive form of growth in Kirklees to ensure that everybody in society is able to participate and benefit from the proceeds of a growing economy. It is both a growth plan and more importantly it is about a more inclusive pattern of growth.

The Panel was informed that over the past six months there is now a stronger much clearer alignment between national, regional and local policy and trying to draft this strategy a year ago was more challenging. Since then, there has been the publication of the National Industrial Strategy and a better understanding of the sectors the government is trying to promote on a UK basis, and it is easy to articulate where Kirklees has relative strengths in those key national industrial sectors. Through the West Yorkshire mayor there has been work on a local growth plan and this strategy for Kirklees aims to articulate what the vision and strategy is for Kirklees and how it contributes to both the West Yorkshire and the national policy.

In terms of the structure of the document, there are a couple of organising principles:

- The first is well established around people, place and partners. When referring to people, that is around employment skills activity, helping people to participate in and benefit from a growing economy and anything that affects people either in or out of work. Place would capture a lot of the regeneration ambitions, connectivity priorities, environmental activities and things that affect the place of Kirklees. In respect of partners, the majority of that section is on businesses, because business on an economic strategy is critical, and there are other partners around such as the university that are very important. That section is on business and how the council and other agencies can create an environment where it is easier to start, grow or locate into Kirklees to start or grow a new business.

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 9 December 2024

The second is within the basic structure of the document, there are a series of objectives around productivity, inclusion and sustainability. Productivity because there is a productivity challenge in Kirklees, as there is in the rest of the region and across the UK. It is recognised that Kirklees lags regional averages on productivity and the region lags national averages.

There is a debate whether productivity is the right term, however, the point being made is that productivity drives peoples wages. This is about how much money being taken home at the end of the week. If Kirklees was to match the national average on productivity, every full-time worker would have an extra £70 per week. While productivity is an economic term, fundamentally it is about the wages an individual is able to command and businesses need to become more productive whether through investment, technology, plant and machinery processes and leadership and management. Inclusion is to ensure that everybody in society is able to benefit from, and contribute to a growing economy. Growth on its own is not enough, it is an enabler and ensuring that growth is an inclusive form of growth is essential. Sustainability is one of the big changes in this refresh compared to previous strategies and there is an emphasis given on the climate emergency and sustainability. Proactive effort will need to be made, and putting resources into tackling productivity, inclusion and sustainability at the same time.

The Panel was informed that this is just a strategy and there are action and delivery plans that sit beneath it, however it is an important articulation of the vision for Kirklees and the framework to try and realise that vision.

In response to the information presented, the Panel asked a number of questions and made comments including some of the following: -

- How is the effectiveness of the current strategy being measured and are there some benchmarks?
- How does this affect areas of deprivation is anything being done in addition for those particular areas?
- Are you anticipating any problems with this strategy actually being effective and can you foresee any areas where it may not be effective?
- In terms of supporting employers to develop their workforce particularly through higher level apprenticeships as well as skills and training, how is that to be achieved particularly as there is a cost to the employer, for example national insurance which has just been increased?
- What type of green skills and training will be available, will it be for example retrofitting buildings that will be needed for 2050?
- Is anything being done about the retention of students from Huddersfield University, working with the University, leasing out Kirklees buildings for graduates to set up start-ups?
- Do you measure any crossover between productivity and the exporting of labour, is it that people leave the area to work because there are not the certain types of jobs in this area or is it purely because they leave to get more money?
- Overall, does Kirklees look at neighbouring authorities and is there an ability to look at their strategies?

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 9 December 2024

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Graham Turner, Edward Highfield, Jonathan Nunn and Chris Duffill be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy, Draft for consultation.

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.



Report title: Draft Kirklees Transport Strategy, Policy Themes & Consultation Plan

Meeting	Scrutiny
Date	20 January 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Moses Crook
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>To present the Draft Kirklees Transport Strategy including policy themes contained within the Draft Strategy document. Decisions are needed to commence a district wide public consultation on the Strategy and to endorse the Consultation Plan.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Cabinet approve the draft strategy at Appendix 1 to this report. • That Cabinet agree to commence public consultation. • That Cabinet note the Consultation Plan. • That Cabinet approve the commission of a report detailing the outcome of the public consultation, to present in 2025 when seeking approval of the final strategy. 	
<p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have the necessary authority to progress consultation and engagement with the public on the Draft Transport Strategy. Maintain progress towards the formal adoption of the strategy in 2025. 	
<p>Resource Implication: The delivery of the strategy is not generating a resource request or aligne with a specific budget. The cost to develop the Transport Strategy, included all consultation and engagement activity, is derived from external WYCA funding. Capacity is being regularly reviewed and assessed throughout the process.</p>	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	David Shepherd
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Samantha Lawton

Electoral wards affected: Kirklees-wide consultation/strategy, all wards affected.

Ward councillors consulted: Portfolio holders have been briefed on the draft strategy, with wider member engagement due to take place in November 2024.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes.

1. Executive Summary

The Council's Transport Strategy & Policy team have been working with our partners and key stakeholders to develop the Kirklees Draft Transport Strategy. The draft strategy is presented to Cabinet for consideration and endorsement with a request to commence public consultation. A better approach to transport in Kirklees will help to deliver against core Council priorities: good transport is a core factor in the support of investment and regeneration, it helps places to thrive and allows communities to become more connected. A stronger focus on more sustainable forms of transport, which supports mode shift, will help to deliver a greener, healthier Kirklees and work in tandem with our Net Zero ambitions. The adoption of a distinct Transport Strategy will direct this approach and allow the Council to work to better transport for Kirklees and its communities.

The purpose of this report is to present the draft strategy for consultation and to present the plan in consulting and engaging the public and other stakeholders on this. This will include a series of activities which are set out in the Communications Plan. This has been developed with our internal Comms Team.

Following the feedback and comments received a final Transport Strategy will be presented at a future Cabinet for adoption in Summer 2024.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Transport Strategy and Policy Team have been working on the production of a draft strategy since early 2024. Alongside external consultants, a Literature Review, Communications Plan and Draft Strategy document have been developed.

Before this strategy can be finalised, we will be needing to consult and engage with the public and other appropriate stakeholders and partners.

Once adopted, the Strategy will establish the Council's transport ambition, support decision making, direct future funding bids, project activity and spend. The Strategy will remain fully aligned with the key priorities detailed in the Council Plan.

It may be necessary to make minor updates to the strategy annually to ensure references in the documentation remain relevant (e.g. references to an initiative or project). Such updates will also ensure alignment to local, regional and national policy or legislative changes. This will be done in conjunction with our monitoring and evaluation exercises, to determine progress in meeting our overall strategy objectives.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

The Transport Strategy is centred around five key strategic objectives:

1. Improving health and wellbeing
2. Protecting our environment
3. Transformational public transport investments
4. Nurturing inclusive communities
5. Developing an inclusive economy

The Transport Strategy will help contribute to the following shared outcomes detailed in the Council Plan: Well, Independent, Sustainable Economy, Safe and Cohesive, Clean and Green. The Transport Strategy is also in alignment with the Key Strategies (Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Inclusive Communities Framework, Inclusive Economy Strategy and the Environment Strategy).

Policies within the strategy all contribute to achieving one or more of these objectives, which are aligned with the Council priorities. In particular; achieving a greener, healthier Kirklees and addressing the challenges of Climate Change. And the need to invest and regenerate our towns and villages to support our diverse places and communities to flourish.

3.2 Financial Implications

The development of the Council's Transport Strategy and the activities within the Communications Plan is supported by external WYCA funding. There are no financial implications linked to Council's revenue budgets.

The Transport Strategy, once adopted, will support future strategic decision making around funding bids in delivering the wider ambition.

3.3 Legal Implications

The Council has decided to undertake a non-statutory consultation on its proposals which has been carried out so it will improve the quality of the decision making. A fair consultation is one undertaken when proposals are at a formative stage; sufficient reasons are given for proposals to allow intelligent consideration together with criteria that will be applied when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance; adequate time is given for consideration and response; and the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account before any final decision is taken. Members should carefully consider the outcomes of the consultation when considering the recommendations put forward by officers in this report including the IIA and all other relevant issues.

The council must comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed options is advisable. The Council when exercising its functions must have "due regard to the need to": a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Section 149(7) sets out 7

protected characteristics namely: age, disability, gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

3.4 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Risk

The Draft Transport Strategy has been drafted to present a future transport ambition that is fair, balanced and reflects the diverse geographies of Kirklees. There will remain a reputational risk around the extent of representation of certain transport modes.

In managing expectations, it is important we consult and engage with our partners, communities and businesses in ensuring a balanced strategy is developed.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

An IIA has been completed to ensure protected characteristic groups (as defined in the Public Sector Equality Duty, under the Equality Act 2010) are not adversely impacted.

We will ensure environmental impacts across Kirklees remain in support of Council's Climate Emergency commitments.

4 Consultation

Transport Strategy and Policy Team have been working closely with our Communications Team to develop our Communication Plan to support the consultation and engagement activity we will be undertaking before the strategy is adopted. The Strategy is a document which will impact the whole of Kirklees, and we aim to encourage a wide a response as possible. Transport is something which affects all of us, no matter how we travel and get around, and we want to encourage engagement with this issue. We are keen to ensure that the messaging around the strategy is of the right balance, to influence a positive narrative with the public and other relevant stakeholders.

There will be some social media activity around the consultation which will commence in early January 2025. A press release on the strategy will be released in January 2025, prior to the publication of the Scrutiny Report, after which the proposed consultation will be in the public domain. The public consultation will be live for 8 weeks. There will be external advertisement of the survey, which has been planned by our internal communications team. This will include advertisements in public spaces, on social media, and on forms of public transport. We will also be advertising the strategy in council buildings across the district, and promoting the consultation through council-managed newsletters, forums, meetings and community groups.

There will be a survey questionnaire, which will also be live for a period of 8 weeks. This will primarily be available online, with alternative formats available on request. Throughout the live consultation period, a number of face-to-face engagement events will be held across the district. Rather than holding events where information is presented to residents, these will be 'drop-in' events, where members of the Transport, Strategy and Policy Team will be available to answer questions on the Kirklees Transport Strategy, and to discuss the questionnaire or help residents fill this in. These events will be located at rail and bus stations, supermarket, markets, Health

Centres and Religious Centres. We have consulted with the Communities Team on this approach, and they have recommended that 'drop-in' sessions, at spaces where residents naturally visit, is likely to be the most successfully for survey response rates. The response will be analysed and presented at future Cabinet meeting. Census data is being used to derive benchmark figures for target response rates from the following demographics: Gender, Age, Disability, Employment Status and Usual Mode of Travel.

There are several live consultations relating to transport occurring during the 2024 Autumn period by WYCA. We are hoping to avoid this period as it could cause misunderstanding and confusion, which may have a detrimental impact on response rates. Hence our planned consultation period is to commence in early March 2025.

5 Engagement

We have already undertaken early engagement activity on the draft strategy in late October 2024. These include workshop sessions booked in with relevant internal technical colleagues, WYCA, the other WYCA districts, and cross-border districts outside of West Yorkshire.

We are conscious of the need to align with other Council plans and strategies. Throughout the process, we have been meeting regularly with Officers regarding the Local Plan, to ensure full alignment, and we have met with Officers who have developed adopted Council strategies to ensure cohesion here.

The Portfolio Holder will be briefed has been briefed on and agreed to the strategy and policies and will include other relevant Portfolio Holders where we have cross-cutting priorities. Member engagement will be undertaken late November. During the consultation period, we plan to hold 4-6 public engagement sessions. These sessions will take place in different parts of the district and will seek to target respondents who are typically more difficult to engage with, and respondents who may require support to complete an online survey.

6 Options

6.1 Options Considered

There are no other acceptable options as an alternative to the proposed actions detailed in this report.

6.2 Reasons for recommended Option

Not Applicable.

7 Next steps and timelines

Should Cabinet approve, the public consultation and engagement line with the Communications Plan, officers will consider comments made during the consultation. Officers will then present a final Transport Strategy at Cabinet in Spring 2024 and hope to publish the document by Summer 2024.

8 Contact officer

Rory Davis – Transport Strategy & Policy Lead

01484 221000

Rory.Davis@kirklees.gov.uk

Lucie Wade – Policy Officer, Transport Strategy & Policy
01484 221000
Lucie.Wade@kirklees.gov.uk

9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

None.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Transport Strategy Document

11 Service Director responsible

Edward Highfield – Service Director, Skills & Regeneration