

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 4 February 2025

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 12 February 2025 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 - 10

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 15th January 2025.

4: Declaration of Interests

11 - 12

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)

Council 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

13 - 24

To receive the Minutes of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 12 December 2024.

9: Half Yearly Monitoring Report - Treasury Management Activity 2024/2025 (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee / Cabinet) 25 - 56

To receive the report.

Contact: James Anderson, Head of Accountancy

10: Report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee) 57 - 66

To consider the report.

Contact: Leigh Webb, Head of Governance

11: 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 Rule 12. A written schedule of written questions will be tabled at the meeting. One supplementary oral question will be permitted.

12: Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues 67 - 90

To receive the Minutes of the Meetings of (i) Cabinet held on 10 December and 21 January 2024 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 19 November 2024.

13: Holding the Executive to Account

(a) To receive a Portfolio Update from the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor A U Pinnock)

(b) To receive oral questions/comments to Cabinet Members on their portfolios and relevant Cabinet Minutes;

- The Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison)
 - The Deputy Leader of the Council / Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook)
 - Children's Services (Councillor Kendrick)
 - Corporate Services (Councillor Hawkins)
 - Education and Communities (Councillor A U Pinnock)
 - Environment and Highways (Councillor Munir Ahmed)
 - Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner)
 - Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy)
-

14: Minutes of other Committees

91 - 134

- (a) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
 - (b) Health and Wellbeing Board
 - (c) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
 - (d) Strategic Planning Committee
 - (e) District Wide Planning Committee
-

15: Oral Questions to Committees/Sub Committees/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

To receive oral questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(4):

- Appeals Panel (Councillor Longstaff)
- Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (Councillor Taylor)
- District Wide Planning Committee (Councillor Ullah)
- Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Addy)
- Licensing and Safety Committee - including Licensing and Regulatory Panel (Councillor Firth)
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Councillor Burke)
- Personnel Committee (Councillor Pattison)
- Scrutiny Panel – Children's (Councillor Ali)
- Scrutiny Panel – Environment and Climate Change (Councillor Cooper)
- Scrutiny Panel – Growth and Regeneration (Councillor Amin)
- Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care (Councillor J D Lawson)
- Standards Committee (Councillor Armer)
- Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor Homewood)
- Kirklees Active Leisure (Councillor Sokhal)
- One Adoption Joint Committee (Councillor Sewell)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Councillor Pattison)
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee

- (Councillor McLoughlin)
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor O'Donovan)
 - West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee (Councillor Munir Ahmed)
 - West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Lowe)
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16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Bus Fares

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Safdar, Bramwell, Anwar and Daji;

“In the light of the recent budget will increase the current bus fare price cap, this Council notes the Labour Government increased the cap by 50%, from £2 to £3.

In practice current fares will be maintained until 31 March 2025. From 1 April 2025 until 31 December 2025 West Yorkshire fares will be £2.50 single and £6 Day Saver.

As a result, Kirklees residents will experience a significant increase in travel costs. Although an MCard weekly, monthly or annual ticket may still be cheaper than two single tickets a day for 5 days, not all bus users can afford to pre-purchase Mcards.

This Council believes that:

The increase in the bus fares will hasten the decline in passenger numbers. This could have a damaging impact on the district's bus services. As patronage declines operators will seek to reduce frequency or cut uneconomic routes, which so many residents across the Kirklees area rely on.

Such a move will also have a negative impact on young people travelling to access education, and those reliant on buses to reach their place of employment. It will also have a negative impact on elderly people who do not drive but need to access services, healthcare and visit family.

At a time when many residents across the Kirklees borough are struggling with soaring costs and expenses, an increase in fares will punish some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Increasing fares will discourage sustainable travel and remove an incentive to use public transport to access our town centres, leading to an increase in the number of cars on the road. Buses need to avoid being held up by congestion - created by increased car use. Where bus priority lanes exist, parking is not adequately enforced.

The resulting impact on emissions and clean air will exacerbates health outcomes.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Transport Secretary to outline the Council's dismay at this decision and ask the Government to reconsider this.
- To request that that the Leader of Kirklees Council writes to Mayor Tracy Brabin to highlight the negative impact of this policy and urge the Combined Authority to continue to support subsidised fares in West Yorkshire beyond 31 December 2025.
- That the Cabinet Portfolio Holder engages with local bus companies to consider ways to maintain the essential bus routes that provide a lifeline for many communities.
- That the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Transport and Highways engage with WYCA on planned road reallocation schemes that are pipelined and are taking far too long to be enacted; to prioritise those road schemes that would reallocate road space and enable the introduction of more bus priority; making use of temporary schemes, if necessary. “

17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Burial Sites

To consider the following Motion submitted in the names of Councillors Hussain, Masood Ahmed, Scott, Moore, H Zaman and A Zaman;

"The needs of Dewsbury and Batley residents must continue to be a priority when identifying suitable burial sites. Capital funding has already been secured for Dewsbury, and land searches have primarily focused on Dewsbury and the surrounding communities.

There are credible and reputable organisations that deal with burials on a daily basis. While the Bereavement Service has engaged with these organisations through the Bereavement Forum, concerns remain about the extent to which these issues are being addressed. Greater collaboration between the Council and relevant organisations, including wider community groups, should be encouraged.

The Bereavement Forum meetings are attended by representatives from the bereavement industry, including local clergy, funeral directors, and celebrants. While these meetings are not public, the Council should explore ways to improve transparency and ensure wider community input on burial site provision.

It is essential that the approach to identifying burial land remains open, transparent, and inclusive. We seek reassurances that Dewsbury, Batley, and the surrounding areas are not being disadvantaged in the allocation of resources for burial space.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. That the Leader and Cabinet reaffirm their commitment to identifying suitable multi-faith burial land in Dewsbury and Batley and continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to explore all possible options.
2. That all funds allocated from the £500k (subject to any existing expenditure) remain in place for Dewsbury and Batley and are not utilised for any other areas in South Kirklees."

18: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Exempting Social Care from the National Insurance Hike

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Munro and J C Lawson;

"This Council notes:

- 1) As part of the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced a National Insurance increase and reduced the threshold at which employers start paying it. From April 2025, the rate of employers' National Insurance contributions businesses will pay will increase by 1.2 percentage points to 15% and the earnings threshold at which companies pay will be lowered from £9,100 to £5,000. For an employee earning £30,000, the amount a business pays on National Insurance will increase by £865.80 under the new rules, increasing the total cost from £32,884.20 to £33,750. In addition, from April 2025, the National Living Wage (NLW) will increase from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour for all eligible employees;
- 2) The new Labour government has claimed that the change to National Insurance contributions will generate an extra £25 billion in tax revenue, which will aim to make up for the £22 billion 'black hole' left by the previous government;
- 3) Local authorities, including Kirklees Council, are responsible for assessing people's needs and, if individuals are eligible, for funding their care. However, most social care services are

delivered by independent sector home care and residential care providers, which are mainly for-profit companies, although also include some voluntary sector organisations.

This Council believes that:

- 1) While the Autumn Budget earmarked £680 million of new grant funding to support social care (for both adults and children's services) in 2025/26, the additional pressures on social care providers, including increasing the National Insurance contributions by 1.2%, a reduction in the threshold for employer National Insurance contributions and a 6.7% increase in the National Living Wage, will limit the impact of this funding and likely eradicate the extra £680 million allocated. It's subjecting health services to higher taxes and is counterproductive, making it harder to provide care to older, vulnerable and disabled people;
- 2) The Nuffield Trust estimate that the Employer National Insurance Contributions (ENICs) changes will cost independent sector social care employers in the region of an additional £940 million in 2025/26, on top of around £1.85 billion more that will be needed to meet new minimum wage rates. The Nuffield Trust say that the 18,000 independent organisations providing adult social care in England, which constitutes 98% of care providers, will be faced with increased costs of an estimated £2.8 billion in the next financial year. Public sector organisations, including the NHS, will be reimbursed the extra payments, but most care providers are run privately, so will be liable;
- 3) Many social care providers, especially small providers, are now at risk of going bust as a direct result of the National Insurance hike and this could disrupt or end vital care for thousands of older and disabled people across the country, including residents in Kirklees;
- 4) If local authorities, including Kirklees Council, are unable to pay social care providers higher fees, the vast majority of small providers who cannot absorb the extra costs will have to increase prices for people who pay for their own care or may go out of business altogether;
- 5) Hitting small businesses with a tax hike is the wrong political choice, as it will likely result in lower wages and profits for many businesses., It also risks worsening the NHS crisis by hiking costs for care providers. More widely, the Labour government pledged not to increase the National Insurance paid by 'working people', but when employers' NICs increase, companies' demand for labour decreases, which puts downward pressures on wages. Consequently, it could be

argued that employer NIC rises are a tax on working people. Many businesses will be forced to scale back pay increases or hiring plans and the majority of small and medium sized enterprises in the UK will be impacted by the changes;

- 6) Increasing the National Insurance contributions on social care providers will make the crisis in social care worse. The government should exempt care providers from the Employer's National Insurance tax rise. In addition to social care providers, GP surgeries, hospices, NHS dentists, pharmacies and charitable providers of healthcare should all be exempt from the increase. Primary care providers are the backbone of our health services and without them NHS hospitals risk being overwhelmed.

This Council, therefore, resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that social care providers be exempt from the Employer's National Insurance tax rise."

19: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Political Governance in Kirklees

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

"This Council notes:

- That within the last 2 years, following extensive and thorough cross-party work by the Democracy Commission and supported by the LGA, a finding and recommendation was made that a move to a committee system was not in the interests of this Council nor of the residents of Kirklees
- That the above recommendation along with further recommendations to strengthen our scrutiny function was subsequently endorsed by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and then by a democratic majority of members in full Council in January 2023
- That a report on progress made against these recommendations was brought to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in April 2024 and that no further change was recommended
- That the recent statement made by representatives of three of the smaller parties on this Council stating an intention to petition the public for a referendum, overruling the decision of both Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and this

Council, to decide on our future political governance structure, is counter to the established will of this Council.

This Council believes:

- That the time and resources required in the administration of a petition and referendum, which would cost the taxpayers of Kirklees in excess of £300,000, and the costs of any subsequent reorganisation which would be far higher, would be an unnecessary drain on our already pressured financial position.
- Any reorganisation would not be complete for several years which would lead to a protracted period of confusion and distraction, preventing the council from supporting the residents of this borough effectively.
- That a committee system of governance is less transparent than a Cabinet model and requires a significantly higher commitment of time from both members and officers.
- That a committee system does not ensure that smaller parties or independent councillors have any more say in decision making than they do currently through our robust scrutiny function.

Therefore, this Council reaffirms its decision to remain a Council run by a Leader and Cabinet system.”

By Order of the Council



Steve Mawson
Chief Executive

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 15 January 2025**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

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	

131 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

There were no announcements.

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132 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Munir Ahmed, Daji, Armer, Bolt, Kahut, Lees-Hamilton, A Smith, A Zaman and H Zaman.

133 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

134 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

135 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were received.

136 Deputations and Petitions (From Members of the Public)

No deputations or petitions were received.

137 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

138 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 31 October 2024 were received and noted.

139 Proposed Revision to Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 - 2030

It was moved by Councillor Firth, seconded by Councillor Marchington and

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

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

It was moved by Councillor Firth, seconded by Councillor Marchington and

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

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

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Councillor Greaves

“Do any Labour backbench Councillors support the Labour Cabinet’s budget proposals?”

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

Question from Councillor Greaves

“What are the green bin contamination rates for the year to date, for each individual collection round across Kirklees?”

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

Question from Councillor Greaves

“What are the latest performance measures for fly-tipping and how do they compare to the measures from the year before?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Does this administration value the grass verges which we have across the district?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Could the Cabinet Member explain to me the Council’s policy on upgrading pedestrian crossings to Pelican Crossings and why one in the Deputy Leader’s ward at New Mill has been approved?”

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

Question from Councillor Longstaff

“We have had deputations from volunteers who have attended Council meetings saying how hard it is to deal with Kirklees Council. In the future we are going to need these volunteers, therefore what steps have we taken to assist these groups?”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“How much has Kirklees Council spent on removing fly tip in the financial year 2023-24 and is it likely that the figure will be far greater this financial year?”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“Could you update Council as to what actions have been taken since the passing on a motion on the Gaza conflict which called on Kirklees to :

That 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 this 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.”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“While in conversation with one of our NPT, I was informed that parking in bus lanes does not result in the vehicle holder receiving a parking ticket. If this is the case why do the Parking Enforcement team not issue tickets?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Do you think the Council’s response to the recent cold snap and problems with snow and ice was good enough and, if not, what is the Cabinet Member doing about it?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“How many schools did not open or opened late on Tuesday 7/1/25, and subsequent days that week, because of ice?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock.

Question from Councillor Hall

“Which community buildings (such as schools, surgeries, hospitals and council buildings) have their approach roads gritted as a priority and are these done before the town centres?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“How long does the Cabinet Member feel it is reasonable to leave a Kirklees resident without a black bin collection?”

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

142 Key Discussion - Fostering in Kirklees

Council received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Councillor Kendrick), prior to holding a key discussion on Fostering in Kirklees.

143 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

It was moved by Councillor Munro, and seconded by Councillor Marchington that;

“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

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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."

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Crook, and seconded by Councillor Pattison, that;

Under 'This Council notes ...'

Amend Paragraph 1) to read;

'The two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017. This cap restricts Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit to the first two children for most households in receipt of these benefits'

Amend Paragraph 2) to read;

'Recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition has found that, following the end of the last period of Government ...'

Amend Paragraph 3 to delete the words 'New data reveals ...'

Amend Paragraph 4 to delete all text and replace with the words 'That positive steps are being taken by the new Labour Government towards putting an end to child

poverty in a responsible and meaningful way, including through the constituting of a Child Poverty Taskforce.'

Under 'This Council believes...'

After the word 'payments' amend text to read '...has been a harmful policy that should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity and ultimately replaced by new measures designed to eliminate child poverty and mitigate deprivation. Research from the University of York has shown that its introduction has had no positive impact on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of families ...'

Under 'This Council, therefore, resolves to;

Amend Paragraph 1) to read;

'Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister thanking them for their work towards putting an end to child poverty and for ending the cruel austerity policies of the previous administration. Also reminding them of the significant deprivation experienced by many of our communities here in Kirklees and the damage austerity, including the two child benefit policy, has done to our region.'

Amend Paragraph 2) to read;

'Further, instructs the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering the Kirklees Council area, asking them to continue their public support for the campaign to end child poverty.'

Amend Paragraph 3) to read;

'Ensure the number of children a family has continues to be considered when a hardship grant is given out by this Council.'

The AMENDMENT, upon being put to the vote, was not carried.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION, upon being put to the vote, was not carried.

RESOLVED – That the Motion was not carried.

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

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

"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.

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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."

The Motion, upon being put to the vote, was CARRIED.

RESOLVED –

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

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- 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.

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- 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.

145 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Bus Fares

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

146 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Exempting Social Care from the National Insurance Hike

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

147 Response to Motion - Gaza, a year on, urgent action is needed

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

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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, 12 DECEMBER 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 Martin Love	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Councillor Stewart Golton (Substitute)	Leeds City Council
Councillor Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council
Councillor Jonathan Pryor (Substitute)	Leeds City Council
Councillor Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Council
Councillor Claire Douglas	City of York Council
Mandy Ridyard	West Yorkshire Business Board

In attendance:

Councillor Barry Anderson (Observer)	Chair of Scrutiny Committee
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
Sarah Eaton (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Caroline Norreys (Assistant Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Michelle Burton (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington (Committee Services)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sue Holdsworth (Calderdale Council) and Cllr James Lewis (Leeds Council).

Cllr Stewart Golton attended as the substitute for Cllr Holdsworth and Cllr Jonathan Pryor attended as the substitute for Cllr Lewis.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests at the meeting.

3. 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.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 31 October 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 31 October 2024 were approved as a correct record.

A member enquired about a response from the Transport Commissioner to the Chair's recent correspondence concerning a number of transport and traffic management issues. The Chair confirmed a reply had been received the previous week. The Executive Director for Transport noted the Transport Commissioner had acknowledged receipt and discussions were taking place with the Traffic Commissioner on expediting a number of changes to transport services at short notice. The Chair agreed to circulate a copy of the response to all members.

5. Mayor's Update

The Chair reported on developments since October, noting progress on the Local Growth Plan, the first produced by a Mayoral Combined Authority, to inform the National Industrial Strategy. Following the Chancellor's budget, funding of £36 million for the Bus Service Improvement Plan had been confirmed, enabling affordable fares and support for additional routes. The Get Britain Working White Paper had allocated £20 million for employment initiatives in West Yorkshire. The English Devolution White Paper had been delayed but was expected to outline plans for deeper devolution.

Members requested an update on Bradford Interchange and its communication plan. The Chair confirmed that preparations for the January 2025 opening were ongoing, with the Executive Director for Transport noting efforts to keep members briefed and addressed regarding concerns. Members further suggested that the Combined Authority share knowledge with new Combined Authorities following the devolution paper.

The Chair emphasised collaboration among UK mayors and the need for formal training to be offered to those elected as mayors. The Chief Executive assured members that Combined Authorities were sharing best practices.

Cllr Hinchcliffe highlighted that regular Bradford Interchange updates were being provided to Bradford members. In response to a member query, the Executive Director for Transport confirmed that Leeds councillors had been briefed on the latest updates.

6. Local Growth Plan

The Combined Authority considered a report which presented the final draft of the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan for approval.

The Chair highlighted the importance of the Local Growth Plan in addressing challenges and seizing opportunities for regional growth. The plan outlined five priorities: boosting key business sectors, supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), improving transport connectivity, enhancing skills and learning and developing thriving places. It aimed to close an £11 billion output gap, creating 33,000 jobs and 18,000 businesses. Engagement with the Government continued to align the plan with the National Industrial Strategy. Progress so far was praised, with further discussions planned with the Chancellor.

Members discussed the Local Growth Plan, highlighting its ambition and the importance of balancing targeted sector growth with inclusivity. Concerns were raised about addressing non-graduate sectors like social care, ensuring collaboration with other Combined Authorities and maintaining flexibility to adapt strategies. Monitoring outcomes and securement of funding were identified as priorities. Debate included sustainability concerns related to the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion, with calls for innovation to mitigate impacts. Members agreed on the need for an implementation plan with measurable indicators to track progress.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority approved and adopted the draft West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan as outlined in Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

7. Work and Health

The Combined Authority considered a report on employment support, including work and health, seeking authority to address economic inactivity and health-related barriers. Officers highlighted funding opportunities, such as Trailblazer and Accelerator initiatives, and plans for a co-produced Work, Health and Skills Plan to improve regional growth and employment outcomes.

The Chair provided an update on employment support, highlighting the £20 million government funding awarded to tackle health and work challenges. The submitted report outlined plans to address economic inactivity and barriers to employment, emphasising collaboration with health, local authorities and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The Chair thanked the team for their efforts in securing additional funding, noting its importance for the region's growth and ongoing work in addressing these issues.

Members discussed the barriers to employment posed by national apprenticeship requirements, particularly in maths and English. A member highlighted a local case where a young person had struggled to secure an apprenticeship despite being capable, urging action on reducing such barriers. The Chair assured members of ongoing efforts to advocate for more local autonomy in apprenticeships. Members sought clarity on health and social care strategies, with officers outlining ongoing initiatives to address workforce gaps and economic inactivity to support regional growth.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

- (i) Noted and supported the strategic approach to tackling health-

related barriers to work being undertaken by the Combined Authority and other partners in government.

- (ii) Approved the authority for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Economy Committee, to accept the funds associated with the interventions described in the submitted report and to progress any associated programme design/implementation designed with key partners.

8. Business Planning and Budgets

The Combined Authority considered a report on business planning, emerging budget proposals for 2025/26 and the use of revenue gainshare until 2027/28. Officers introduced the report, highlighting strategic priorities, budget pressures and proposals to address funding issues. Recommendations included fare adjustments, capital payments in advance and multi-year funding programmes.

The Chair outlined the business planning and budget proposals for 2025/26, highlighting progress in aligning priorities and collaboration across sectors. They emphasised the importance of balancing immediate pressures with long-term growth, acknowledged financial challenges and thanked partners for their efforts. The Chair noted the flexibility offered by a future single government settlement and stressed the need for strategic resource allocation to achieve shared ambitions amidst funding uncertainties.

The Chief Operating Officer provided an update on the 2024/25 pay award for staff of the Combined Authority, confirming that an agreement had been reached since the publication of the agenda and papers. He noted that whilst the settlement created slight additional budget pressure, it remained manageable and had been factored into future planning. The Chair thanked colleagues for their measured approach.

Members discussed concerns about bus operator performance, particularly Arriva in Wakefield and the challenges of driver recruitment and service reliability. The Executive Director for Transport provided an update on maintaining network stability and ongoing efforts to attract new operators ahead of 2027 franchising, highlighting increased demand due to fare policies. Members expressed frustration at Arriva's failures and praised the Combined Authority's work in securing alternative operators.

Gainshare funding was debated, with calls for clearer outcomes and alignment with Combined Authority priorities.

The Assistant Director for Legal, Governance and Compliance explained that all Combined Authority members and substitutes had been granted dispensations to vote on matters impacting their host councils. These dispensations applied strictly to members' roles as elected representatives and excluded any pecuniary interests relating to personal financial gain. The process ensured transparency and supported decision-making for regional growth.

Members requested updates on cross-boundary bus fare issues and previous funding outcomes. The Chair emphasised the importance of collaboration, forward planning and delivering benefits for all communities.

The recommendations were approved by a majority of the Combined Authority members. Cllr Lamb abstained and his abstention was noted accordingly at his request.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

- (i) Noted and considered the draft corporate priorities.
- (ii) Noted and considered the draft budget position.
- (iii) Approved the in-principle use of a total of £30 million of revenue gainshare for partner capacity funding through to the end of 2027/28.
- (iv) Approved a change to the Mayor's Fare (adult single bus fare cap) at £2.50 effective from 30 March 2025 and to run until 31 December 2025.
- (v) Approved a change to the Under 19's fare, with fares being consolidated into two price points at £0.80 and £1.60, effective from 30 March 2025.
- (vi) Endorsed officers working with the West Yorkshire Ticketing Company Limited (WYCTL) to implement a change to the DaySaver ticket price at £6.00, effective from 30 March 2025.
- (vii) Approved the payment in advance of capital project expenditure to local authorities, as set out in the submitted report.

9. Project Approvals

(a) Investment Priority 5 - Delivering Sustainable, Integrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

Bradford Bus Hotspots

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

- (i) Approved that the Bradford Bus Hotspots scheme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).
- (ii) Approved development funding of £400,000 in order to progress the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total approval from £300,000 to £700,000.
- (iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for

expenditure up to £700,000.

(iv) Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

(v) Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding remains at £3,500,000. The estimated total scheme cost was £3,500,000. Of this, £441,000 is for risk and contingency allowances.

Corridor Improvement Programme – A6177 Great Horton Road and Horton Grange Road

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the change request to the Great Horton Road and Horton Grange Road Junction scheme to increase the Combined Authority's funding by £563,000, from £6,257,000 to £6,820,000.

(ii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing Funding Agreement with the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for expenditure of up to £6,820,000.

(iii) Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

Transforming Cities Fund – North Halifax Improved Streets for People

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the North Halifax Improved Streets for People scheme proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (Delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of £14,569,597. The total scheme value was £15,069,597.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing Funding Agreement with Calderdale Council for funding of up to £14,569,597.

(iv) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in this report. This was subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

(v) Noted that £3,016,886 of the total scheme costs was for risk & contingency allowances.

Transforming Cities Fund – Dewsbury Bus Station

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the Dewsbury Bus Station scheme proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (Delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of £23,004,469. The total scheme value was £23,004,469.

(iii) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in this report. This was subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

(iv) Noted that £590,884 of the total scheme cost is for risk and contingency allowances.

A64 Bus Walking and Cycling Phase 2

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the change request to the A64 Bus Cycling Walking Improvements Phase 2 scheme for development costs of £990,000 to progress the scheme to activity 4 (full business case), taking the total development cost approval to £2,946,400 for phase 1 and 2.

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority to enter into a Deed of Variation to the existing Funding Agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure up to £2,946,400.

(iii) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

(iv) Noted the Combined Authorities potential funding remains at £9,900,000 The estimated total scheme cost is £9,900,000.

West Yorkshire Places

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the West Yorkshire Places scheme proceed through decision point 2 (outline business case) and work commenced on activity 4 (full business case).

(ii) Approved development funding of £640,000, in order to progress the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval from £160,000 to £800,000.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement or an addendum to an existing funding agreement with Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees & Wakefield for funding of up to £800,000 and delegated approval of each agreement to the Chief Executive.

(iv) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in this report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

(v) Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding remained at £5,100,000. The estimated total scheme cost was £5,100,000 and of this, £1,169,380 was for risk and contingency allowances.

Leeds City Bikes

The Chair emphasised the need for a better balance of public and private risk in the Leeds City Bikes Scheme, expressing frustration over the continued reliance on public funding. While committed to the scheme's success and its expansion across the region, the Chair acknowledged delivery challenges and called on the public to support the scheme by using and maintaining the bikes responsibly. The Chair stressed that community cooperation is essential for the scheme's sustainability and to ensure its long-term benefits.

Members discussed the scheme, noting the costs per trip and the need for improved economic viability. A member raised concerns about inclusivity, highlighting limited mobility cycle hire options for disabled users. The Executive Director for Transport confirmed plans to address this through a transport plan refresh and an equality design reference group. Members emphasised the scheme's benefits for accessibility and broader active travel goals.

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the change request to the Leeds City Bikes scheme to extend the Decision Point 5 (Delivery Closure) date from 31/03/2024 to 31/03/2026.

(ii) Approved the change request to the Leeds City Bikes scheme to increase the Combined Authorities contribution by £1,117,700, from £2,000,000 to £3,117,700.

(iii) The total scheme cost would increase from £2,861,369 to £4,020,700.

(iv) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing grant funding agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £3,117,700.

(v) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in this report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

Additional Approvals

Bradford Interchange Resurfacing Works – delegation of approval of schemes to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to approve, in accordance with the Assurance Framework, the change request to the Bradford Interchange Resurfacing scheme.

Delegated Decisions

Decisions Delegated to the Chief Executive:

ATF4 Access to Hospitals – St Luke's Hospital, Bradford

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 (ATF4) Access to Hospitals, St Luke's Hospital scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive/Executive Director for Transport.

(ii) That the scheme proceeded through decision points 2 to 4 (business justification) of the Combined Authority's assurance process and commenced activity 5 (delivery), subject to conditions.

(iii) That the total grant allocation was £213,500, representing the total value of the scheme funded through the Combined Authority.

TCF Halifax Bus Station

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF): Halifax Bus Station scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance

process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive/Executive Director for Transport.

(ii) That the change request for the scheme was approved to increase the Combined Authority contribution by £1,025,000, from £20,500,000 to £21,525,000.

(iii) That the total grant allocation was £21,525,000, representing the total value of the scheme funded through the Combined Authority.

Decisions Delegated to the Executive Director for Transport:

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF): Dewsbury Town Centre Walking & Cycling Improvements scheme was assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Combined Authority's Executive Director for Transport.

(ii) That the change request for the scheme was approved to release further development costs of £622,134, increasing the total approval from £1,609,398 to £2,231,532, to progress to activity 4 (FBC), and to update the forecast completion date from October 2025 to April 2026.

(iii) That the total grant allocation for the scheme was £10,250,000, representing the total value of Combined Authority funding within a total scheme value of £12,038,146.

(b) Investment Priority 3 - Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure

Investment Zones Programme

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the change request to the West Yorkshire Investment Zone programme for development funding of £3,000,000 for planning resource, taking the total funding approved to £9,400,000. The total estimated scheme cost was £179,368,000.

(ii) Approved that the Director of Policing, Environment and Place was delegated to allocate development funds (including the Planning Fund) and to enter into funding agreements with partners to progress the development of projects in their areas.

(iii) Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

(iv) Noted that the Combined Authority's potential funding was £80,000,000.

Investment Zones Capital – Bradford University Digitisation Hub

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the Bradford University Digitisation Hub scheme proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's contribution of £900,000 for phase 1. The total scheme cost of phase 1 was £2,788,415.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enters into a funding agreement with University of Bradford for expenditure of up to £900,000.

(iv) Approves that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

Investment Zones Capital – National Health Innovation Campus – Health & Wellbeing Innovation Centre

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the National Health Innovation Campus - Health and Wellbeing Innovation Centre scheme proceed through decision point 2-4 (business justification case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority contribution of £700,000. The total scheme value was £40,866,500.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enters into a funding agreement with the University of Huddersfield for expenditure of up to £700,000.

(iv) Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

10. Governance Arrangements

The Combined Authority considered a report seeking approval for an interim Section 73 officer, substitute members for thematic committees and changes to governance arrangements. Officers introduced the report, highlighting the

need for an interim officer, proposed flexibility for substitute members and updates to governance structures to enable more agile decision-making.

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the appointment of Damon Lawrenson as interim Section 73 Officer with effect from 13 December 2024.

(ii) Approved, in respect of the committees detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the submitted report, the recommendation that the five West Yorkshire constituent councils, and the non-constituent council of York, each nominate a substitute Member to act in place of their substantive Member and authorised any consequential amendments to the Combined Authority's Constitution.

(iii) That the new internal governance arrangements, as outlined in paragraphs 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, and 3.14 of the submitted report, be noted.

11. Minutes for Information

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

12. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair expressed gratitude to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services, Angela Taylor, for over twenty years of exceptional service given to the Combined Authority and its predecessors. The Chair highlighted Ms Taylor's role in guiding the organisation through significant transitions, ensuring stability and sound governance. The Chair, joined by all members, thanked Ms Taylor for her dedication and commitment to the region, as she moved onto retirement.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Combined Authority was scheduled to be held on Thursday 30 January 2025.



Report title: Half Yearly Monitoring report on Treasury Management activities 2024/25

Meeting:	Council (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee/Cabinet)
Date:	Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 6 December 2024 / Cabinet 21 January 2025 / Council 12 February 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Councillor Graham Turner
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
<p>Purpose of Report The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. It is a requirement of the Code that regular reports be submitted to Members detailing treasury management operational activity. This report is the mid-year for 2024/25 covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2024.</p>	
<p>Recommendation and Reasons To note the treasury management performance during the first half of 2024/25 as set out in this report. This report has previously been presented to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in December 2024.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications: There are no additional resource implications required as part of this report.</p>	
<p>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Kevin Mulvaney – 27/11/2024</p> <p>Sam Lawton –27/11/2024</p>

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward Councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR: Yes – there is no personal data within the budget details and calculations set out in this report and accompanying Appendices

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report gives assurance that the Council's treasury management function is being managed prudently and pro-actively and that the Council complied with its treasury management prudential indicators in the year (Appendix 4).
- 1.2 External investments, including the £10.0 million Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF), averaged £61.6 million during the period at an average rate of 5.06%. Investments ranged from a peak of £103.5m million in April to a low of £27.9 million in August.
- 1.3 The large range in investment balances are because of receiving significant cash sums at the start of the month, for example DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) monies and Council Tax/NNDR, which result in peaks of cash for a short period of time.
- 1.4 The Council's net borrowing increased by £25.2 million in the 6 month period, from £668.2 million at 31 March 2024 to £693.4 million at 30 September 2024.
- 1.5 All treasury management activities undertaken during the period complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 The treasury management revenue budget for 2024/25 is £27.1 million. This is covered in more detail at paragraph 2.5.1 later in this report.
- 1.7 This report includes the requirement in the 2021 Code of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The non-treasury prudential indicators are incorporated in the Council's normal quarterly revenue reports along with the treasury management indicators.
- 1.8 The main findings from the 2023/24 MRP review is included at Appendix 6.

2 Information required to take a decision:

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The treasury management strategy for 2024/25 was approved by Council on 6 March 2024. The over-riding policy continues to be one of ensuring the security of the Council's balances. The Council aims to invest externally balances of around £30.0 million, largely for the purpose of managing day-to-day cash flow requirements
- 2.1.2 The investment strategy is designed to minimise risk, with investments being made primarily in instant access accounts or short-term deposits, with Money Market Funds, the Debt Management Office (DMO), Local Authorities and major British owned banks and building societies. Diversification amongst counterparties is key.

2.2 The Economy and Interest Rates

- 2.2.1 UK headline consumer price inflation remained around the Bank of England (BoE) target later in the period, falling from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 1.7% in September, largely due to base effects from energy prices but also a general easing in inflationary pressures. Core and services price inflation remained higher at 3.2% and 4.9% respectively in September.
- 2.2.2 The UK economy continued to expand over the period as it recovered from a technical recession, albeit slowing from the 0.7% gain in the first calendar quarter to 0.5% (downwardly revised from 0.6%) in the second. UK GDP growth, however, slowed materially in calendar year quarter three (July to September 2024), registering 0.1%. Of the monthly figures, the economy was estimated to have contracted by 0.1% in September.
- 2.2.3 Labour market data was slightly better from a policymaker perspective, showing an easing in the tightness of the job market, with inactivity rates and vacancies declining. However, a degree of uncertainty remains given ongoing issues around the data collected for the labour force survey by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for the three months to September showed the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% from 4.0% in the previous three-month period while the employment rate fell to 74.8% from 75.0%.
- 2.2.4 Over the same period average regular earnings (excluding bonuses) was 4.8%, down from 5.4% in the earlier period and total earnings (including bonuses) was 4.3%. Adjusting for inflation, real regular pay rose by 1.9% and total pay by 1.4%.
- 2.2.5 With headline inflation lower, the BoE cut Bank Rate from 5.25% to 5.00% at the August Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. At the September MPC meeting, committee members voted 8-1 for no change at 5.00%, with the lone dissenter preferring Bank Rate to be cut again to 4.75%. The meeting minutes and vote suggested a reasonably hawkish tilt to rates, with sticky inflation remaining a concern among policymakers.
- 2.2.6 Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would steadily fall from the 5.25% peak, with the first cut in August being followed by a series of further cuts, with November 2024 the likely next one (which did happen), taking Bank Rate down to around 3% by the end of 2025. Although the most recent forecasts (post budget) now indicate that this rate is now likely to be c3.75%.
- 2.2.7 The latest BoE Monetary Policy Report, published in August, showed policymakers expected GDP growth to continue expanding during 2024 before falling back and moderating from 2025 to 2027. Unemployment was forecast to stay around 4.5% while inflation was shown picking up in the latter part of 2024 as the previous years' energy price declines fell out of the figures before slipping below the 2% target in 2025 and remaining there until early 2027.
- 2.2.8 Sentiment in financial markets continued to mostly improve over the period, but the ongoing trend of bond yield volatility remained. Long-term gilt yields have risen to reflect both UK and US economic, monetary and fiscal policy expectations, and increases in bond supply. Volatility will remain elevated as the market digests incoming data for clues around the impact of policy changes.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.03.24	Movement	30.09.24	30.09.24
	Balance		Balance	Weighted
	£m	£m	£m	Average
				Rate %
<i>Long-term borrowing:</i>				
PWLB	550.4	23.0	573.4	4.21
LOBOs	30.8	0.0	30.8	4.39
Loan Stock	7.0	0.0	7.0	11.60
Other LT Loans	40.0	0.0	40.0	3.89
Other MT Loans	37.7	-10.7	27.0	4.56
<i>Short-term borrowing</i>	41.4	28.6	70.0	4.92
Total borrowing	707.3	40.9	748.2	4.21
Long-term investments	10	0.0	10.0	N/A
Short-term investments	0	20.0	20.0	N/A
Cash and cash equivalents	29.1	-4.4	24.7	N/A
Total investments	39.1	15.6	54.7	N/A
Net borrowing	668.2	25.2	693.4	

2.4 Investment Activity

- 2.4.1 The Council invested an average balance of £51.6 million externally (excluding the LAPF) during the period (£34.5 million in the first six months of 2023/24), generating £1,330k in investment income over the period (£789k in 2023/24). The LAPF investment of £10.0 million generated £227k of dividend income during the period (£198k in the first six months of 2023/24).
- 2.4.2 Debt repayments are weighted towards the second half of the year; to spread risk and given the Council's significant borrowing requirement, even amounts of borrowing have been taken throughout the first six months of the year along with taking borrowing when opportunities arose if yields dipped. This has resulted in higher-than-normal cash balances compared to the 2024/25 strategy.
- 2.4.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk on incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 2.4.4 Balances were mainly invested in instant access accounts such as Money Market Funds, short term deposits, Debt Management Office (DMO), Local Authority fixed term deposits and the LAPF. Appendix 1 shows where investments were held at the start of April, the end of June and September by counterparty, by sector and by country.
- 2.4.5 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report at Appendix 4, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments.

- 2.4.6 Bank Rate reduced from 5.25% to 5.00% in August 2024 with short term rates largely being around these levels. The rates on Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) also rose, ranging between 4.92% and 5.20% and Money Market Rates between 4.91% and 5.27%.
- 2.4.7 The Council's average investment rate for the period was 5.06%. This is higher than the average in the same period in 2023/24 of 4.43%. Returns on liquid cash balances were 5.16%
- 2.4.8 The Council continues to hold £10 million of strategic investment in the Local Authorities Pooled Investment Fund (LAPF). The fund returned a net yield of 4.53% after deducting charges. The actual gross dividend yield quoted from the fund on Net Asset Value was 5.21% at the end of September for the last 12 months, and the fund size was £1,032.3 million (4.66% and £1,186.3 million respectively for the 12 months to September 2023).
- 2.4.9 Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three-to-five-year minimum period total returns will exceed cash interest rates.
- 2.4.10 The chart at Appendix 3, provided by Arlingclose, compares the Council's performance against other Local Authorities at the end of September. In order to gain better rates of return, the majority of Local Authorities with a higher rate of return have further external investments creating a more diverse portfolio.

2.5 Revenue Budget Monitoring

- 2.5.1 The treasury management budget is £27.1 million. Forecasted outturn is currently under budget by £1.0 million and this position is reflected in the Council's Q2 financial report to Cabinet later this month. This reflects higher levels of investment balances resulting in increased investment income than budgeted.

2.6 Borrowing Update

- 2.6.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes
- 2.6.2 The Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council. It has no plans to do so in the future.
- 2.6.3 Borrowing is permitted for cashflow management, interest rate risk management, to refinance current borrowing and to adjust levels of internal borrowing. Borrowing is also allowed for financing capital expenditure primarily related to the delivery of a Local Authority's function. The Council's borrowing is undertaken for these purposes only.

- 2.6.4 After substantial rises in interest rates since 2021 many central banks have now begun to reduce rates, albeit slowly. Gilt yields were volatile over the 6-month period and have reduced slightly between April and September 2024. Much of the downward pressure from lower inflation figures was counteracted by upward pressure from positive economic data. Data from the US continues to impact global bond markets including UK gilt yields.
- 2.6.5 The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 4.80% at the beginning of the half year and 4.79% at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity rate was 4.52% and the highest was 5.18%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.01% to 5.57% during the half year, and 50-year maturity loans from 4.88% to 5.40%.
- 2.6.6 Whilst the cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities spiked to around 7% in late March 2024, primarily due a scarcity of LA-LA lending/borrowing activity during the month, as expected shorter-term rates reverted to a more normal range and were generally around 5.00% - 5.25%.
- 2.6.7 The PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate has been extended further to March 2026. This discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue Account and for refinancing existing HRA loans.

2.7 Borrowing Activity

- 2.7.1 As outlined in the Treasury Strategy, the Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. At the present time short term interest rates are higher than long term interest rates.
- 2.7.2 In terms of borrowing, long-term loans (including LOBO's - see paragraph 2.7.6) at the end of September totalled £678.2 million (£562.1 million 31 March 2024) and short-term loans £70.0 million (£96.7 million 31 March 2024).
- 2.7.3 Fixed rate loans account for 95.84% of total long-term debt giving the Council stability in its interest costs. The maturity profile for long-term loans is shown in Appendix 2 and shows that no more than 9.64% of debt is due to be repaid in any one year. This is good practice as it reduces the Council's exposure to a substantial borrowing requirement in future years when interest rates might be at a relatively high level.
- 2.7.4 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark (see Appendix 4), which also considers usable reserves and working capital. The mid-year forecasted liability benchmark, based on updated capital plans, highlights that there is an expectation of additional borrowing of £70.2 million for the year.
- 2.7.4 During the period £35m of PWLB EIP loans were taken along with £20m of medium term loans from other Local Authorities. These loans provide some longer-term certainty and stability to the debt portfolio. A mixture of short, medium-term and

further PWLB will be taken during the remainder of the year to fund the additional borrowing required. The rate assumption in the treasury budget for 2024/25 is 5.35%.

Medium and Long-term loans taken during the period 01/04/24 to 30/09/24

	Loan Period	Amount £m	Rate %	Date to be repaid
PWLB 739810 – EIP	12 years	20.0	4.67%	28/06/2036*
PWLB 751915 – EIP	11 years	10.0	4.37%	12/08/2035*
PWLB 759388 – EIP	12 years	5.0	4.52%	12/09/2036*
Oxfordshire County Council	3 years	5.0	5.00%	17/03/2027
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	11 months	5.0	5.15%	30/04/2025
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority	2 years	5.0	4.70%	06/08/2026
Elmbridge Borough Council	2 years	5.0	4.50%	14/09/2026
Total		55.0		

*EIP final repayment date

2.7.5 Appendix 5 sets out in year repayments on long-term borrowing and further repayments for the next 6 months.

2.7.6 The Council has £30.0 million of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

2.7.7 As market rates remain high, there is an increased probability of call options on the LOBOs being exercised by lenders. No LOBO loans were called during the 6 month period to September 2024, however there remains a possibility they could within the next 12 months and as such have been classified as short-term borrowing in the debt maturity table in Appendix 2.

2.7.8 If the option is exercised and an increased rate proposed, the Council plans to repay the loan at no additional cost as accepting the revised terms would mean the Council would still have refinancing risk in later years. If required, the Council will repay the LOBO's by borrowing from other local authorities or the PWLB.

2.8 MRP Update

2.8.1 During 2023/24 an external review of MRP identified an overprovision which allowed for an unwind of £6.3 million to revenue in 2023/24. A further saving of £15.2 million will be released through a Voluntary Revenue Provision in 2024/25 and £10.8 million in 2025/26. Detail is provided in Appendix 6.

2.9 Risk and Compliance issues

- 2.9.1 The Council reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy, including the prudential indicators. Details can be found in Appendix 4. Indicators relating to affordability and prudence are highlighted in this appendix.
- 2.9.2 In line with the investment strategy, the Council has not placed any direct investments with companies as defined by the Carbon Underground 200.
- 2.9.3 The Council is aware of the risks of passive management of the treasury portfolio and, with the support of the Council's consultants (Arlingclose), has proactively managed the debt and investments over the year.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

N/A

3.2 Financial Implications

Any changes in assumed borrowing and investment requirements, balances and interest rates have been reflected in revenue budget monitoring reports during the year and the 2025/26 budget will be set to reflect the investment as per the capital plan and using the latest advice on forecast interest rates.

3.3 Legal Implications

N/A

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

N/A

4 Consultees and their opinions

N/A

5 Options

N/A

6 Next steps and timelines

Comments and feedback from CGAC will be incorporated into this report which will be subsequently presented to Cabinet and Council in January.

7 Contact Officer

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Rachel Firth	Finance Manager	01484 221000

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.
CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services – Guidance notes
The treasury management strategy report for 2024/25 - Council 6 March 2024
Council Budget Strategy Update Report 2025/26 – Council 18 September 2024

9 **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Investments 24/25

Appendix 2: Debt Maturity

Appendix 3: Average Return on Total Investments

Appendix 4: Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Appendix 5: Long-term loans

Appendix 6: Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Appendix 7: Treasury Management Practices (TMP)

Appendix 8: PWLB Borrowing Rates Table

Appendix 9: Glossary of Treasury Terms

10 **Service Director responsible**

Kevin Mulvaney 01484 221000

Kirklees Council Investments 2024/25

Counterparty	Approved Strategy Limit £m	Approved Strategy Credit Rating	Credit Rating Sept 2024*	1 April 2024 (opening)			30-Jun-24			30-Sep-24			
				£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment	£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment	£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment	
Specified Investments													
LAPF	Property Fund	10.0	-	-	10.0	-	***	10.0	-	***	10.0	-	***
DMO	Central Government	Unlimited	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.9	5.19%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
PCC for Dorset	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	6.5	5.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Newport City Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	7.0	5.26%	Fixed Deposit			Fixed Deposit
BCP Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.25%	Fixed Deposit			Fixed Deposit
Bedford Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	10.0	5.30%	Fixed Deposit			Fixed Deposit
Luton Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.25%	Fixed Deposit			Fixed Deposit
Crawley Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.00%	Fixed Deposit
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.00%	Fixed Deposit
Leeds City Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.00%	Fixed Deposit
West Northamptonshire Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	5.00%	Fixed Deposit
Barclays Deposit Account	Bank	3.0	-	F1/A+	0.0	4.65%	Fixed Deposit	0.0	4.65%	Fixed Deposit	0.0	4.40%	Fixed Deposit
Aberdeen Standard	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	9.8	5.27%	MMF	9.9	5.23%	MMF	8.2	5.01%	MMF
Aviva	MMF**	10.0	Aaa-A2	Aaa*	9.9	5.25%	MMF	9.8	5.25%	MMF	10.0	5.01%	MMF
Deutsche	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	9.4	5.25%	MMF	0.1	5.19%	MMF	6.6	5.00%	MMF
Goldman Sachs	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	0.0	5.14%	MMF	0.0	5.13%	MMF	0.0	4.92%	MMF
					39.1			69.2			54.7		
Sector analysis													
Property Fund		10.0			10.0	26%		10.0	14%		10.0	18%	
Local Authorities		10.0			0.0	0%		33.5	48%		20.0	37%	
Bank		3.0			0.0	0%		0.0	0%		0.0	0%	
MMF**		50.0			29.1	74%		19.8	29%		24.7	45%	
Central Government		Unlimited			0.0	0%		5.9	9%		0.0	0%	
					39.1	100%		69.2	100%		54.7	100%	
Country analysis													
UK					10.0	26%		49.4	71%		30.0	55%	
MMF**					29.1	74%		19.8	29%		24.7	45%	
					39.1	100%		69.2	100%		54.7	100%	

*Fitch short/long term ratings, except Aviva MMF (Moody rating). See next page for key. The use of Fitch ratings is illustrative – the Council assesses counterparty suitability using all 3 credit rating agencies, where applicable, and other information on credit quality.

**MMF – Money Market Fund. These funds are domiciled in Ireland for tax reasons, but the funds are made up of numerous diverse investments with highly rated banks and other institutions. The credit risk is therefore spread over numerous countries, including the UK. The exception to this is the Aviva Government Liquidity Fund which invests directly in UK government securities and in short-term deposits secured on those securities.

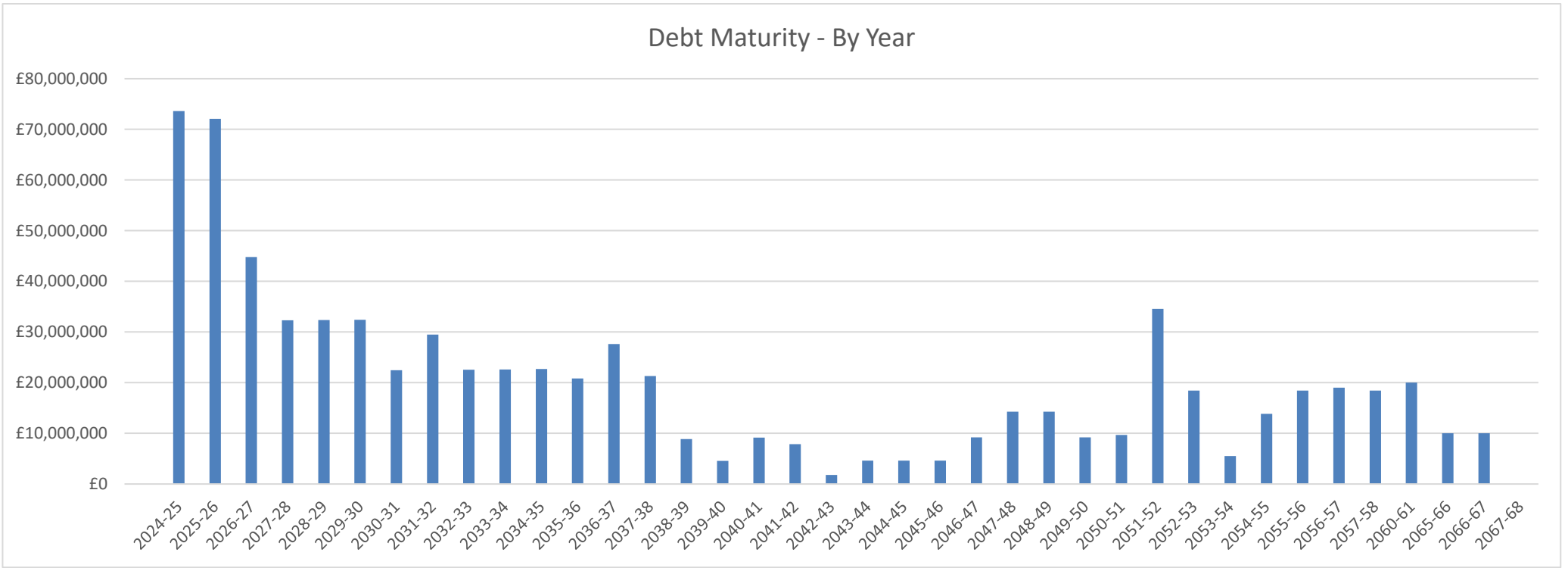
***Specialised property fund available for Local Authority investors.

Key – Fitch’s credit ratings:

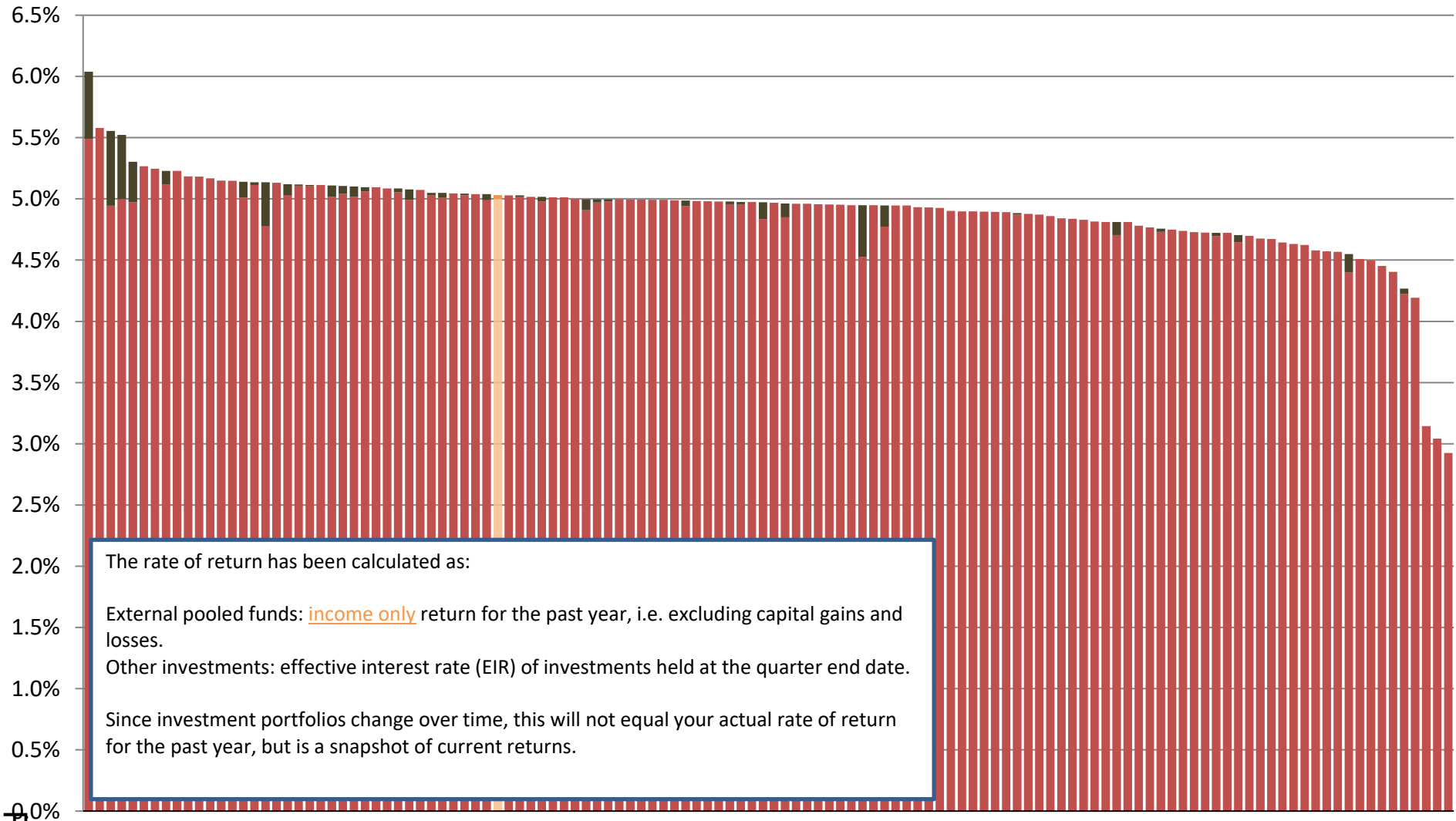
Appendix 1 Continued

		Long	Short		
Investment Grade	Extremely Strong	AAA	F1+		
		Very Strong		AA+	
				AA	
	Strong	AA-			
		A+		F1	
		A			
	Adequate	A-		F2	
		BBB+			
		BBB			
Speculative Grade	Speculative	BBB-	F3		
		Very Speculative		BB+	
				BB	
	Vulnerable	BB-		B	
		B+			
		B			
	Defaulting	Defaulting		B-	C
				CCC+	
				CCC	
CCC-					
CC					
		C			
		D			

Debt Maturity - By Year



Average Return on Total Investments by Local Authority (Internal & External Funds)



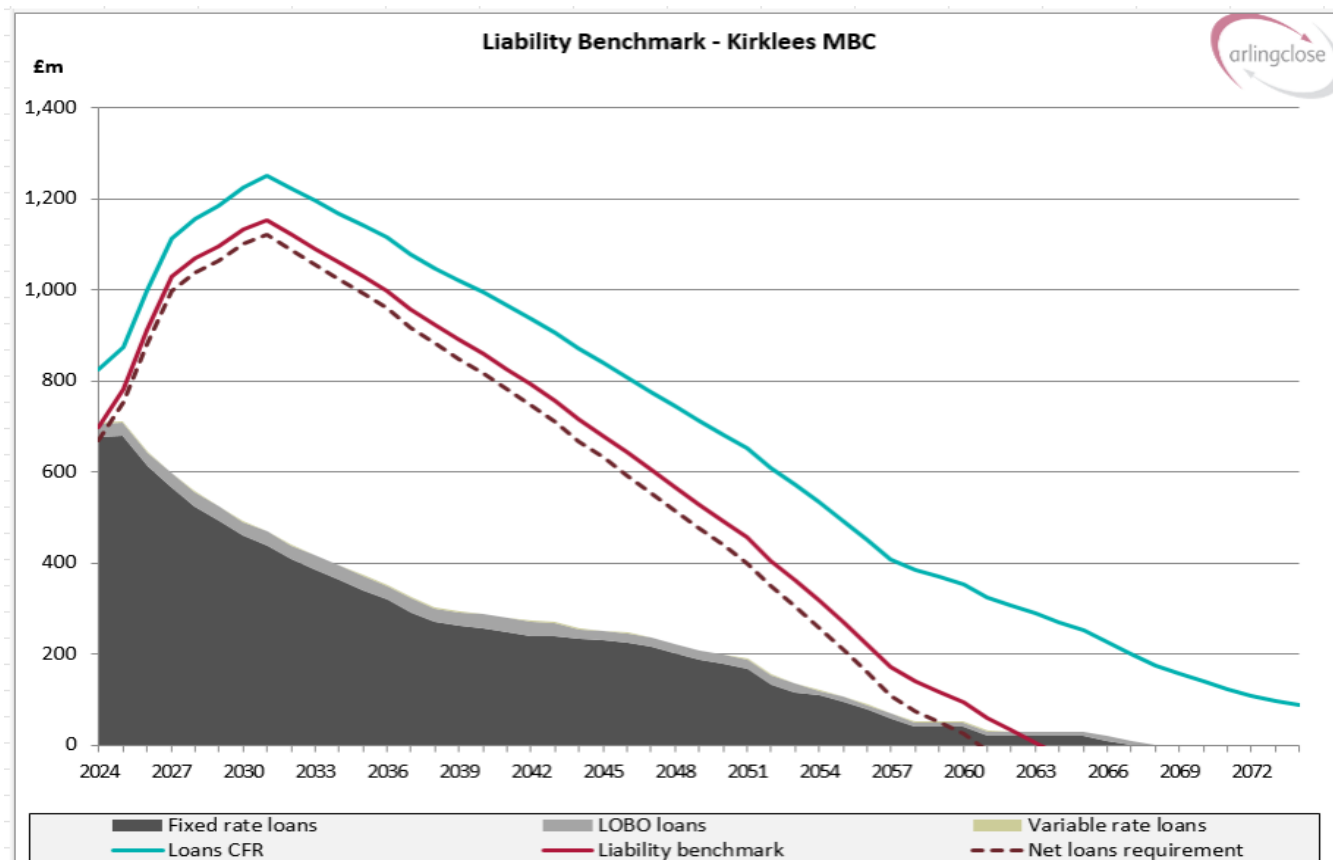
Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Liability Benchmark

This new indicator compares the Council’s actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £30.0 million required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

	31.03.24 actual £m	31.03.25 forecast £m	31.03.26 forecast £m	31.03.27 forecast £m
Loans CFR	823.5	874.2	996.8	1113.0
Less: Balance sheet resources	155.3	122.6	116.7	115.5
Net loans requirement	668.2	751.6	880.1	997.5
Plus: Liquidity allowance	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
Liability benchmark	698.2	781.6	910.1	1027.5
Existing borrowing	707.3	711.4	644.3	599.6

Following on from the medium term forecast above, the long the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of £55 million in 2024/25, minimum revenue provision based on asset life and reduction in balance sheet resources of £33 million.



The total liability benchmark is shown in the chart above together with the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing. The red line is the liability benchmark reaching a peak in 2032 highlighting the gap between current borrowing identified in grey, which is reducing over time with repayments, and the additional borrowing required to fund the capital plan.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	Upper limit	Lower limit	30.09.24 actual	Complied
Under 12 months	20%	0%	17%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%	6%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	60%	0%	14%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	80%	0%	16%	Yes
10 years and above	100%	20%	47%	Yes

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. LOBO options of £30 million have a potential repayment date during 2024/25 and have been included in the under 12 months line.

Long term Treasury Management Investments

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£10.0m	£10.0m	£10.0m	£10.0m
Complied	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds, real estate investment trusts and directly held equity but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

Interest Rate Exposures

Bank Rate reduced by 0.25% from 5.25% to 5.0% in August 2024.

For context, the changes in interest rates during the quarter were:

	31.03.24	30.09.24
Bank Rate	5.25%	5.00%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.36%	4.95%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.68%	4.55%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.74%	4.79%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.18%	5.27%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.01%	5.13%

Long-term loans repaid during the period 01/04/24 to 30/09/24

Counterparty	Amount £000s	Rate %	Date repaid
Salix (Annuity)	139	0.00%	01-Apr-24
Salix (Annuity)	182	0.00%	01-Apr-24
Salix (Annuity)	168	0.00%	01-Apr-24
PWLB (Annuity) 496956	432	4.58%	02-Apr-24
Crawley Borough Council	5,000	0.50%	02-Apr-24
Leicester City Council	5,000	0.75%	12-Apr-24
PWLB (EIP) 674705	333	5.02%	15-Apr-24
PWLB (EIP) 711011	2,000	5.42%	15-Apr-24
PWLB (EIP) 340221	250	1.63%	27-Apr-24
PWLB (EIP) 439173	250	1.66%	17-May-24
PWLB (EIP) 677193	333	4.85%	22-May-24
PWLB (EIP) 680811	833	4.83%	06-Jun-24
PWLB (EIP) 685435	769	4.59%	20-Jun-24
PWLB (EIP) 685834	769	4.37%	21-Jun-24
PWLB (EIP) 373440	250	1.46%	12-Jul-24
PWLB (EIP) 643579	278	5.01%	29-Jul-24
PWLB (EIP) 594601	500	4.10%	31-Jul-24
PWLB (EIP) 594848	536	3.99%	01-Aug-24
PWLB (EIP) 538379	500	2.60%	09-Aug-24
PWLB (EIP) 487385	250	2.28%	21-Aug-24
Salix (Annuity)	186	0.00%	01-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 313112	250	1.64%	04-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 493145	250	1.98%	09-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 711013	385	4.75%	13-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 712740	357	4.59%	19-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 713074	357	4.64%	20-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 608189	667	4.15%	21-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 659904	333	5.06%	23-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 660447	333	5.08%	23-Sep-24
PWLB (EIP) 661522	357	5.00%	27-Sep-24
PWLB (Annuity) 496956	442	4.58%	29-Sep-24
Total	22,692		

Long-term loans to be repaid during the period 01/10/24 to 31/03/25 (excludes LOBO options)

	Amount £000s	Rate %	Date to be repaid
Salix (Annuity)	182	0.00%	01-Oct-24
Salix (Annuity)	168	0.00%	01-Oct-24
PWLB (EIP) 674705	333	5.02%	14-Oct-24
PWLB (EIP) 711011	2,000	5.42%	14-Oct-24
PWLB (EIP) 340221	250	1.63%	27-Oct-24
Wealden District Council	5,000	5.35%	15-Nov-24
PWLB (EIP) 439173	250	1.66%	17-Nov-24
PWLB (EIP) 677193	333	4.85%	22-Nov-24
PCC for West Yorkshire	10,000	5.10%	02-Dec-24
PWLB (EIP) 680811	833	4.83%	06-Dec-24
West Midlands Combined Authority	5,000	4.50%	12-Dec-24
Preston City Council	3,500	5.20%	16-Dec-24
PWLB (EIP) 685435	769	4.59%	20-Dec-24
PWLB (EIP) 685834	769	4.37%	23-Dec-24
PWLB (EIP) 739810	833	4.67%	30-Dec-24
PWLB (EIP) 373440	250	1.46%	13-Jan-25
PWLB (EIP) 643579	278	5.01%	27-Jan-25
PWLB (EIP) 594601	500	4.10%	31-Jan-25
West Midlands Combined Authority	5,000	4.50%	31-Jan-25
PWLB (EIP) 594848	536	3.99%	01-Feb-25
West Midlands Combined Authority	5,000	4.50%	03-Feb-25
PWLB (EIP) 538379	500	2.60%	09-Feb-25
PWLB (EIP) 751915	455	4.37%	12-Feb-25
PWLB (EIP) 487385	250	2.28%	21-Feb-25
Salix (Annuity)	186	0.00%	01-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 313112	250	1.64%	04-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 493145	250	1.98%	09-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 759388	208	4.52%	12-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 711013	385	4.75%	13-Mar-25
Vale of White Horse District Council	5,000	0.80%	18-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 712740	357	4.59%	19-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 713074	357	4.64%	20-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 608189	667	4.15%	21-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 659904	333	5.06%	21-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 660447	333	5.08%	24-Mar-25
PWLB (EIP) 661522	357	5.00%	27-Mar-25
PWLB (Annuity) 496956	452	4.58%	29-Mar-25
Total	52,126		

Medium and Long-term loans taken during the period 01/04/24 to 30/09/24

	Loan Period	Amount £m	Rate %	Date to be repaid
PWLB 739810 – EIP	12 years	20.0	4.67%	28/06/2036*
PWLB 751915 – EIP	11 years	10.0	4.37%	12/08/2035*
PWLB 759388 – EIP	12 years	5.0	4.52%	12/09/2036*
Oxfordshire County Council	3 years	5.0	5.00%	17/03/2027
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	11 months	5.0	5.15%	30/04/2025
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority	2 years	5.0	4.70%	06/08/2026
Elmbridge Borough Council	2 years	5.0	4.50%	14/09/2026
Total		55.0		

*Final EIP payment date

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

MRP for debt repayment

- In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Council is required to pay off an element of accumulated General Fund capital expenditure each year through a revenue charge known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
- The Council is required to determine a level of MRP it considers to be prudent, whilst having regard to the current MRP Guidance issued by MCLG in 2018. The Guidance gives four ready-made options for determining MRP which it considers to be prudent but does not rule out alternative approaches.
- The overriding requirement of the Guidance is to set a prudent provision which ensures that debt is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.
- The Guidance provides suggested methods for the calculation of MRP; however, the Guidance and legislation do not define what is prudent. It is for each Local Authority to determine a prudent repayment based on its own individual circumstances, considering the medium and long-term financial plans, current budgetary pressures, future capital expenditure plans and funding needs.

Review

- During 2023/24 the interim S151 requested an independent review of the current MRP strategy.
- The objective of the review was to identify opportunities to move to a more suitable and cost effective MRP strategy whilst ensuring that the provision remains prudent and compliant with statutory guidance.
- The review identified various options for supported and unsupported borrowing which could be implemented within the Guidance; the Council has chosen within these options to adopt the methodologies which are deemed best suited to Kirklees Council.
- The Council applies an annuity method for calculating MRP for both supported and unsupported borrowing.
- The Council is currently using an annuity rate of 4.79% on its supported borrowing. This is based on the average 50-year PWLB annuity rate in 2007/08, the year in which the annuity policy has been applied from.
- The Council has opted to continue with the current methodology and use a 34-year period, which is the remainder of the 50-year life which was applied in 2007/08.
- On unsupported borrowing, the Council applied an annuity approach in the MRP calculation based on grouping projects according to asset lives.
- Following the review, the Council has opted to use a single annuity calculation for all outstanding historic expenditure at 31 March 2023, which combines each historic year on a weighted average life basis. This option re-profiles the MRP charges into future years, however this option repays the debt liability much earlier than the existing charges profile and can therefore be viewed as more prudent. From 2024/25 any borrowing for capital

expenditure, the weighted live of the assets will be applied to the annuity rather than individual lives and grouping assets together.

- The review identified a 5-year total overprovision of £53.5 million between 2023/24 and 2027/28 (£34.2 whole life NPV).

Benefits of the review

- Provides the Council with the flexibility and scope to manage the release of the revenue savings identified by making additional MRP through Voluntary Revenue Provision (“VRP”), which can be used to offset future years charges or provide a short term funding source to deal with unexpected costs or fund transformational activity. However, Members need to be aware that should reserves be used in this manner, they will need to be replenished in the medium term when the over provision unwinds and base budgets require a reset.
- The outstanding unsupported debt liability will be written off in full earlier than under the current method.
- The weighted average method of calculation for unsupported borrowing is a much simpler calculation than the current method, providing for more concise and user-friendly working papers.
- It is important to note that all the options identified are prospective and do not amend any previous year’s calculations.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) set out the manner in which the Council aims to achieve its treasury management policies and objectives, and how it will manage and control those activities.

1. **TMP 1 Risk management**

The Service Director - Finance will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the schedule to this document.

(i) **Credit and counterparty risk management**

The Council regards a prime objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with which funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved Instruments, methods and techniques are listed in the schedule to this document. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing arrangements.

(ii) **Liquidity risk management**

The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives. The Council will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

(iii) **Interest rate risk management**

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its net interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements.

It will achieve these objectives by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. The above are subject at all times to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

(iv) **Exchange rate risk management**

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.

(v) **Refinancing risk management**

The Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and

as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective and will avoid over-reliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

(vi) Legal and regulatory risk management

The Council will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1(i) Credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may affect with the Council.

The Council recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the organisation.

(vii) Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management

The Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption, or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

(viii) Market risk management

The Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

2. **TMP2 Performance measurement**

The Council is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance methodology in support of that aim, within the framework set out in its Treasury Management Policy Statement.

Accordingly, the treasury management function will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the Council's stated business or service objectives. It will be the subject of regular examination of alternative methods of service delivery and of other potential improvements. The performance of the treasury management function will be measured using the criteria set out in the schedule to this document.

3. **TMP3 Decision-making and analysis**

The Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions, both for the purposes of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were taken into account at the time. The issues to be addressed and processes and practices to be pursued in reaching decisions are detailed in the schedule to this document.

4. **TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques**

The Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the schedule to this document, and within the limits and parameters defined in TMP1 Risk management.

Where the Council intends to use derivative instruments for the management of risks, these will be limited to those set out in its annual treasury strategy. The Council will seek proper advice when entering into arrangements to use such products.

5. **TMP5 Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements**

The Council considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, and for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times a clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

The principles on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly with regard to the execution and transmission of funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function.

If and when the Council intends, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the Service Director - Finance will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements, and the implications properly considered and evaluated.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangement for absence cover. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure there is proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The delegation to the Service Director - Finance in respect of treasury management is set out in the schedule to this document. The Service Director - Finance will fulfil all such responsibilities in accordance with the Council's policy statement and TMPs and, as a CIPFA member, the Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

6. **TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements**

The Council will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies; on the effects of decisions taken and the transactions executed in pursuit of those policies; on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities; and on the performance of the treasury management function.

As a minimum, the Council will receive:

- an annual report on the strategy and plan to be pursued in the coming year
- a mid-year review
- an annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, on the effects of the decisions taken and the transactions executed in the past year, and on any circumstances of non-compliance with the organisation's Treasury Management Policy Statement and TMPs.

The present arrangements and the form of these reports are detailed in the schedule to this document.

7. **TMP7 Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements**

The Service Director - Finance will prepare, and the Council will approve and, if necessary, from time to time amend, an annual budget for treasury management, which will bring together all of the costs involved in running the treasury management function, together with associated income. The matters to be included in the budget will at a minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with the TMPs. Budgeting

procedures are set out in the schedule to this document. The Service Director - Finance will exercise effective controls over this budget, and will report any major variations.

The Council will account for its treasury management activities, for decisions made and transactions executed, in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force for the time being. The present form of this function's accounts is set out in the schedule to this document.

The Council will ensure that its auditors, and those charged with regulatory review, have access to all information and papers supporting the activities of the treasury management function as are necessary for the proper fulfilment of their roles, and that such information and papers demonstrate compliance with external and internal policies and approved practices. The information made available under present arrangements is detailed in the schedule to this document.

8. **TMP8 Cash and cash flow management**

Unless statutory or regulatory requirements demand otherwise, all monies in the hands of the Council will be under the control of the Service Director - Finance and, with the exception of Secondary Schools' bank accounts, will be aggregated for cash flow purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, and the Service Director - Finance will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1(i) Liquidity risk management. The present arrangements for preparing cash flow projections are set out in the schedule to this document.

9. **TMP9 Money laundering**

The Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it will ensure that staff involved in treasury management activities are fully aware of their responsibilities with regards this. The present safeguards, including the name of the officer to whom any suspicions should be reported, are detailed in the schedule to this document.

10. **TMP10 Training and qualifications**

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure that Members of the committee providing a scrutiny function have access to regular training relevant to their responsibilities.

11. **TMP11 Use of external service providers**

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times. However, it also recognises the potential value of employing external providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources.

When it employs such service providers, it will ensure it does so for reasons which will have been submitted to full evaluation of the costs and benefits. It will also ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review. And it will ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid over-reliance on one or a small number of companies.

Where services are subject to formal tender or re-tender arrangements, legislative requirements and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules will always be observed. The monitoring of such

arrangement's rests with the Service Director - Finance, and details of the current arrangements are set out in the schedule to this document.

12. **TMP12 Corporate governance**

The Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout its businesses and services, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.

The Council has adopted and has implemented the key principles of the Code. This, together with the other arrangements detailed in the schedule to this document, are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management, and the Service Director - Finance will monitor and, if necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Management Practices for Non-Treasury Investments

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activity includes loans supporting service outcomes, investments in subsidiaries, and investment property portfolios.

The Council will ensure that all investments are covered in the Capital and Investment Strategies, and will set out where appropriate, the Councils risk appetite and specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments. It will be recognised that the risk appetite for these activities may differ from that of treasury management.

The Council will maintain a schedule setting out a summary of existing material investments, subsidiaries, joint ventures and liabilities including financial guarantees and the organisations risk exposure.

PWLB Borrowing Rates %							
	30/09/2024	28/03/2024	29/09/2023	31/03/2023	30/09/2022	31/03/2022	30/09/2021
Annuity							
15 years	4.90	4.86	5.39	4.46	5.17	2.54	1.87
20 years	5.10	5.04	5.54	4.60	5.14	2.67	2.07
30 years	5.43	5.35	5.81	4.87	5.15	2.84	2.31
50 years	5.53	5.39	5.80	4.83	4.80	2.79	2.38
Maturity							
15 years	5.29	5.23	5.70	4.78	5.15	2.81	2.28
20 years	5.47	5.38	5.83	4.90	5.11	2.86	2.38
30 years	5.55	5.41	5.84	4.86	4.85	2.78	2.36
50 years	5.33	5.21	5.61	4.61	4.41	2.59	2.17
EIP							
15 years	4.86	4.83	5.36	4.45	5.20	2.54	1.86
20 years	5.01	4.96	5.46	4.54	5.14	2.65	2.04
30 years	5.30	5.24	5.71	4.79	5.15	2.82	2.28
50 years	5.54	5.42	5.86	4.90	4.99	2.83	2.39

Glossary of Treasury Terms

Authorised Limit	The affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003 (English and Welsh authorities) and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. This Prudential Indicator is a statutory limit for total external debt. It is set by the Authority and needs to be consistent with the Authority's plans for capital expenditure financing and funding. The Authorised Limit provides headroom over and above the <i>Operational Boundary</i> to accommodate expected cash movements. Affordability and prudence are matters which must be taken into account when setting this limit.
Balances and Reserves	Accumulated sums that are maintained either earmarked for specific future costs or commitments or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.
Bank Rate	The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate". This rate is also referred to as the 'repo rate'.
Basis Point	1/100th of 1%, i.e. 0.01%
Bill	A certificate of short-term debt issued by a company, government or other institution, tradable on the financial market
Bond	A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.
Capital gain or loss	An increase or decrease in the capital value of an investment, for example through movements in its market price.
Capital growth	Increase in the value of the asset (in the context of a collective investment scheme, it will be the increase in the unit price of the fund).
Capital receipts	Money obtained on the sale of a capital asset.
Certainty Rate	The government has reduced by 20 basis points (0.20%) the interest rates on loans via the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) to principal local authorities who provide information as specified on their plans for long-term borrowing and associated capital spending.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Collective Investment Schemes	Funds in which several investors collectively hold units or shares. The assets in the fund are not held directly by each investor, but as part of a pool (hence these funds are also referred to as 'Pooled Funds'). Unit Trusts and Open-Ended Investment Companies are types of collective investment schemes/pooled funds.
Corporate Bonds	Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.
Corporate Bond Funds	Collective Investment Schemes investing predominantly in bonds issued by companies and supranational organisations.
CPI <i>Also see RPI</i>	Consumer Price Index. (This measure is used as the Bank of England's inflation target.)
Cost of carry	When a loan is borrowed in advance of requirement, this is the difference between the interest rate and (other associated costs) on the loan and the income earned from investing the cash in the interim.
Counterparty List	List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.
Credit Default Swap (CDS)	A Credit Default Swap is similar to an insurance policy against a credit default. Both the buyer and seller of a CDS are exposed to credit risk. Naked CDS, i.e. one which is not linked to an underlying security, can lead to speculative trading.
Credit Rating	Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

Debt Management Office (DMO)	The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account Deposit Fund (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign triple-A credit rating.
Diversification / diversified exposure	The spreading of investments among different types of assets or between markets in order to reduce risk.
Derivatives	Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded 'over the counter'.
ECB	European Central Bank
Fair Value	Fair value is defined as a sale price agreed to by a willing buyer and seller, assuming both parties enter the transaction freely. Many investments have a fair value determined by a market where the security is traded.
Federal Reserve	The US central bank. (Often referred to as "the Fed")
Floating Rate Notes	A bond issued by a company where the interest rate paid on the bond changes at set intervals (generally every 3 months). The rate of interest is linked to LIBOR and may therefore increase or decrease at each rate setting.
GDP	Gross domestic product – also termed as "growth" in the economy. The value of the national aggregate production of goods and services in the economy.
General Fund	This includes most of the day-to-day spending and income. (All spending and income related to the management and maintenance of the housing stock is kept separately in the Housing Revenue Account).
Gilts (UK Govt)	Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from 'gilt-edged': being issued by the UK government, they are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	A ring-fenced account of all housing income and expenditure, required by statute.
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards.
Income Distribution	The payment made to investors from the income generated by a fund; such a payment can also be referred to as a 'dividend'.
Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF)	A pooled property collective investment scheme for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities. (See Collective Investment Scheme).
Liability Benchmark	Term in CIPFA's Risk Management Toolkit which refers to the minimum amount of borrowing required to keep investments at a minimum liquidity level (which may be zero).
LOBOs	LOBO stands for 'Lender's Option Borrower's Option'. The underlying loan facility is typically long term and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.
Maturity	The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.
Maturity profile	A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period. The amount or percent maturing could be shown on a year-by-year or quarter-by-quarter or month-by-month basis.
MiFID II	MiFID II replaced the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID I) from 3 January 2018. It is a legislative framework instituted by the European Union to regulate financial markets in the bloc and improve protections for investors.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	An annual provision that the Authority is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.
Money Market Funds (MMF)	Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

Net Asset Value (NAV)	A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.
Operational Boundary	This is the limit set by the Authority as its most likely, i.e. prudent, estimate level of external debt, but not the worst case scenario. This limit links directly to the Authority's plans for capital expenditure, the estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the estimate of cashflow requirements for the year.
Pooled funds	See Collective Investment Schemes (above).
Premiums and Discounts	<p>In the context of local authority borrowing, (a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and (b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated* that a £100,000 premium is payable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £1,100,000 plus accrued interest. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated that a £100,000 discount receivable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £900,000 plus accrued interest. PWLB premium/discount rates are calculated according to the length of time to maturity, current market rates (plus a margin), and the existing loan rate which then produces a premium/discount dependent on whether the discount rate is lower/higher than the coupon rate.</p> <p>*The calculation of the total amount payable to redeem a loan borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) is the present value of the remaining payments of principal and interest due in respect of the loan being repaid prematurely, calculated on normal actuarial principles. More details are contained in the PWLB's lending arrangements circular.</p>
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provides a way of funding major capital investments, without immediate recourse to the public purse. Private consortia, usually involving large construction firms, are contracted to design, build, and in some cases manage new projects. Contracts can typically last for 30 years, during which time the asset is leased by a public authority.
Investment Property	Property (land or a building or part of a building or both) held (by the owner or by the lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.
Prudential Code	Developed by CIPFA and introduced on 01/4/2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.
Prudential Indicators	Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators between authorities.
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board. It is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.
Revenue Expenditure	Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.
Risk	<p>Credit and counterparty risk The risk of failure by a counterparty to meet its contractual obligations to the organisation under an investment, borrowing, capital, project or partnership financing, particularly as a result of the counterparty's diminished creditworthiness, and the resulting detrimental effect on the organisation's capital or current (revenue) resources.</p> <p>Liquidity risk The risk that cash will not be available when it is needed, that ineffective management of liquidity creates additional unbudgeted costs, and that the organisation's business/service objectives will be thereby compromised.</p> <p>Refinancing risk The risk that maturing borrowings, capital, project or partnership financings cannot be refinanced on terms that reflect the provisions made by the organisation for those refinancings, both capital and current (revenue), and/or that the terms are inconsistent with prevailing market conditions at the time.</p> <p>Interest Rate risk</p>

	<p>The risk that fluctuations in the levels of interest rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.</p> <p>Legal risk The risk that the organisation itself, or an organisation with which it is dealing in its treasury management activities, fails to act in accordance with its legal powers or regulatory requirements, and that the organisation suffers losses accordingly.</p> <p>Operational risk The risk that an organisation fails to identify the circumstances in which it may be exposed to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings, and fails to employ suitable systems and procedures and maintain effective contingency management arrangements to these ends. It includes the area of risk commonly referred to as operational risk.</p> <p>Market Risk The risk that, through adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums an organisation borrows and invests, its stated treasury management policies and objectives are compromised, against which effects it has failed to protect itself adequately.</p>
RPI	Retail Prices Index. A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent. Pensions and index-linked gilts are updated using the CPI index.
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting (Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom).
Specified Investments	Term used in the CLG Guidance and Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than 1 year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.
Supported Borrowing	Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.
Temporary Borrowing	Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund spending.
Term Deposits	Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (interest).
Treasury (T) -Bills	Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. Treasury Bills (T-Bills) are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have a AAA-rating.
Treasury Management Code	CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The current Code is the edition released in 2021.
Treasury Management Practices (TMP)	Treasury Management Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.
Unsupported Borrowing	Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.
Usable Reserves	Resources available to finance future revenue and capital expenditure.
Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV)	A term used in relation to the valuation of 1 share in a fund. This means that the net asset value (NAV) of these funds is calculated daily based on market prices.
Working Capital	Timing differences between income/expenditure and receipts/payments
Yield	The measure of the return on an investment instrument.



REPORT TITLE: Report of the Members’ Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

Meeting:	Council
Date:	12 February 2025
Cabinet Member	N/A – Non Executive Decision
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No – If no give reason – Council Function
Purpose of Report To consider the report of the Members’ Allowance Independent Review Panel (MAIRP).	
Recommendations That Council approves the recommendations of the Members’ Allowances Independent Review Panel (MAIRP) (set out in Appendix A).	
Reasons for Recommendations The report was considered by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 31 January 2025 and it was recommended that Council adopt the proposed Members’ Allowances Scheme.	
Resource Implications: The recommendations within the report relating to the 2025/26 Members’ Allowances Scheme can be managed within overall base budget of the scheme which is currently £1,466,000.	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	R Spencer Henshall – 09.01.2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	K Mulvaney – 14.01.2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	S Lawton – 08.01.2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not Applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes. There is no personal data within the report.

1. Executive Summary

The MAIRP meets to consider and recommend the Members' Allowances Scheme to Council, having regard to evidence received and associated developments that will affect the Scheme. The Panel met in December 2024 and the report of the Panel, including the recommendations for the 2025/26 Members' Allowances Schemes, can be found at Appendix A.

The financial implications arising from the recommendations of the MAIRP can be met from within the existing Members' Allowances base budget.

2. Information required to take a decision

A meeting of the MAIRP took place on 3 December 2024 to consider the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2025/26. The report of the Panel is attached at Appendix A and puts forward recommendations that:

- (i) To continue to apply (when known) the same percentage pay award awarded to officers to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances.
- (ii) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be increased from Band E (currently £3,115 per annum) to Band C1 (currently £7,790 per annum).
- (iii) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Fostering Panel Members be increased from Band E1 (currently £1,556 per annum) to Band D1 (currently £4,675 per annum).
- (iv) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Adoption Panel Members be increased from Band E1 (currently £1,556 per annum) to Band E (currently £3,115 per annum).

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Not Applicable

3.2 Financial Implications

Should the above-mentioned recommendations be agreed and implemented the costs would be met from within the existing Members' Allowances budget.

3.3 Legal Implications

3.4 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Not Applicable

4. Consultation

The Allowances Panel have been consulted on the contents of the attached report and agree it as a correct record of their deliberations and recommendations.

- 5. Engagement**
The Panel received representations from Group Leaders/ representatives; Councillors in relation to the role of Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, Fostering and Adoption Panel and from the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning and the Head of Risk.
- 6. Options**
 - 6.1 Options considered**
 - 6.2 Reasons for recommended option**
Recommendations are in line with the terms of reference of the MAIRP.
- 7. Next steps and timelines**
Following consideration by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, this report will be referred for consideration by Full Council at its meeting on 12 February 2025.
- 8. Contact officer**
Leigh Webb, Head of Governance
Tel: 01484 221000
email: leigh.webb@kirklees.gov.uk
- 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**
N/A
- 10. Appendices**
Report of Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel
- 11. Service Director responsible**
Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal and Commissioning.

Report of

Kirklees Council Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel

3 December 2024

Leigh Webb
Head of Governance
Civic Centre 3,
Huddersfield, HD1 2TG
01484 221000

1 Panel Membership

The Members of the Independent Review Panel are as follows:

Ian Brown (Chair)
Lynn Knowles
Fiona Weston

2 Terms of Reference

The Panel's Terms of Reference are:

- (a) To advise the Council on what would be the appropriate level of remuneration for Councillors having regard to the:
 - Roles Councillors are expected to fulfil
 - Varying roles of different Councillors
 - Practice elsewhere and other Local Authorities.
- (b) To consider schemes of Members' Allowances for Town and Parish Councils as and when required.
- (c) To make recommendations and provide advice to the Council on any other issues referred to the Panel by regulation or by the Council.
- (d) The Council retains its power to remove a discredited Panel Member.
- (e) The Panel can appoint its Chair from amongst its Members.

3 Constitutional Issues

(a) Term of Office

It was agreed that the current Panel membership be retained and that all relevant terms of office be renewed until December 2025.

(b) Election of Chair of Independent Review Panel

Ian Brown was elected Chair of the Independent Review Panel.

4 Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel Report

The report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel, including the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel's recommendations for the 2025/26 Members' Allowances Schemes can be found at Appendix A.

Report produced on behalf of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel by Leigh Webb, Head of Governance, 3 December 2024.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL(MAIRP) REPORT

3 December 2024

Background

In approving the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 at a meeting of Council on 16 October 2024, it was recommended that the MAIRP be reconvened and asked to consider the following:

- (i) For the 2025/26 Scheme, consider a review of the Role Profiles and SRAs paid to members of Fostering Panel, Adoption Panel and Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.
- (ii) For the 2025/26 Scheme, consider a review of the political group bandings within the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Members Allowances Independent Review Panel Meeting

The MAIRP met on 3 December to consider the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2025/26 and in addition, received representations from the following Officers and Councillors in relation to:

Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Samantha Lawton – Service Director Legal and Commissioning

Martin Dearnley – Head of Risk

Councillor John Taylor – Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Councillor James Homewood – Member of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and previous Chair

Political Group Bandings

Councillor John Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group

Councillor Carole Pattison – Leader of the Council and Leader of the Labour Group

Councillor John Lawson – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Andrew Cooper – Leader of the Green Group

Fostering Panel

Anna Gledhill – Head of Sufficiency

Councillor Donna Bellamy – Fostering Panel Member

Adoption Panel

Christine Bennett – Head of Assessment & Intervention & Disabled Children's Service

Councillor Richard Smith – previous Adoption Panel Member

Evidence

The MAIRP considered the following:

Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

The Panel received submissions in relation to the remit of the Committee and the role of the Chair. An understanding and knowledge of financial matters, audit processes and treasury management policy are key elements to ensure the committee is chaired effectively. The role of the Chair is critical to ensure that the Committee offers challenge and oversight in respect of internal and external audit arrangements of the Council.

The Committee meet approximately six times a year and looks at both internal and external audit reports. Reports are also received in relation to Treasury Management reports, Health & Safety, Emergency Planning, Customer Complaints and the Council's Corporate Risk Register. The Committee also looks at the governance of the Authority including the Constitution, Delegations, Members Allowances and the Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee can, and do, challenge the Head of Audit and his team and ask officers to attend the Committee to question them in relation to Internal Audit report findings and hold them accountable for any actions that have not been complied with. The Committee has introduced a tracker system to track actions (which have been RAG rated) in order to monitor recommendations and actions. The Chair confirms the agenda for the Committee and works to ensure that items are scheduled in an efficient and timely manner. The current Chair has implemented an informal session prior to the Committee meeting taking place to update on the progress of actions contained within the tracker.

The Panel acknowledges that there needs to be a breadth of knowledge and understanding across all Council departments. Whilst recognising that there can be overlap, it is important to distinguish between the Council's audit function and scrutiny function. The role of the Committee is to seek assurance that the council's financial reporting, internal controls, governance, and risk management are effective and can be relied upon by councillors and residents. It was noted that the role of the Committee had become increasingly important in light of the recent financial challenges faced by the Council.

The Chair also attends Yorkshire and Humber regional meetings.

The Panel recognises the importance of the role of Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and after considering the representations made at the meeting recommends that the Special Responsibility Allowance should be increased to Band C1.

Political Group Bandings

The Panel heard from Group Leaders or their representative about Political Group Bandings and the Special Responsibility Allowances paid.

One Group suggested that rather than having different bandings a fixed rate be paid for the role with an additional amount of allowance paid for each Councillor within the group. The rationale for this suggestion was to avoid a cliff edge if a

group lost members ensuring that any payments reflected the actual numbers within Groups.

During discussion of the issues of bandings, all other groups felt that the current bandings and SRAs were fit for purpose, fair and provided provision for small groups whilst recognising there had been a period of group fluidity. It was welcomed that any increase in allowances is now linked to the same percentage awarded to Officers.

Having heard the representations and noting the current political composition of the Council, the Panel finds that the current banding system is a robust and effective way of reflecting group size and recommends that the bandings and SRAs be left unaltered at the present time.

Fostering Panel

The Panel received representations in relation to the role of a Fostering Panel Member, who have an independent role on the Fostering Panel.

The Panels usually meet approximately 3 times per month with each Fostering Panel lasting a full day. Prior to attendance, Members have a vast amount of case notes to read, with a full day's reading for each Fostering Panel. The Panel were made aware that one current member of the Fostering Panel has recently sat on 5 Panels in a month hearing four or five cases at each Panel.

It was explained that as part of the role each Panel member makes notes/suggests questions which are typed into Sharepoint for the Chair to review and are assigned questions to ask at the Panel.

The Fostering Panel will hear different types of cases, including kinship carers, reviews, resignation, non-family related cases and will then make recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker who makes the final decision.

The Panel recognised the amount of reading time required for each Panel along with the sensitivity and importance of the role and the volume of Panel meeting held and recommends increasing the Special Responsibility Allowance to Band D1.

Adoption Panel

The Panel received representations in relation to the role of and Adoption Panel Member, who have an independent role on the Adoption Panel.

The Adoption Panel meets approximately every six weeks and the Panel assess people who want to adopt and whether they should be matched with a particular child.

It was reported that some cases are more complex than others and probing questions need to be asked. Adoption Panel Members have to read case notes before meetings, which can take half a day of reading for anything from two to six cases per Panel.

The Panel makes recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker who makes the final decision.

The Panel recognised the amount of reading time required for each Panel along with the sensitivity and importance of the role and recommends increasing the Special Responsibility Allowance to Band E.

The Panel would like to express its thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and contributed through their submissions.

Recommendations

- (i) To continue to apply (when known) the same percentage pay award awarded to officers to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances.
- (ii) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be increased from Band E (currently £3,115 per annum) to Band C1 (currently £7,790 per annum).
- (iii) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Fostering Panel Members be increased from Band E1 (currently £1,556 per annum) to Band D1 (currently £4,675 per annum).
- (iv) The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to Adoption Panel Members be increased from Band E1 (currently £1,556 per annum) to Band E (currently £3,115 per annum).

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 10th December 2024

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Paul Moore
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

65 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of Cabinet were present.

66 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

67 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

68 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda Items 8 and 9 contained exempt information (Minute Nos. 72 and 73 refer).

69 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

70 Questions by Members of the Public

Cabinet received the following questions under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 11;

Question from Mike Forster

“In relation to Agenda Item 8, under 2.9f) of the report, the Cabinet is proposing to abandon the WYPF for transferring employees; so what pension arrangements are on offer instead, or will there be none?”

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

Question from Mike Forster

“In relation to Agenda Item 8, under 3.3.6, the report states the following: "The transferee employer will need to inform the transferor Council of any 'measures' that it proposes regarding transferring employees following the transfer."

What other 'measures' can the provider introduce and have there been any discussions about that and has the Council sought any guarantees about staffing levels other than what is mentioned in 4.10?”

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

Question from Avalon Rawling

“In relation to Agenda Item 8, the whole case for privatisation hinges on the council's assertion that the homes are not viable, but we have already seen one example of a serious omission in regards to the income (circa £1m) due to the homes.

Another serious flaw is that the financial basis for the proposed privatisation of the two care homes relies on a single year of data. This doesn't account for one-off expenditure, trends, and exceptional circumstances; a multi-year analysis should have been conducted in line with good business analysis practice. An example of a comprehensive analysis of both ongoing costs and of the estimated private sector contributions has been attached to this email.

This fails to take into account all the relevant information, in order to ensure a sound and evidence-based decision, and challenges the Reasons for Recommendations bullet point 2, which states that "The homes represent a comparative loss of more than £0.8 m per annum of direct costs and may well require further capital investment in the near future."

Will the Cabinet therefore vote to proceed with delegating authority to officers to proceed with privatisation despite there being insufficient proof that these stated savings can indeed be made?”

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

Question from Collette Senior

“Both Castle Grange and Claremont House offer an excellent high standard of care already, has Kirklees looked at alternative ways which would keep the homes open and still under Kirklees Council and why are these options not viable?”

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

Question from Sara Blagborough

“I’d like to draw your attention to Kirklees Councils core values and behaviours; (i) Kindness; We are kind so that our behaviour makes each other feel included, happy and well, We work with each other and are friendly, considerate and appreciative, We *'do with, not to'*, showing kindness to each other and our citizens (ii) Inclusion; We provide equal access to opportunities and resources for all people, We achieve inclusion by removing barriers, discrimination and prejudice, We value and promote a culture of inclusion and diversity (iii) Pride; We work with pride to achieve positive outcomes for colleagues, citizens and our places, We have self-respect, dignity and take satisfaction from our achievements and those of our colleagues, We are proud of what we do as individuals, together as a council, and together with our citizens and places. Our behaviours are honest, positive, flexible, Respectful, Communicative and Supportive. Can you explain to me how this proposal fits in with the Council's core values and behaviours?”

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

Question from Donna Mallinson

“If Kirklees is successful in ‘disposing’ of the homes Kirklees claim they will be disposed of as going concerns & the transfer to an alternative provider will ensure continuation of care. But as there will be no care contracts or requirement to maintain current costs, continuation of care cannot be ensured. Will the Cabinet vote to proceed with privatisation despite there being no guarantee of continuation of care for residents in the homes?”

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

71 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Bramwell

“Why should my residents and residents across Kirklees continue to physically, emotionally and financially pay for the Council’s mistakes? What concrete plans does the Council have in place to effectively address the issue of flytipping,

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especially considering the likelihood that the proposal to reduce the size of bins may fail to achieve its intended goals?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Crook) and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor J C Lawson

“Regarding grey bins, would there be an element of voluntary adoption for those that would find it useful to have a smaller grey bin?”

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

Question from Councillor Scott

“Cabinet proposes to replace 160,000 bins – what will happen to the ones that are collected in? This is creating a massive carbon footprint. Can the portfolio holder put a freeze on the proposal and think about the costs to the taxpayers?”

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

Question from Councillor Moore

“Given that the proposal to reduce household bin sizes appears to be a primarily a cost cutting measure, rather than a comprehensive strategy for waste reduction, how does the Labour Cabinet justify this approach, particularly when it will lead to increased fly tipping, public health risks, and disproportionately impact larger families and vulnerable residents? What steps will the Council take to ensure that any waste reduction strategy is both effective and fair without placing undue burdens on those least able to cope?”

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

“This Government have promised £1billion for Councils with a large number of special needs children. Will this SEND extra funding be seen by local schools, or will it be there to cover the debts that exist in most Councils? There are serious concerns about school budgets across Kirklees that there is not enough money to cover the basics. Can the Cabinet take these serious concerns to the DfE and can we try to get funding for the SENCO teachers in Kirklees?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor A U Pinnock)

Question from Councillor Cooper

“Regarding grey bins and the capital investment required to purchase the bins, what is the payback period likely to be, so we are able to judge whether the use of funding the Council is making could be better spent elsewhere?”

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

“I sympathise with the financial situation the Council is in, but there is concern among the Muslim community regarding burial spaces. What can you do to reassure us about the Hale Lane site and can we have an update on the position in Dewsbury and Batley regarding burial spaces?”

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

Question from Councillor Hussain

“How much will it cost to reduce the bin size for 160,000 residents?”

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

72 Future of Council Operated Dementia Care Home Provision (Castle Grange and Claremont House)

(The report included exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information). It is considered that it would not be in the public interest to disclose the information contained in the report as disclosure could potentially adversely affect overall value for money and could compromise the commercial confidentiality of the bidding organisations and may disclose the contractual terms, which is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing information including greater accountability, transparency and openness in Council decision making. Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of this item.)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37, Cabinet received representations from Collette Senior, Sara Blagborough, Donna Mallinson, Mike Forster, Avalon Rawling.)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Ali Bramwell, Cooper, J C Lawson, Munro, Safdar and Scott).

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Cabinet gave consideration to a report which advised on the progress of identifying potential new operators for Castle Grange and Claremont House residential dementia care homes.

The report set out options based upon (i) maintaining the current operation and retaining the care homes (ii) transferring both care homes to a third party bidder as a going concern following a robust expression of interest exercise, subject to evaluation of price and quality and (iii) the closure of both homes in accordance with best practice guidance.

Cabinet were asked to approve option (ii) and advised that the concerns that had been raised during the consultation process did not provide substantial or significant reasons as to why the homes should be retained as directly operated facilities. The report indicated that the homes represented a comparative loss of more than £0.8m per annum of direct costs and may require further capital investment in the near future. Cabinet were advised that five bids had been received.

The report set out the progress that had been made since the Cabinet decisions of 12 March 2024 and 8 October 2024. It advised that (i) a six week consultation period had since been undertaken with service users and relatives regarding the transfer option, and that meetings had also taken place with staff (ii) the sites had been marketed to parties who had experienced an interest (iii) detailed information about the homes had been prepared and shared, including staffing, financial and property information (iv) interested providers had visited both premises and (v) formal offers had now been received for both homes, which would be examined.

The report set out a breakdown of information relating to (i) consultation with families (ii) engagement with private providers (iii) the existing and future financial position (iv) implications for the Council, including financial and legal implications and (v) the consultation process and overview of themes raised.

The report recommended that option (ii) would enable the Council to better manage current financial challenges and that, subject to approval Officers would pursue further engagement with interested parties through a best and final offer process, which would seek to secure a transfer agreement in January 2025.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the outcome of the consultation as at Appendix 1 and 2 of the considered report be noted.
- 2) That the content of the Integrated Impact Assessment, including mitigating factors, be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to pursue the transfer of the homes as a going concern.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Adults and Health, in consultation with (i) the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (ii) the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (iii) the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning and (iv) the Service Director – Finance to:

- (i) progress negotiations with potential bidders through a Best and Final Offer stage and select a preferred bidder
 - (ii) complete the legal transfer of two residential care homes as a going concern, subject to the satisfactory outcome to negotiations with the preferred bidder.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning to enter into formal legal agreements and other documentation required to implement the decision of Cabinet.
- 6) That, in the absence of a successful outcome of the Best and Final Offer stage of the transfer process a further report be considered by Cabinet.

73

Consideration of Options for the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall

(The report included exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 as it contains details relating to the financial or business affairs of any person including the Council and it is considered that it would not be in the public interest to disclose the information contained in the private appendices, revealing the information could potentially hinder the Council's ability to secure value for money, compromise the commercial confidentiality of the entities mentioned within the report, and ultimately be detrimental to the Council's financial and business interests. These concerns are considered to surpass the benefits of increased public accountability, transparency in the expenditure of public funds and openness in the Council's decision making process. Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of this item.)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37, Cabinet received representations from Christian Burke (on behalf of Kim Leadbeater MP), Francesca Whittlestone and Erica Amende.)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors J C Lawson, Moore, A Pinnock, K Pinnock and Smaje.)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which presented options to inform a decision regarding the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall. The report set out options of (i) take no action and retain the site in its current mothballed state (ii) re open the site with limited refurbishment for health and safety works, and other works in future years (iii) reopen the site following a full refurbishment of the building (iv) permanently close and dispose of the site/building and (v) pursue a community management arrangement, via a full repair and insurance lease following agreement of a revenue and capital investment business case.

Cabinet were asked to approve option (iv), whereby a successful community group would manage the building and cover the revenue costs under a full repair and insurance lease, following the provision of a business plan outlining how revenue running costs and capital investment into Cleckheaton Town Hall could be secured through external sources. The report explained that this recommendation was based on several critical factors; (i) the need for the Council to reduce its long term revenue costs due to the financial constraints it is facing (ii) the need to restrict

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capital expenditure and (iii) the acknowledgement that the town hall is an important asset for the community and an opportunity needs to be provided for the community to become actively responsible for the day to day operation and revenue costs.

Cabinet were advised that a full appraisal of the condition of the town hall had been undertaken, and that a report had been issued during the summer which had identified multiple issues with regards to the condition of the town hall, estimated the cost of a full refurbishment to be £7.183m. The report was attached at Appendix A of the report.

The report requested that Cabinet give consideration to the options as set out in section two of the report, which presented a range of potential approaches for the future of the town hall, noting the capital and revenue implications of each approach. A development appraisal was attached at Appendix B of the report (exempt).

Cabinet noted the suggestion from local residents and Elected Members for some flexibility to be applied to the timescales set out in the report and that consideration also be given to the potential use and allocation of funding from Town and Village Funds.

The report advised that, subject to approval, a process would be undertaken to identify a potential group with a viable revenue and capital investment plan and that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the detailed options, as outlined in Section 2 of the considered report, be noted.
- 2) That the capital and revenue implications of each considered option, along with the condition information and development appraisal (Appendix A and B), be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to Option 5, which seeks to engage the community in the day to day management, running and operation of Cleckheaton Town Hall, through a full repair and insurance lease, which commits the successful community group to cover the revenue operational costs of the building, and requests that the group identify a capital investment plan with appropriate sources of funding, whereby ownership would be retained by the Council.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the (i) Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Finance (ii) the Service Director - Finance and the (iii) Service Director - Legal and Commissioning to:
 - (i) Consider and award, if required, a revenue grant in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules to interested community group(s) to support the development of an appropriate business plan.
 - (ii) Manage and review progress against the development of a revenue and capital business plan and the timeframes shown below during the three stages of the process - (1) Expression of Interest within one month of the invitation being advertised followed by (2) an application with Business Case within a further three months and (3) preparation

- of a report to return to Cabinet for consideration of the outcomes of the first two stages within a further two months.
- (iii) Ensure adequate provision is in place for all revenue and capital expenditure required to support the successful business plan.
 - (iv) Negotiate and agree terms of the management agreement and/or full repair and insurance lease and any other documentation required.
- 5) That approval be given to the continued retention of the building in a mothballed state during 2025, as necessary, to enable the community to bring forward a successful business case for the future operation of the town hall.
 - 6) That Officers be diligent in their consideration of any business cases submitted ensuring that any potential detrimental impact on other existing Council and 3rd sector operated facilities and venues was clearly shown and mitigations identified, if possible, to lessen the impact.
 - 7) That it be noted that Officers will submit a report to Cabinet in line with the stated timescales for further consideration and a decision following receipt of any applications and business cases from group(s) interested in moving forward with Option 5 as described within the report.
 - 8) That considerable flexibility be applied to the timescales that are set out in the report, as appropriate.
 - 9) That consideration be given to the potential use and allocation of Town and Village funding for scheme.

74 Council Budget Report 2025/2026; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account
(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Cooper and Smaje.)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out the Council's proposed budget for 2025/2026, for consultation, including Capital, General Fund Revenue and the Housing Revenue Account. The report set out details of the overall budget position prior to the submission of a final budget to Council in March 2025.

The report explained the application of financial strategy and that the proposed budget included estimated changes to the Council's main sources of income, corporate expenditure and service pressures based upon current information. Cabinet noted that, given the ongoing financial challenges, the focus of setting a balanced budget has been based upon detailed up to date estimates of all pressures and developing savings proposals.

The report advised that a public consultation on the proposals would take place from 11 December 2024 to 15 January 2025 and that a summary of the outcome would be presented at Cabinet on 11 February 2025, alongside the final version of the budget following the release of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That it be noted that in relation to the General Fund Revenue, the Proposed Budget for 2025/26 presented within the considered report is based on the

approval and delivery of £11.4m of new savings for 2025/26 as set out at Appendix D.

- 2) That it be noted, that at this stage, based on assumptions arising from the Chancellor's budget and the subsequent policy statement, the budget is balanced.
- 3) That in noting that a balanced budget must be set no later than 10 March 2025, should the final local government finance settlement vary from the assumptions at (2) above, then further savings may be required.
- 4) That approval be given to a consultation on the Proposed Budget for 2025/26, including a proposed 2.99% increase in core Council Tax and a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept.
- 5) That the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2025-26 period as set out at Appendix B, be noted.
- 6) That the forecast levels of statutory and other Council reserves, as set out at Appendix C be noted.
- 7) That the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2025/26 be noted.
- 8) That, pursuant to (7) above, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director – Finance, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member, to agree the governance arrangements for 2025/26, for approval through the Business Rates Joint Committee as outlined in section 2.6 of the considered report.
- 9) That in relation to Capital, approval be given for consultation on the updated Capital Plan for 2024-32 as set out at Appendix E.
- 10) That in relation to the Housing Revenue Account, the proposed budget including rent and service charges increases for the Housing Revenue Account, as set out at Agenda Item 11, be noted.

75 Housing Revenue Account Rent and Service Charge Inflationary Uplift and HRA Budget

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Cooper and Smaje).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided the financial context and basis for the annual rent and service charges inflationary uplift for 2025-2026, which would form part of the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals.

The report advised that, if approved, the recommendations would maximise rent and service charge income to comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to achieve a balanced Housing Revenue Account, propose a balanced Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budget for 2025-2026, and hold reserves at a level which is set at £500 per property at circa £10m.

Cabinet were advised that the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget was £110m, whereby 29% was budgeted to be spent on repairs and maintenance, with 28% being spent on management and community facility costs, 11% to be spent on extra care schemes, 22% to contribute to the cost of capital and major works, 7% for financing costs and 3% for other provisions and taxes.

The report advised that, subject to approval, the charges would be implemented from 1 April 2025, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, and notifications would be issued to tenants in accordance with the statutory four week notice period.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the uplift of the proposed rents by an average of £2.30 per week (2.7%) and service charges payable by between 0.01p and £0.48 per week (2.7%) for social housing from 1st April 2025.
- 2) That approval be given to introduce a service charge for communal grounds maintenance services capped at £1.00 per week each year until full cost recovery is achieved.
- 3) That approval be given to the charges for Extra Care Services – Intensive Housing Management to be uplifted by between £1.92 and £4.90 (6.7%) and Extra Care Services – Night Care Service to be uplifted by £1.48 per week (6.7%).
- 4) That the national and local financial challenges outlined as part of the HRA budget proposals for 2025-26 be noted.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing) to approve the rate for personal charges for Sheltered Heating and District Heating.
- 6) That the updated Capital Plan for 2024-2033, as set out at Appendix 3 of the considered report, be recommended to Council for approval.
- 7) That the draft HRA Budget for 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix 2 of the considered report, be recommended to Council for approval.

76 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 2 for 2024-25

Cabinet received a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 2 (Month 6). The report advised that the forecast outturn position at Quarter 2 is an overspend of £13m which, after the use of earmarked reserves and contingencies, reduces to £9.9m, reflecting an improvement of £2.9m from Quarter 1, mainly from application of reserves to fund some slippage in savings plans and release of pay inflation budget no longer required.

Cabinet noted that savings were forecast to be delivered at 79%, against a target of £42.6m, and total useable reserves were forecast to be c£56.6m at 31 March 2025 of which unallocated reserves were forecast to be £22m (excluding in year overspend) and earmarked reserves were forecast to be £34.6m.

The report provided a breakdown of the projected outturn financial monitoring position in terms of (i) forecast general fund revenue outturn position in 2024/2025 by service area (ii) general fund reserves and balances movements in year (iii) forecast Housing Revenue Account outturn position including movements in the Housing Revenue Account reserves in-year (iv) forecast capital outturn position in 2024/2025 and (v) treasury management prudential indicators.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 2 for 2024/25 (£9.9m overspend) be noted, and that Executive Directors bring forward sustainable proposals to reduce the overspend to bring the budget back into balance.
- 2) That it be noted the DSG deficit was forecast to increase by £20.6m in 2024/25 as set out in the Quarter 2 forecast.
- 3) That the Quarter 2 forecast HRA position (£72k surplus) and forecast year-end reserves position of £20m be noted.
- 4) That in noting the Quarter 2 forecast capital monitoring position for 2024/25, approval be given to the re-profiling of £67.6m (£62.9m General Fund and £4.7m HRA) of the 2024/25 capital plan into future years.
- 5) That approval be given to the £2.4m net increase in the overall capital plan due to £4.7m increased grant and to reduce borrowing by £2.3m (£1.8m 2024/25, £0.5m 2025/26) as set out at Appendices 1 and 3 of the considered report,
- 6) That the Quarter 2 treasury management prudential indicators as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

77 Quarter 2, 2024/25 Council Plan and Performance Update Report

Cabinet gave consideration to the Quarter 2 2024/2025 Council Plan and Performance Update Report which provided information on progress against the 2024/2025 Council Plan priorities, and performance against the 2024/2025 Council key measures.

The report set out an update on the 12 month deliverables outlined within the 2024/2025 Council Plan, up until the end of September 2024. The deliverables related to the four priorities as outlined in the Council Plan; (i) address the financial position in a fair and balanced way (ii) strive to transform Council services to become more efficient, effective and modern (iii) deliver a greener, healthier Kirklees and address the challenges of climate change and (iv) continue to invest and regenerate our towns and villages to support our diverse places and communities to flourish.

It was noted that updates would be shared on a quarterly basis to enable progress against key priorities to be monitored and enact any required changes to maximise improvements and outcomes.

RESOLVED – That the Quarter 2 (2024/2025) Council Plan and Performance Update Report be noted.

78 Corporate Risk - Quarterly Report 2 2024/2025

Cabinet received the Corporate Risk Quarterly Report (2) 2024/2025 which provided information about an assessment of risks faced by the Council at a significant corporate level.

The report highlighted the importance of having effective risk management arrangements for part of a strong assurance and governance framework and it was noted that identifying current and potential future controls played a key role in this.

Cabinet - 10 December 2024

The report advised that, during the quarter, no new risks had been raised, no risks had been removed, and there had been no increases to risk scores this quarter. It was noted that there would be continual monitoring and reporting through the Council's governance and management processes.

RESOLVED – That the Quarter 2 (2024/2025) Corporate Risk Report be noted.

79

Annual RIPA Update

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since the previous update in September 2023.

The report advised that the annual return to the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office for 2023 had been completed and that only one update had been made to the policy this year. Cabinet had noted that no RIPA authorisations had been granted since the previous annual report. It was also noted that no issues had been identified by the Regulator during the IPCO inspection which had taken place in Autumn 2023.

RESOLVED – That the Annual RIPA report be noted.

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 21st January 2025

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Josh Sheard
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Munir Ahmed

80 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Addy and Councillor Munir Ahmed.

81 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 10 December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

82 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

83 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information had been submitted in relation to Agenda Item 8 (Minute No. 87 refers).

84 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

85 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were received.

86 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Cooper

“The decision by scrutiny that you look again at whether or not to privatise our dementia care homes gives you some time to reconsider this proposal. Next year, with the introduction of the fair funding formula for local government, Kirklees should be better off and this is an opportunity in the forthcoming budget to not prioritise the homes and find the £850k needed to bridge the gap with a view to mainstreaming and maintain the homes within Council control. Trying to push this through in this way will undermine people faith in local politics and in the way that we are governed. Do you agree with me that its time to abandon the proposals to privatise these care homes?”

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

Question from Councillor Sheard

“With regard to war grave burials in Dewsbury cemetery, will the Cabinet object to the Law Commission’s proposal to reuse graves and support the petition that has been supported by community activists to stop the Law Commission’s plans?”

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

Question from Councillor Sheard

Since closing Nab Lane tip, the facility of Dewsbury is experiencing delays of 45mins with traffic back logged through Saville Town. What action is the Council taking to make sure that congestion through Savile Town to Weaving Lane and Dewsbury tip is reduced?

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

87 Our Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint - Phase 2 Gateway 3

(The report included exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely it contains information relating to financial and business affairs of third parties (including the Authority holding that information). It is considered that the disclosure of the information would adversely affect those third parties including the Authority and therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the rights of an individual or the Authority, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness and transparency in relation to public expenditure in the Authority’s decision making, and where the information is subject to an obligation to confidentiality. Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of this item).

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Munro).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to progress the design and pre-construction works for the Cultural Heart, Phase 2 (incorporating the

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combined museum, art gallery, public realm and basement) from Gateway 3 to Gateway 4.

The report provided an update on Phase 1 of the development, which included the library and food hall, pursuant to the commencement of construction on site, and an overview of the remaining phases within the rest of the master plan. The report also outlined the reallocation of some of the allocated budget of £262m within the capital development budget for design and construction, and provided an update on the budgets for pre and post opening costs in the preparation of opening and operating the facilities within the cultural heart. It was noted that the costs would continue to be reviewed within the update reports submitted to Cabinet.

Paragraph six of the report set out the timelines of the project, and it was noted that Phase 1 was expected to be complete, and open to the public, during summer 2026.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That in regard to the Combined Museum & Gallery, Phase 2 RIBA 3, authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration to approve the Royal Institute of British Architects stage 3 design (RIBA 3) for the museum and gallery.
- 2) That in regard to the Combined Museum & Gallery, Phase 2 Gateway 4 Budget, the museum and gallery construction budget be noted and funding to progress from this Gateway 3 to Phase 2 Gateway 4 be approved.
- 3) That in regard to the Construction Partner, Phase 2, Pre Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration, the Director of Legal Governance & Commissioning, the Service Director Finance and the Head of Procurement to make the decision to enter into the Pre-PCSA, and subsequently award the PCSA and instruct any surveys and enabling works that may be necessary prior to the contract sum being agreed subject to compliance with Contract Procedure Rules.
- 4) That in regard to SDP, Architect and Engineer Services, Phase 2 Gateway 3 to Gateway 4, subject to agreement on fees, compliance with the procurement process and Contract Procedure Rules, approval be given to continue the services being provided by the Client delivery team (SDP, architect and the engineer) to progress from this Gateway 3 to Phase 2 to Gateway 4.
- 5) That in regard to Construction Capital Development Council Resources approval be given to the allocation of necessary council staff and resources to support the construction programme and it be noted that, in the absence of sufficient internal resources, additional external resources will be sourced from the existing appointments and/or from existing/future framework agreements, subject to compliance with procurement process and the Contract Procedure Rules.

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- 6) That in regard to the Construction Budget, Phase 1 Gateway 5, Phase 2 Gateway 4 & Master Plan Allowances, approval be given to the further drawdown of £5.663m (Phase 2, £5.413m & Master Plan, £250k) thereby increasing the committed funding for the programme from £73.329m to £78.992m.
- 7) That in regard to the reallocation of budget to the Combined Museum and Gallery Service Pre-opening Capital Costs, approval be given, subject to no other sources of funding being available, the reallocation of funding from the Our Cultural Heart construction budget future phases to fund the museum and gallery pre-opening capital costs including the fit out of the building.
- 8) That in regard to the reallocation of budget to operational services,

approval be given, subject to no other sources of funding being available, the reallocation of funding from the Our Cultural Heart construction budget future phases to fund the West Yorkshire Archive Service (£371k) and the Events team (£50k) pre-opening capital costs.
- 9) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration, the Service Director for Culture and Visitor Economy and the Service Director Finance to explore ways of replenishing the construction budget following any reallocation of budget without exposing the council to any additional capital borrowing commitments.
- 10) That in regard to the Phase 5 Venue and Car Park Review, authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Service Director Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration, and subject to agreeing the terms of reference to utilise part of the master plan feasibility budget to carry out the review of Phase 5.
- 11) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place to work within approved budgets to deliver the design and construction of the programme to Phase 1 Gateway 5, Phase 2 Gateway 4 and develop the master plan including appointing third parties which for Phase 1 includes the food hall operator in compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules and the Financial Procedure Rules.
- 12) That in regard to Operational Services Additional Budgets Phase 1 & Phase 2 it be agreed that the Executive Directors of Place, Adults and Health and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Service Director – Finance, work to identify the relevant service pre and post opening costs of the various phases of the Our Cultural Heart programme. The Service Director – Finance shall ensure that estimates are added to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and be refined as updated information becomes available.

88

Surplus Property Disposals 2025/2026

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received a representations from Councillors Sheard and Smaje).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the proposed 2025/2026 capital receipts schedule for 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix A of the report, which aimed to deliver a targeted level of capital receipts in alignment with the Council's approved budget and capital strategy. Cabinet were also asked to consider an objection that had been received following the advertisement of the intention to dispose of open space at the former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, as shown at Appendix B of the report and to determine whether to dispose of the open space.

Cabinet were advised that the proposal supported the requirement for capital receipts as part of the Council budget strategy and would help to reduce long term revenue commitments through the disposal of surplus buildings and land. The report advised that, in regards to the objection received to the former Gomersal First School, the objection did not highlight any current use or value of the open space and the concerns raised were associated with potential future development and use of the site, which would be considered as part of the statutory planning process.

The report explained that, subject to approval, work would progress the proposals to formulate an accelerated programme for delivery.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place to dispose of any land and property identified within the Capital Receipts Schedule 2025/2026 (Appendix A refers) to support the Council's income targets, in line with the legal requirements as outlined at paragraph 3.7.1 of the report, on such terms as Officers deem most appropriate.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place to dispose of the former Gomersal First School land (Appendix B refers) and that the objection not be upheld.
- 3) That the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) be delegate authority to enter into all agreements necessary to affect any of those disposals referred to (1) and (2) above.

89 Kirklees' School Funding Arrangements for Financial Year 2025-26

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for funding arrangements for the Dedicated Schools Grant for the 2025/2026 financial year, including allocations across four funding blocks; schools block, high needs block, early years block and central schools and services block.

The report advised that (i) the schools block per pupil funding rates had increased to £5,548 for primary and £7,201 for secondary, and that the Kirklees school block allocation had increased to £397.2m (ii) the high needs block for Kirklees had been allocated £72.02m for 2025/2026 and that a £3.6m transfer from the schools block would help support a range of investment measures as part of the broader Kirklees SEND transformation plan (iii) the early years block had received an allocation of 2025/2026 of £68.3m and (iv) the central school services block had been allocated at £43.38 per pupil, totalling £2.8m.

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Cabinet noted that the Schools Forum would continue to help shape school funding arrangements, prior to the deadline for the submission of the school funding allocations on 22 January 2025. It was noted that it was expected that maintained schools would be informed of their budget shares by 28 February 2025 and that academies would be advised by 31 March 2025.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the local formula factors for the distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block Funding for 2025/2026 (Appendix A refers).
- 2) That the decisions made by the Schools Forum in terms of central budgets, de-delegated budgets and a fund for significant growth for 2025/2026 be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to the submission of the Schools' local funding formula to the ESFA for 2025/2026.
- 4) That the disapplication request made to the Education Skills and Funding Agency be noted.
- 5) That the ESFA approved exceptions application be noted.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Children's Services, and Education and Communities, to take account of the outcomes of the provider consultation, the views of the Early Years and Childcare Reference Group and Schools Forum, and make a final decision on the Early Years local funding formula 2025/2026 value of the Special Education Needs and Disability Inclusion Fund and frequency of early years funding payments.

90 Approval of acceptance and expenditure of external grant funding on preliminary development enabling works

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought authority to spend £1.25m of One Public Estate Brownfield Land Release funding on Estate Buildings in order to prepare the building for future development. The report advised that utilising external funding on enabling works for the building would help to reduce costs for a future developer, making the building more attractive to potential developers, and assisting the development of this landmark building and the delivery of the Huddersfield Blueprint. Cabinet noted that the proposed capital works would be funded by the One Public Estate brownfield land release grant.

The report advised that the One Public Estate Brownfield Land Release funding focused upon the release of surplus buildings and land in order to facilitate development for housing and that the successful bid would facilitate the future development of the building. Cabinet agreement was therefore sought for the spend of the grant upon the specified works. A cost breakdown of the capital works was set out at paragraph two of the report. It was noted that the funding agreement required the work to be in contract by 31 March 2025 with a view to delivering homes by 31 March 2028 to meet the funding conditions.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to expenditure of £1.25m of external grant funding from One Public Estate on Estates Building to facilitate its future development.

91 Half Yearly Monitoring Report on Treasury Management Activities 2024/2025 (Reference to Council)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out treasury management performance during the first half of 2024/2025, prior to the submission of the report to Council on 12 February 2025.

The report provided reassurance that the treasury management function was being managed prudently and pro-actively and that the treasury management prudential indicators were being complied with. The report indicated that (i) external investments averaged £61.6m at an average rate of 5.06% (ii) the Council's net borrowing increased by 25.2m in the 6 month period from £668.2m at 31 March 2024 to £693.4m at 30 September 2024 (iii) all treasury management activity undertaken complied fully with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and the principles of the Treasury Management Code (and (iv) the treasury management revenue budget for 2024/2025 was £27.1m.

Cabinet noted the content of the report which set out information on (i) economy and interest rates (ii) local context (iii) investment activity (iv) borrowing update and activity and (v) risk and compliance issues.

RESOLVED – That the half yearly monitoring report on treasury management activity 2024/2025 be noted and that the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 12 February 2025.

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE - LOCAL ISSUES

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Present: Councillor Graham Turner (Chair)
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Viv Kendrick

1 Membership of the Committee

Councillor Kendrick substituted for Councillor Crook under the provision of Part 3.4 of the Constitution.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Member Question Time (Oral Questions)

No questions were asked.

8 To consider an Objection received to Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - 'Amendment Order No 10 of 2024' - Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield

The Committee gave consideration to a report which set out details of an objection that had been received to proposed Traffic Regulation Order 'Amendment Order No 10 of 2024' at Kitson Hill, Mirfield.

The report that Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, met the criteria for the introduction of a pedestrian crossing facility, located between the school and artificial pitches on the opposite side of the road, and had been subject to notice during the period 1 to 29 August 2024, when no formal comments were received. The notices, which were advertised on-street and in the press, were attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Cabinet Committee - Local Issues - 23 October 2024

The Committee were advised that as there were existing 'keep clear' markings at the proposed location of the zebra crossing, as illustrated at Appendix 2, it would be necessary to reduce the length of the markings in order to accommodate the crossing. The Traffic Regulation Order to revoke the restrictions was advertised between 15 August and 5 September 2024 and a formal objection was received from ward member, Councillor Bolt.

The report indicated that, whilst Councillor Bolt was supportive of the road safety measures, he requested the delivery of a more holistic approach which would help to resolve term time parking and traffic issues. It was noted that the Council was aware of the wider problems associated with school traffic in the area and that a solution was actively trying to be sought.

The Committee were sympathetic to the issues raised by Councillor Bolt but were supportive of the proposal to install a zebra crossing facility. It was therefore determined that the objection be overruled.

RESOLVED – That the objection to proposed Traffic Regulation Order 'Amendment Order No 10 of 2024' at Kitson Hill, Mirfield, be overruled and that the Order be implemented as advertised.

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 6th December 2024

Present: Councillor John Taylor (Chair)
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Imran Safdar

Co-optees Chris Jones

In attendance: Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance
James Anderson, Head of Accountancy (Virtual)
Simon Straker, Audit Manager
Sarah S Brown, Acting Head of Welfare and Exchequer
Councillor Tyler Hawkins (ex-Officio)
Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton
Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton

Apologies: Councillor Bill Armer (ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee

No apologies from Committee Members were received.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda item 13 would be considered in private session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Notice of appointment of 2nd Independent Person

The Committee received a report providing an update on the appointment of a second independent person.

Samantha Lawson, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning advised the Committee that concerns had been raised regarding the risks associated with only having one Independent Person, and authority had been sought, and was given by Annual Council in May 2019 for the Monitoring Officer to recruit a second Independent Person. The role of the Independent Person is a statutory role, and they must be consulted on formal standards issues. The Independent Person provides the monitoring officer with advice on receipt of councillor complaints.

RESOLVED- That the Notice of appointment of 2nd Independent Person report be noted.

8 Annual report on Bad Debt Write-Offs 2023-24

The Committee received a report on Bad Debt write-offs 2023-24.

Overall write-offs for 2023-24 were slightly lower than 2022-23. The overall percentage written off in 2023-24 was slightly lower in % terms than 2022-23 but remained an ongoing issue due to the current financial climate and in part due to the build-up of debts throughout the pandemic. It was noted that there was a likelihood of more suppressed bad debt, this would be debt due to current circumstances and would be harder to collect, therefore taking longer to recover moving forward.

The figures for write offs of Adult Social Care debt, Housing Benefit Overpayments recovery, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and Council Tax made up the top 5 areas for write offs and demonstrated how important it was for everyone to pay their share of the charges to help fund essential Council Services. The debt process had been challenging with staff shortages due to unexpected absences and difficulties recruiting, along with the cost-of-living crisis and a rise in the number of customers accessing adult social care services. The Committee noted that whilst all the debts highlighted in the report had been formally written off in its accounts for 2023-24, that did not mean that the Council would not write the debts back on the accounts and then pursue if new information came to light and the prospect for recovering outstanding debts changed in the future.

During consideration of this item, the Committee requested further information be provided on future reports regarding the outstanding debts at the end of the year along with the age profile. It was noted that the service was in contact with other Local Authorities to gain an understanding of their good working practices to improve debt collection.

RESOLVED- That the Annual Bad Debt Write-Off 2023-24 report be noted.

9 Half yearly Monitoring report on Treasury Management activities 2024-25

The Committee received a report providing assurance that the Council's treasury management function was being managed prudently and pro-actively. External investments, including the £10.0 million Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF), averaged £61.6 million during the period at an average rate of 5.06%. Investments ranged from a peak of £103.5 million in April to a low of £27.9 million in August. It was reported that all treasury management activities undertaken during the period complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits were set out in Appendix 1 of the report. Details of the treasury management revenue budget of £27.1 million was set out in the report, along with the new requirement in the 2021 Code of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The report highlighted that the non-treasury prudential indicators were now incorporated in the Council's normal quarterly revenue reports along with the treasury management indicators.

During discussion of this item, the Committee raised questions regarding the liability benchmark and the councils ongoing need for significant borrowing around access the loans and if it the council would be able to afford to service them, along with questions around changing the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and if the new version was more or less prudent than the previous one.

James Anderson, Head of Accountancy advised that regarding liability benchmarking and accessing loans, there would be no problems borrowing required funds. With regards to MRP and prudence, the important thing was to look at various areas with professionals which included Treasury Advisers, Head of Accountancy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the Section 151 officer who would need to satisfy themselves that the council could repay the debt through revenue received each year. The prudent MRP view looked to evolve each year looking at statute and the remit within that statute, which would look at where the assets were and where the borrowing could be and apply a suitable rate to pay an element of the capital back through the fullness of time.

RESOLVED- That the half-yearly treasury management activities in 2024-25 as set out in the report be noted.

10 Quarterly report of Internal Audit Q2 July - September 2024

The Committee received a report which set out the activities of the Internal Audit in quarter 2 of 2024/25.

The report set out the work of Internal Audit that had been completed in the period July – September 2024. It was reported that all work included had reached a finalised state and, except where shown otherwise in the report, management had accepted the findings and agreed to implement the recommendations, or, in the case of employee investigations, any disciplinary action had been through the required stages and any appeal time. A number of audits were awaiting finalisation and would be reported in the next quarter. Where an assurance opinion was appropriate these reflected the standard framework set out in the report.

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 6 December 2024

The Committee acknowledged that there had been no Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act activity during the period quarter 2 2024/25.

During discussion of this item, the Committee raised concerns around the limited assurance of tenancy allocations in Homes and Neighbourhoods which were around the fundamental recommendation and number of significant recommendations. The Committee requested that Officers provide an update on the recommendations in the report which was to be considered at their meeting in March 2025.

It was noted that the chair of the Committee would liaise with the Head of Internal Audit regarding a detailed report on areas that had adequate assurance, but where there were significant or merits attention recommendations, and to provide the committee with assurance that all audits had been conducted thoroughly and followed up, to be considered at a future meeting by the Committee.

RESOLVED- That the Quarterly report of Internal Audit Q2 July -September 2024 be noted.

11 Agenda Plan 2024/25

RESOLVED- That the Agenda Plan for 2024/25 be noted.

12 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED- That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically state in the undermentioned minute.

13 Quarterly report of Internal Audit Q2 July - September 2024

RESOLVED-That the Committee noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to Agenda item 11.

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday 28th November 2024

- Present: Councillor Beverley Addy (Chair)
Councillor Carole Pattison
Rachel Spencer-Henshall
Carol McKenna
Karen Jackson
James Creegan
Chief Supt Jim Griffiths
Catherine Riley
Alasdair Brown
Warren Gillibrand
- In attendance: Alex Chaplin, Strategy & Policy Officer
Cllr Jo Lawson, Chair of Health and Adults Scrutiny Panel
Lucy Wearmouth, Head of Improving Population Health
Chris Lennox, Interim Chief Operating Officer, South-
West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Steve Brennan, Kirklees Place Programme Director
Hannah Morrison, Team leader, Planning Policy
Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Service Director
Communities and Access Services
- Apologies: Tom Brailsford
Richard Parry
Michelle Cross
Stacey Appleyard
Christine Fox
Nicola Goodberry Kenneally
Liz Mear
Sean Rayner
Len Richards
Dr Vanessa Taylor

1 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies were received from Tom Brailsford, Richard Parry, Sean Raynor, Len Richards, Nicola Goodberry Kenneally, Stacey Appleyard, Christine Fox, Liz Mear and Vanessa Taylor.

Matt England attended as sub for Len Richards.
Chris Lennox, attended as sub for Sean Raynor.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2024, be 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

No public questions were asked.

7 Kirklees Safe zones

Chief Superintendent, James Griffiths, provided information regarding how and why Safe Zones were developed. He explained that the aim is for the Safe Zone logo to be seen at different places around Kirklees and encouraged Board members to look out for the logo.

In summary, the Board was informed that Safe Zones were developed in December 2019 and was borne out of a discussion as part of a focus group with young people from a school in Huddersfield as part of the former Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Board. The discussion focused on what they would like the police to do for them, and the response from one young person was "there is nowhere to go if you are feeling unsafe". Although things stalled as a result of the pandemic; it has now been picked up and is widely developed across Kirklees.

The ambition of Safe Zones is:

- to create a network of these safe places, where women and girls particularly, are provided with a place that they can use as a momentary retreat, although not solely just for women and girls, it did fit into the violence against women and girl's agenda.
- It can also be for vulnerable adults and for others who can use these areas if they feel unsafe. They just need to call in if they need some help, or if they are lost
- To work with partners sharing our knowledge and experience of the risks children and young people face. This was an opportunity to give people better training around risks.
- To ensure our Safe Zone partners feel confident in recognising, responding, and reporting safeguarding concerns.
- To support and empower partners to help keep all women and girls safe (Active Bystanders).

The Board was informed that West Yorkshire Police are committed to creating an environment where women and girls can feel safe within the county, free of fear and harassment. As part of the Force's commitment to reducing Violence Against

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Women and Girls, it has launched its Strategy, outlining how it intends to ensure that women and girls are safe and feel safe.

The three key priorities are:

- Pursuit of perpetrators,
- Creating safe spaces (in private, public, and online),
- Increasing trust and confidence in policing.

The Board was informed that in terms of how Safe Zones are trained, it involves explaining about the active bystanders, raising awareness, and looking at how Safe Zones are provided for women and girls in a complex world. It also includes the following:-

- Making sure that people understand and have an awareness of child exploitation both sexual and criminal exploitation, debunking some of the myths around county lines exploitation
- An awareness of grooming and that can include both grooming there and then, or non-recent grooming and how people may find that somewhere like a Safe zone may be the first place where they open up
- Knowing the signs across a whole range of incidents and crimes, and behaviour that people may suffer from, and the complexities of what stalking is and the differences between stalking and harassment
- Domestic abuse, a whole range of training around domestic abuse, from very early signs right through to controlling and coercive behaviour also learning from domestic homicide reviews
- Exploring the 'Safe Zone' process because it may not be right for everybody, for example, some people attend the training thinking that they might be able to run a Safe Zone and perhaps then realise it is not for them, as they may not be able to commit to it and decide to step away, which is also fine

In terms of what Safe Zones might be use for could include:

- Feeling Unsafe
- Being followed
- Lost
- Bullied
- Missing
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VWAG)

The Board was informed that there are different levels of support that individuals may find when they go into these Safe Zones. For example, a low need, may be someone who just needs momentary support, a friendly face, someone to talk to. A medium need may be where some assistance is required and those individuals may need signposting to some other safety point, some other place, or call in another agency. There is also an emergency response where there is a high need, an immediate threat, it is urgent and there is likely going to be a crime committed. The expectation would be that the individual in the Safe Zone would be ringing the police via 999, and the police would get to those people within 15 minutes which is a requirement

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Information was provided on what is expected from Safe Zones, as follows:

Record – Keep a log: note down details about Safe Zone visitors, action taken and any concerns (what did you noticed, name, time, description etc.).

Report- Share any concerns with as much information as you can recall about the Safe Zone visitor (name, age, others, threat, or patterns of behavior that concerned you).

Respond- Pass on information and concerns that you have witnessed. Become an active bystander.

The Board was informed that currently there are nearly 200 Safe Zones across Kirklees as follows:

- 38 Rural
- 43 Batley and Spen
- 50 Huddersfield
- 35 Dewsbury and Mirfield
- Libraries
- GP surgeries
- Pub chains
- Walksafe App – work is currently being undertaken with the Walksafe App, which will allow individual to locate a Safe Zone using the app.

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

- How can people get involved, do they approach the police directly?
- There was a report on the BBC recently which was regard to “ask for Angela” scheme and how few pubs were aware of this even though they advertised it publicly. If organisations are signing up for Safe Zones, what do they need to do, bearing in mind staff turnover or the passage of time that they remain up to date in terms of all their staff knowing what is required?
- In terms of data, if people are recording the sort of things that are causing issues for people, how can that information be used to be more preventative which could then be used to get key messages out to communities, for example common themes. It would be useful to consider how this information can be shared in terms of the themes that emerge
- There is a role in this for the voluntary sector, third sector leader, Youth Alliance, the KAL sites they should all be signing up to Safe Zones
- From a social care perspective there are lots of buildings across Kirklees, such as care homes and wonder how some of those can be opened up to become much more integrated into the community and become Safe Zones
- Are there specific types of buildings that have not yet come on board, for example shops

RESOLVED:

That Chief Superintendent, James Griffiths, be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Safe zones; and that further information on how to sign up to Safe Zones be circulated to board members.

8 A paper to Health and Wellbeing Board on the update of the Kirklees Local Plan

Lucy Wearmouth and Hannah Morrison, provided the Board with an update on the Kirklees Local Plan, advising that in terms of the Local Plan, it is currently in the early engagement phase and there is still plenty of time to feedback through the process. The aim of the discussion at the Board is to enable members to find out more about the Local Plan, particularly if there has been no prior involvement and also to update Board members on how to can get involved.

In summary, The Board was reminded of the vision, priorities and ambition within the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy (KHWS) and that Healthy Places, which is one of the priorities in the KHWS, is an important theme within the Local Plan. The vision for the Healthy Places priority is: “The physical and social infrastructure and environment supports people of all ages who live, work or study in Kirklees to maximise their health opportunities and to make the healthy choice the easy choice”.

The Board was informed that there are strong connections between Planning, Public Health and Health, and referring to the presentation slide entitled how the planning system can support health outcomes, the Board was advised that a great deal of work has already been undertaken with colleagues from Planning.

The planning system can contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of the Kirklees population in several ways, for example:

- The Local Plan through a spatial strategy which supports sustainable development and through planning policies which seek to support healthy placemaking, by promoting healthy and safe communities.
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – this is guidance produced to support Local Plan policies and of specific reference to health includes: Hot Food Takeaway SPD and Open Space SPD.
- Health Impact Assessments as part of the determination of planning applications.

In reference to Hot Food Takeaways, the Board was informed that Public Health provide Planning with a tool which brings together a number of health indicators, which helps to understand health within a particular local area. For example, if an application for a new hot food takeaway is received, a postcode of where the takeaway intends to be located, allows information to show what is happening in the area, in terms of levels of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, things that have an impact on health and wellbeing, which are related to obesity. If an area hits a range of different indicators, the advice would be to carefully consider that application.

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The other aspect to bring to the Board's attention is health impact assessments, which is already taking place. When a new application for a major planning development within Kirklees is received, colleagues in the Public Health Team will assess the application, according to health. For example, does the planning application consider access to green spaces, is it considering the community around it, questions are also asked regarding air quality, a broad audit of the application is undertaken, and advice is given to the developers in order to improve health outcomes.

The Board was informed that in terms of the Kirklees Local Plan update, the current Local Plan was adopted in Feb 2019, with an update started in Nov 2023 following approval of Full Council. The reasons for the update are:

- is to ensure that the Local Plan aligns with revised national planning policy guidance.
- To align the Local Plan with new council priorities/strategies.
- To be more ambitious in the use of planning policy to support climate change ambitions.
- To update housing/employment requirements to meet the needs of Kirklees.

The Board was informed that one of the key roles of the Planning Policy Team is the production of up-to-date planning guidance, in the form of a Local Plan. The plan has several purposes including a vision for Kirklees, allocating land for development needs, in addition to identifying designation land to be protected for example, urban green space sites, local green spaces and core walking and cycling routes. The plan also provides a framework to guide decisions and planning applications. There are many elements that feed into the review of the Local Plan.

Guidance is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), that is what policies in the Local Plan are based on. The guidance in the NPPF, is that the Local Plan should enable and support healthy lifestyles, through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

During the summer, the government consulted on an updated version of the NPPF. The chapter on promoting healthy and safe communities, there was no significant changes proposed to that chapter of the NPPF. The consultation has now closed, and the government is assessing the responses. The consultation asked the following question:

'How could national planning policy better support local authorities in (a) promoting healthy communities and (b) tackling childhood obesity?' The Council provided a response to the government on that question.

Early engagement has been opened on the Local Plan and through that engagement, views are being sought on whether health can form a golden thread throughout the plan, and in all policy considerations. It is important to ensure that the Local Plan aligns with the council's top tier strategies and the Local Plan will consider the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy when policies are being formulated.

There are a number of health-related policies in the Local Plan, and as part of the update there is an opportunity to review the existing policies to include further or additional policies or guidance. As part of the update there is a requirement to gather an extensive evidence base. The Board was provided with information which outlined the Local Plan timetable, with a submission date to the Secretary of State in March 2027.

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

- It is important to understand the impact on partners for example primary care in having a big new housing development and what that would mean in terms of practice population, and how the planning of that could be looked at going forward. This is an area that the Board might want to consider both in terms of public health prevention and the potential changes to services that might result from some of the proposals in the Plan. The Board would want a further conversation on understanding what that might do to the local landscape.
- A key focus should be ensuring there are preventative health and wellbeing measures in terms of housing development and how housing areas can be made as healthy as possible, by ensuring meaningful provision.
- Where would information be found to help understand how much of the Local Plan in 2019 had been actioned against what had been set out at that point?
- With regard to the hot food takeaways and health impact assessments against planning applications, is there any information to show if it actually makes any difference, and are there numbers of how many planning applications may have been turned down as a result of those impact assessments?

RESOLVED:

That Lucy Wearmouth and Hannah Morrison be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Local Plan, and that a further update be provided at a future Board meeting.

9 Inclusive Communities Framework

Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Community and Access Services, provided the Board with an update on the Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF), advising that it is one of the council's four top tier partnership strategies. Overall, it is a commitment to work better with communities and in order to achieve this there is a need to change the way things are done, it is a partnership commitment to be inclusive and to really focus on inclusion across the district. When the ICF was developed, it was undertaken in collaboration with a number of partners including the voluntary and community sector.

The Board was directed to the presentation slides, which outlined a refresh of the ICF, and advised that it is acknowledged that some people in the community do not

always feel like they belong, and that what matters to them is not important to other people and they do not know how they can get involved in their communities.

The ICF offers an opportunity to give a framework to be able to create safer and more cohesive communities, to enable people to feel like they belong and that they can play a part. The focus is not on communities getting things done, the focus is on how organisations and institutions can work alongside communities.

The ICF has been designed to be used across the whole of Kirklees and it has been a challenge making it relevant to every organisation and particularly strategic partnerships. It offers a guide on how that can be done across services and partners, community groups and initiatives. It is important that there continues to be a focus on the best practice.

The ICF is made up of three guiding principles:

1. Belief - That communities have solutions to problems; they have skills and knowledge that organisations do not have.
2. Belonging - Building trust and promoting belonging in local places. People may be different, but they have shared interests and challenges.
3. Care - Care more about what communities' care about and showing this through action.

The ICF sets out five inclusive approaches:

Connecting

Whether that is working in partnership with local people or creating more connections in and between communities.

Communicating

Communicating more and better with communities.

Equalising

Creating opportunities to work alongside local people sharing knowledge and resources.

Trusting

Trusting communities more.

Celebrating

Celebrating communities.

In terms of what the ICF has to do with the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy (KHWS), the Board was informed that, it is one of the key enablers for achieving the KHWS priorities around mental wellbeing, connected care and support, and healthy places. For mental wellbeing the ICF does support the idea of connecting with and giving to others. It is well evidenced around mental health in terms of life satisfaction being closely linked to social interaction and participation and that is a

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real part of the ICF to foster that social and community life pride in community and social connection. Healthy Places, ensuring that there are community activities and opportunities for people to be active, and to stay socially connected.

The work undertaken to date has been to co-produce the ICF, launch the toolkit and upload it to the website, carry out numerous briefings and conversations and attend a number of boards and asked people to undertake the self-assessment. There is an online platform where the self-assessments can be submitted, and the aim of the self-assessment is that this can become a dynamic framework and not a paper-based strategy.

After the first year of receiving the self-assessment information, the expectation is that this will provide the baseline for monitoring progress in subsequent years. It will also help to identify collective priorities. The framework is a guide to how things will be done. Work is being undertaken on the self-assessment tool to make it better.

The ICF can be worked with and help, and support is available to help organisations and partners work with this, and it can make the difference across Kirklees.

The following questions were posed to the Board:

- What is your role in implementing the ICF?
- How do you hold partners to account with the different initiatives that come to the Board, does the Board ask how are you assured that the ICF is supporting that?
- How can the Board use its influence with others to consider the ICF and how can the Board champion that?

It is more important than ever that there is an understanding of the lived experience of local communities, and there is an understanding to enable organisations to work alongside them in a way that matters to them and can co-create those solutions.

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

- What types of organisations have already signed up to this framework?
- It would be positive for an update to be provided to the Third Sector Leaders Board.
- Are Healthwatch connected into this work?
- That information on the ICF be circulated to Board members and will serve as a prompt for internal and external partners.

RESOLVED:

That Jill Greenfield be thanked for providing an update on the Inclusive Communities Framework and that further information on the ICF be circulated to Board members.

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 20th September 2024

Present: Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair)
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Jo Lawson

13 Membership of Committee

All Members of the Committee were in attendance.

14 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Chair noted that, further to its consideration at the last meeting, the draft Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-27 had been approved by Cabinet on 10th September 2024. The comments made by the Committee, and the amendments made in response, had been detailed in the report to Cabinet.

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 22nd May and 2nd August 2024 be approved as a correct record.

15 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

16 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

17 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

18 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

19 Leader of Council's, Corporate and Finance & Regeneration Portfolio Holders' Priorities

Councillor Carole Pattison, the Leader of Council and the Portfolio Holders for Finance, Councillor Graham Turner, and Corporate, Councillor Tyler Hawkins, were welcomed to the meeting to talk about their priorities for 2025/26.

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Councillor Pattison explained that:

- The long-term vision, eight shared outcomes, and four partnership strategies remained the same. The vision was for a district that combined a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality, where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.
- The priorities set out in the 2024/25 Council Plan would continue to be delivered:
 1. Address the financial position in a fair and balanced way.
 2. Strive to transform Council services to become more efficient, effective and modern.
 3. Continue to deliver a greener, healthier Kirklees and address the challenges of climate change.
 4. Continue to invest and regenerate our towns and villages to support our diverse places and communities to flourish.
- Recent positive outcomes included; the 'good' Ofsted grading which showed that children's services had improved; progress in respect of pushing forward growth across Kirklees, including the start of work on the 'Cultural Heart' and the Dewsbury Riverside developments; the ongoing TransPennine Rail Upgrade; and the establishment of cross-party working arrangements, for budget setting in the first instance.
- The new areas of focus across all portfolios for 2024/2025 were:
 - Getting the basics right; a modern organisation that meets residents' expectations.
 - Being a responsible organisation that protects the vulnerable and drives sustainability.
 - Working with partners to empower people to thrive, including through good local health services, education opportunities and housing.
 - Driving local economic growth, particularly through the cultural sector, and making the most of opportunities through the Council's relationship with the Government and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
 - Working in a more collaborative and inclusive way.
- Specific priorities for 2025/2026 were in development and would be set out in the Council Plan, alongside the budget, in Spring 2025. Work would be undertaken to engage, across the Council and with scrutiny, in developing the detail and the Authority would work with all levels of government (nationally and regionally) to meet any challenges it faced.

Councillor Turner provided an overview of the key priorities across the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio:

- The delivery of a balanced budget for 2025/2026 and the development of a longer-term financial plan. It was noted that the financial position of the Council was still challenging but he was confident that a balanced budget, that met needs, would be achieved.
- One of the drivers for the economic plans was the Local Plan and the development of this had begun. This was a lengthy piece of work, involving significant consultation and there was currently an open invitation to submit sites for consideration.
- Continued rationalisation of the Council's assets, with auctions being scheduled for October and November.

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- Continued delivery of planned investment into the district including the Levelling Up Fund schemes, the Station to Stadium Investment Zone, the University development, the Dewsbury Blueprint and development of The Arcade.
- Working alongside partners and continuing to lobby the Government to secure a fair funding scheme for the future.

Cllr Hawkins provided an overview of the key priorities across the Corporate Portfolio:

- Support for the most vulnerable in Kirklees; including the delivery of cost of living advice and support and assisting partner organisations to support residents in need.
- Modernising Council Services; by continuing to achieve savings whilst being more efficient and offering better value for money, with particular reference to access to services and post-16 home to school transport.
- Clear and Transparent Communication with Residents; including communicating positive outcomes and maintaining open and honest engagement in an inclusive way.
- Enhancing the Council's Traded Services; such as school catering and markets to future-proof these and ensure their continuation.
- Championing Kirklees Council staff; through working with staff and the trade unions to make Kirklees a good place to work.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In relation to the main priorities and challenges, the following were identified:
 - Ensuring that the Cultural Heart and capital investment for the whole of Kirklees was secure and delivered.
 - Developing the budget for the next financial year, alongside looking at alternative provision and addressing rising demand in services such as support for homeless people, which was a national challenge. The aim was to provide an excellent service but reduce the cost and be as efficient as possible.
 - Managing changes to services such as access to customer services and home to school transport.
- In respect of how the Council measured if it was meeting residents' expectations this was done in numerous ways; all residents would soon be invited to take part in the latest CLiK (Currently Living in Kirklees) Survey, Council enquires were monitored and there were numerous consultations, all of which measured customer satisfaction and expectations. It was acknowledged that there was a need for a full and honest explanation about what was possible to help manage expectations and aid understanding.
- With regard to the new post-16 home to school transport policy and flexibility within the Council system to be able to accommodate children with special educational needs and whether each case was being considered on an individual basis, assurance was given that there was an appeal process in place if a family wanted to appeal against the decision and make their individual case to the Council. Members should encourage their residents to do so where appropriate. There was a significant financial challenge for the Council and this provision needed to be dealt with in a different way; there were a number of

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other local authorities dealing with the same issue. It was considered that further information in relation to the options explored in making the decision would be beneficial.

- If permission was given to raise the level of Council Tax or if the Government provided additional funds, it was questioned what the priorities would be for use of the funds. It was noted that significant savings were needed for next year, but if additional funding was forthcoming to the extent that would allow investment, there would be a desire to ensure that it achieved the best possible impact. Examples were provided of areas where the funds could be spent and make a significant difference to residents' lives, which included, housing, health and wellbeing, early intervention and prevention work, infrastructure, Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) provision, and youth services. An indication of how the hypothetical funding would be used was not possible at this point as the Council's budget was still in development.
- The employee networks and the support they provided to staff were invaluable and the support for these was welcomed.
- In relation to vulnerable residents facing difficulties in accessing the Council's online system and how this would be addressed; proposals were included within the digital inclusion business plan. It was considered that councillors also had a role to play, alongside officers, in supporting and signposting residents when required.
- In terms of managing expectations and getting the basics right, whilst it was considered that residents understood that things such as larger road improvement schemes were unlikely to be possible they did want their bins emptying, fly tipping addressed in a timely way and their local area to look tidy. In respect of health and wellbeing the current lack of a sports centre in Dewsbury was an issue.
- The commitment to work with the trade unions was welcomed. In relation to the Council's Redundancy Policy, it was advised that a meeting had taken place with Unison and this issue would be addressed.
- The cross-party working was welcomed and further detail on the implementation of this approach would be helpful. It was suggested that this collaborative approach could be extended; there were a number of councillors from different parties with expertise in particular fields and this could be utilised. In response, assurance was given that it was intended to extend the approach and it was also stressed that this included wider collaborative working with, for example, different cultural organisations, the voluntary sector and the University. The aim was also to work more with ward members prior to decisions being taken.
- In respect of capital investment, further detail would be welcomed in respect of how the impact of this, throughout Kirklees, would be evaluated and measured, along with further information on the consultation process for the schemes, and the future plans, for Dewsbury.

RESOLVED -

That the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders for Finance and Regeneration and Corporate be thanked for attending the meeting to set out their priorities for 2024/25 and that the priorities be noted.

20 Council Plan and Performance Update - Quarter 1 Report 2024-2025

Mike Henry, Head of Data and Insight, provided an update in respect of the Council Plan and Performance Update Report for Quarter 1 2024-25 with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 13th August 2024:

- This was the first iteration of a new format for the Council Plan and Corporate Performance Report.
- The first section of the report provided details on Council activity and delivery against the four priorities within the Council Plan.
- The second section provided the latest data against the Council's key measures for 2024/2025 and showed a range of improvements and challenges, which were summarised in the form of charts indicating direction of travel.
- It was intended that future reports would include benchmarking data against the key measures, where available, which would assist in contextualizing the demand and performance trends and enable comparison of Kirklees with regional and national rates.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Head of Data and Insight be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the Council Plan and Corporate Performance for Quarter 1 2024/2025.

(2) That it be noted that the quarterly reports would be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis during 2024/25.

21 Corporate Financial Monitoring - Quarter 1 2024/2025 Report

A presentation was given by Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance in respect of the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 2024/2025, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 13th August 2024. This highlighted:

- The areas of projected overspend in respect of the General Fund, with a breakdown across each directorate and the contingences and reserves.
- The key revenue pressures for each directorate.
- The ongoing work in terms of savings proposals, reviewing the Capital Plan, maximising grant income opportunities and retaining tight control on spending and recruitment.
- The Housing Revenue Account variances and key revenue pressures.
- Capital Monitoring for each directorate and a breakdown of changes to the Capital Budget.
- The headlines in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In relation to capacity within the organisation to achieve savings and take opportunities to generate new income, it was advised that there were budgets that were used to support services through transformation and there was an assumption, within the Medium Term Financial Plan, that this reserve would be replenished to ensure that there was capacity to continue to deliver service change.

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- In respect of staffing, there was a tight control on recruitment but posts that were essential for service delivery and income generation were released. It was noted that there were also challenges in recruiting in a number of areas of the organisation.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Service Director, Finance be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the Corporate Financial Monitoring for Quarter 1 2024/2025.

(2) That it be noted that financial monitoring reports would be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis throughout 2024/25.

22 Medium Term Financial Strategy

A presentation was given by Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance, in respect of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 10th September 2024. This covered:

- The principles of the MTFS.
- The funding assumptions used in developing the strategy.
- Analysis of the anticipated budget gap for 2025-26 and the measures to be taken to address the gap.

In response to a question, it was explained that the Chancellor would present the budget on 30th October 2024 and this would provide an indication, at sector-wide level, which could impact on the figures. A provisional settlement would be provided by the Government in December 2024 and the final settlement in February 2025. It was likely that the Government would also announce other grant funding separately during that timeframe, and this would be kept under review.

RESOLVED -

That the Service Director, Finance be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to Medium Term Financial Strategy.

23 Corporate Risk - Quarter 1 Report 2024-2025

A presentation was given by Alice Carruthers, Senior Finance Officer, in respect of the Quarter 1 2024-2025 Corporate Risk Report, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 13th August 2024. She explained that:

- The report was presented in a new format which aimed to provide a summary of the key risks the organisation was facing whilst also providing sufficient content and detail to give assurance on the mitigations that were in place. This was intended to support a robust and rigorous approach to risk management across the Council.
- The five-by-five grid gave a visual indication of the current and previous quarter score for each risk on the Corporate Risk Register, along with a target score.
- The report also set out the controls that were in operation and the additional actions underway to address the risk.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Senior Finance Officer be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the Corporate Risk – Quarter 1 Report 2024-2025.
- (2) That it be noted that reports will be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis, throughout the year, and Lead Members will identify any issues that they consider might require further scrutiny by their respective Panel.

24 Libraries - Revised Delivery Model

A presentation was given by Mags Rogerson, Head of Local Integrated Partnerships, Communities and Asset Services to provide the Committee with information in respect of the revised libraries delivery model and upcoming consultation, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 10th September 2024. This included:

- The work undertaken to develop the draft proposals, the informal consultation and the outcomes.
- The proposed future delivery model, which had been revised further to the feedback from the informal consultation.
- The draft Libraries Strategy and future delivery.
- The planned formal eight-week public consultation process in respect of the future delivery model, and next steps.
- The proposed timetable for ongoing engagement with scrutiny

Councillor Amanda Pinnock, the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities, was also present, she explained that the need for changes to delivery of the libraries service was a national issue, summarised the range of services provided and stressed the importance of the service in Kirklees. She expressed her thanks to the volunteers who helped to maintain the libraries.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Head of Local Integrated Partnerships be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the proposed future delivery model for the Libraries Service.
- (2) That the positive engagement with scrutiny on this issue be welcomed.

25 Government Policy / Legislation Horizon Scanning

Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the item explaining that Members of the Committee had been sent a briefing note to provide them with an overview of potential legislative and national policy changes, with a focus on those affecting local government and of particular relevance to the Committee's Work Programme.

In response to a question about the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework, which would close on 24th September, she undertook to provide further information, in respect of this and the Council's response to the consultation, after the meeting.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Deputy Chief Executive be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to Government policy and legislation.

(2) That it be noted that Lead Members would use the information, which would be provided on an ongoing basis, to identify any areas that may be of interest to their Panels.

26 Scrutiny of Social Connectivity in Kirklees - Final Report and Action Plan

Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance Officer, introduced the Committee's 'Final Report - Scrutiny of Social Connectivity in Kirklees' and the accompanying action plan, which had been completed by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities, in response to the Committee's recommendations.

Councillor Amanda Pinnock, the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities, was in attendance and welcomed the comprehensive report and its recommendations. She noted the risk factors that could impact on social connectivity and stressed the importance of community hubs, the need to ensure spaces were available for people to come together and that provision was in place, from the Council and its partners, to support residents. She accepted the recommendations and undertook to ensure that this work continued. She thanked all those involved in the compilation and production of the report.

Councillor Smaje, the former Chair of the Committee, was also present for the item. She explained that the aim of the Committee's recommendations was to assist in reducing loneliness and isolation in Kirklees and highlighted the following points:

- The benefits of re-framing the discussion from loneliness to social connectivity.
- Wider roll-out of the conversations guidance.
- Addressing this issue needed to be a continuing priority for the Council and its partners, in light of the impact on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents.
- The benefits, including financial, of early intervention and prevention.
- The role of Ward Councillors.
- The necessity of the provision of information about the available support at an early stage if an individual was dealing with a change in their circumstances, such as diagnosis of a health condition.
- The role of schools and colleges and the dissemination of information by trusted sources.
- The importance of befriending services.
- The need for awareness and understanding of the impacts, across the whole of the Council, and for it to be considered as part of decision-making.
- It would be beneficial if the Committee received progress reports in respect of the action on the recommendations, in due course.

She thanked all those who had contributed to this work and the Cabinet Member for her response.

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Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- With reference to the role of Ward Councillors and ward budgets it was suggested that it would be useful to have some guidance and perhaps specific funding dedicated to this issue. It was acknowledged that Councillors had a wider community leadership role in bringing people together and developing community vibrancy.
- It was very important that younger people who may be at risk of or experiencing a lack of social connectivity were helped as early as possible as that would assist them in developing those skills for later life. It was suggested that children and young people should be involved in the production of guidance or sources of information such as a newsletter.

Councillor Pinnock agreed that early intervention and prevention were key in respect of addressing these issues and that wider awareness was a good starting point. Ward Councillors were well positioned to do this, as well as supporting local groups, signposting people to relevant support and identifying gaps in provision. It was acknowledged that the issue of specific funding for this issue should be considered and noted that there was also a need to work collaboratively with partners, such as the NHS and schools, to ensure duplication was avoided and people could access the best provision.

RESOLVED -

(1) That all those involved in compiling and contributing to the report be thanked and the positive response to the Committee recommendations, as set out in the action plan, be welcomed

(2) That it be recommended that further consideration be given to the issue of specific budget provision to enhance the social connectivity work already taking place and encourage collaborative working.

27 Work Programme

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024-2025 was submitted and noted.

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 13th December 2024

Present: Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair)
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Jo Lawson

28 Membership of Committee

All members of the Committee were in attendance.

29 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

30 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

31 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

32 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

33 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

34 Corporate Financial Monitoring - Quarter 2 Report 2024-2025

Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance presented the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 2024-2025, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 10th December 2024.

The report set out:

- The revenue headlines
- Revenue monitoring, with a breakdown across each directorate;
- Key pressures on each directorate and mitigating actions
- Analysis of Reserves
- Housing Revenue Account position, variances and revenue pressures
- Direct Schools Grant headlines including pressures and mitigations
- Collection Fund
- Position in respect of the Capital Budget and monitoring for each directorate.

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- The Medium Term Capital Plan;
- Prudential and treasury management indicators; and
- An update on savings delivery across all directorates and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The following points were highlighted:

- The projected outturn of £9.95 million overspend in respect of the Council's General Fund, which equated to approximately 2.6% of the General Fund Budget.
- Services had been reminded of the need to balance their budgets and controls remained in place in respect of recruitment and spend.
- The Finance Team were reviewing the balance sheet items, including earmarked reserves, grant reserves and any balances not used for some time, to try and bring in appropriate one-off income to the revenue account.
- An overview of the key pressures in each directorate, noting that many of these were addressed within the 2025/25 budget proposals.
- The position in terms of reserves; noting that if the budget could not be balanced at year end there would need to be a further call on reserves.
- The projected overspend of £3 million on the HRA, the majority of which related to the calculation for depreciation, and the key pressures on this budget and the position on reserves.
- The Capital Plan which had been re-profiled for this year, with further reprofiling being anticipated.
- The cost of borrowing remained high.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration, Councillor Graham Turner, was also present for the item.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The conditions for the 'safety valve agreement', associated with the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, were still in place as agreed under the previous Government. The high needs block deficit had risen to £43 million in 2023/24 and was projected to rise to £65 million this year, in line with projections. The Council was in regular contact with the Department for Education (DfE) and they had acknowledged the pressures local authorities faced. The DfE had recognised the positive progress being made by Kirklees, including two new specialist schools, which would help reduce the deficit. The Government had placed £1 billion into the 2025/2026 budget for the sector and the Council had committed £10 million towards the safety valve agreement, with the 2025/2026 budget proposals including the first contribution of £2.15 million.
- A question was asked regarding the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. The Council had been notified by Defra of an indicative allocation of £6 million funding for 2025/26 to recognise the cost to the authority of the collection, management, recycling and disposal of packaging waste. The level of funding in the future would be dependent on the volumes of packaging both locally and nationally and it was anticipated that the value would reduce.

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- This funding was generated from organisations that created this waste who paid a levy into a central Government fund which was then distributed to local authorities. The draft budget proposal in relation to smaller bins had not resulted from this funding allocation and these proposals were still under consultation.
- The Council budgeted for a level of voids and turnover of housing stock and this was typically 1%, in line with other local authorities. Anything above the 1% target would result in a loss of income. There was regular communication with the relevant Portfolio Holder on how the number, and the length of time they were empty, could be reduced.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Service Director, Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration be thanked for attending the meeting to update the Committee.
- (2) That it be noted that financial monitoring reports would continue to be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis throughout 2025.

35 Council Plan and Performance Update - Quarter 2 Report 2024-2025

A presentation was given by Andy Simcox - Service Director, Strategy and Innovation, in respect of the Quarter 2 2024-2025 Council Plan and Performance Update, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 10th December 2024.

He explained that:

- The purpose of the report was to update the Executive Leadership Team, Executive Board, Cabinet and scrutiny in respect of progress and activities related to the Council's four key priorities, as detailed in the Council Plan.
- The report included those actions delivered in quarter 2 and those planned for the next quarter. It also provided an update in respect of key council measures for 2024/2025 and included an appendix that contained updates against other measures.
- This was the second iteration of the report for 2024/25 and reflected the structural changes agreed at Personnel Committee on 2nd July.
- Benchmarking data was included where possible.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Service Director, Strategy and Innovation be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the Council Plan and Corporate Performance for Quarter 2, 2024/2025
- (2) That it be noted that the quarterly reports would be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis during 2025 and Lead Members will identify any issues that they consider might require further scrutiny by their respective Panel.

36 Corporate Risk - Quarter 2 Report - 2024-2025

Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director for Finance and Andy Simcox, Service Director for Strategy and Innovation presented the Quarter 2 2024-2025 Corporate Risk Report, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 10th December 2024.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Service Director, Finance and Service Director Strategy and Innovation be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to the Corporate Risk - Quarter 2 Report 2024-2024.
- (2) That it be noted that the quarterly reports would be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis during 2025 and Lead Members will identify any issues that they consider might require further scrutiny by their respective Panel.

37 Opportunities - Partnership and Funding

A presentation was given by Stephen Bonnell, Head of Policy Partnerships and Corporate Planning and Paul Mitchell, External Funding and Resource Officer in respect of activities associated with identifying and pursuing partnership and funding opportunities that supported the Council priorities.

The following key areas were outlined:

- Constant monitoring took place in respect of opportunities for funding, collaborative working or associated with wider social or economic changes such as new technologies.
- Services worked closely with a wide range of partners, nationally, regionally and locally, including local community groups. The Council had a close working relationship with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, for example on infrastructure projects.
- The importance of information sharing and communication at an early stage,
- The approach was shaped around the Council Plan priorities and those within the partnership strategies.
- Monitoring of a range of other information including best practice and benchmarking.
- An explanation of what constituted 'external funding' the various routes by which it was accessed and why it was needed
- The External Funding Framework, which set out the guiding principles to encourage a consistent and strategic approach including, the need for early consideration of funding when designing projects and services.
- The wide range of central support available to services, including support with identifying and assessing funding opportunities, bid development, communication, and the maintenance of comprehensive records including a tracking spreadsheet.
- Ongoing external development work.
- Successes and challenges.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- Tools and resources were now in place to minimise the possibility of missed opportunities, including a comprehensive search and alert tool, 'Grant Finder'.

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- The significant work going into sourcing funding via the appropriate channels was acknowledged. In respect of support to try and ensure the success of bids, such as training and development of staff and working with partner agencies to ensure those involved had the necessary skills, training workshops were undertaken in respect of the 'Grant Finder' tool so that it could be used to the maximum effect to identify funding opportunities. In terms of developing bids and applying for funding, this support was currently undertaken on an ad-hoc basis on request but there were plans to include such support more formally within the training suite in the future.
- Third party and community groups often found submitting effective bids could be challenging. In response to a question about whether the Council would be able to work with such groups it was explained that the Third Sector Team provided support to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in applying for funding and that support could also be accessed through partners such as Third Sector Leaders (TSL). It was also noted that the Third Sector Team was now part of the same service which would strengthen collaborative working.
- In respect of engagement and collaborative working it was queried whether Kirklees worked with other local authorities on projects, particularly where a project might overlap boundaries, as this could be more effective. It was advised that, to date, this had been undertaken with West Yorkshire Combined Authority led bids where it was a collaborative effort to access funding from Central Government, however the need to do this was understood and it would be considered in the future where it was possible.
- In a similar way to the Council's Risk Register it was considered that an Opportunities Register could demonstrate the work to actively seek opportunities and measure how effectively opportunities were picked up within each directorate and perhaps the tracking spreadsheet might do this and assist with learning. There was an expectation upon all senior officers to understand good practice and have awareness of what other local authorities were doing on an ongoing basis and to be able to bring that evidence into cases for service development or savings opportunities.
- It was suggested that consideration could be given to the use of Municipal Climate Bonds, which had been adopted by a number of other local authorities.
- Enabling others to take advantage of opportunities was an important and positive role of the Council, such as assisting local organisations with seed funding and the use of crowdfunding platforms such as 'Spacehive'. However, it should be noted that the proportion of fees for this platform was high in comparison to others.
- Ward budgets could also be used to draw in additional funding from private organisations to support community projects and Community Plus also provided funds to support small groups in the community. It was important that such seed funding was available so that such groups could be continued to be supported in the future.
- The Committee was advised that a piece of 'mapping' work was being undertaken to identify the different pots of money and the different teams across the Council that supported such community groups, to try and avoid duplication. The view was expressed that ward councillors were well placed to have the relevant background knowledge of the community groups in their area but the limited ward budget had affected their input.

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- In respect of issues with staff capacity and skills and assessing the cost benefit associated with missed opportunities, the tracking spreadsheet captured opportunities which the Council had applied for, or were considering but also why a particular funding opportunity had not been progressed. The 'Go/No Go' process was an in-depth assessment used to decide if an opportunity was right for Kirklees and if the necessary resources were available to deliver a strong application and to deliver the project.
- The Local Government Minister had committed to publishing the Devolution White Paper prior to Christmas and this would provide more information about future funding arrangements. Although it was at an early stage the indications had been of a more targeted approach to funding for areas of deprivation and those most in need.
- In relation to the culture of the organisation, reference was made to a previous scheme that had encouraged Kirklees employees to put forward ideas. This could be considered, and it was noted that the team also looked at what other authorities were doing as well as ideas from 'think tanks' and arising from relevant research. The framework aimed to embed a 'think funding' mindset within the organisation and a communications initiative was planned in the near future to further promote this principle. Services were encouraged to be creative in this area and innovation was also a key element.
- In terms of Councils sharing services and staff and potential efficiencies, the possibility of shared services would be a consideration from a transformation perspective and would be discussed with services where appropriate.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Head of Policy Partnerships and Corporate Planning, Service Director, Strategy and Innovation and the External Funding Officer be thanked for attending the meeting and providing an update in relation to partnership and funding opportunities.
- (2) That, to support the 'think funding' mindset, Lead Members ensure that external funding possibilities are considered, where appropriate and relevant to the issues being considered by their respective Panels.

38 Work Programme 2024-2025

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024-2025 was submitted and noted.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 5th December 2024

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Mark Thompson

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Thompson.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED –
That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.
- 3 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying**
All Members of the Committee declared the receipt of an email from a fellow Councillor in respect of Application 2023/91116.
- 4 Admission of the Public**
All items were considered in public session.
- 5 Public Question Time**
No questions were asked.
- 6 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 7 Site Visit - Planning Application 2023/91116**
Site visit undertaken.
- 8 Site Visit - Planning Application 2023/91212**
Site visit undertaken.
- 9 Site Visit - Planning Application 2024/90357**
Site visit undertaken.

10 Planning Application - Application No: 2023/91116

The Committee considered Planning Application 2023/91116 in respect of the erection of 77 dwellings, with access from Darley Road and associated works, at land off Primrose Lane, Hightown, Liversedge.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(3), the Committee received a representation on behalf of Councillor David Hall.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Jonathan Ainley (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED -

- (1) That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to:
- (a) complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below:
1. Three years to commence development.
 2. Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
 3. Material samples to be submitted and approved.
 4. Details of boundary treatment, not to include 'brick', to be submitted and approved.
 5. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), to include dust mitigation, to be submitted, approved, and implemented.
 6. Road condition survey to be submitted and approved.
 7. Details of preliminary street design details to be submitted and approved.
 8. Completion of Estate Street Phasing Plan to be submitted and approved.
 9. Details of management of waste to be submitted and approved.
 10. Construction phase waste collection strategy.
 11. Vehicle and pedestrian spaces to be laid out.
 12. Details of footpaths and Active Travel Links to be submitted and approved.
 13. Details travel plan to be submitted and approved.
 14. Details of highway retaining walls and structures to be submitted and approved.
 15. Details of cycle storage facilities to be provided and approved.
 16. Full technical details of the drainage strategy to be provided, approved and implemented.
 17. Flood routing strategy to be provided, approved, and implemented.
 18. Details of temporary surface water drainage arrangements, during construction, to be provided and adhered to.
 19. CEMP: Biodiversity to be submitted, approved, and implemented.
 20. Ecological Design Strategy to secure habitat units on site plus ecological mitigation measures and improvement to woodland.
 21. No site clearance within the bird breeding season (unless appropriate survey undertaken).
 22. Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) to be provided and retained.
 23. Dust mitigation measures to be implemented during construction.

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24. Landscape strategy, to include management and maintenance arrangements, to be provided and implemented.
 25. Coal legacy investigation and/or remediation to be undertaken (subject to review of further details).
 26. Contamination investigation and/or remediation to be undertaken (subject to review of further details).
- (b) secure a Section 106 agreement to cover the following matters:
- (i) Affordable Housing: 15 units (20%) to consist of 8 Affordable Rent (55%) and 7 Intermediate Dwellings (45%), including 5 First Homes (25%).
 - (ii) Ecological Net Gain (to secure 10% net gain off-site): £14,467 towards off-site ecological habitat enhancement.
 - (iii) Public Open space: Delivery of the on-site Public Open Space, a £1,000 inspection fee, and an off-site contribution to local public open space of £118,220.
 - (iv) Education: £118,791 towards education requirements arising from the development.
 - (v) Highways: £10,000 towards promoting a Traffic Regulation Order along Darley Road and Ripley Road, including at the Ripley Road / Halifax Road junction.
 - (vi) Sustainable travel: £69,385.50 towards Sustainable Travel measures (including £39,385.50 for sustainable travel fund (such as Metrocards), £20,000 towards bus stop improvements (on Halifax Road) and £10,000 towards travel plan monitoring).
 - (vii) Management and maintenance: Management and maintenance of on-site Public Open Space in perpetuity, drainage features in perpetuity (unless adopted by Yorkshire Water), and Biodiversity Net Gain measures for a minimum of 30 years.
- (2) That, on receipt of the Intrusive Ground Investigation Report with regard to legacy coal mining and contaminated land, the Head of Planning and Development re-consult with the Coal Authority and Kirklees Council Environmental Health and, thereafter, proceed as follows:
- a) In the scenario where the report concludes there is no conflict with plots 06, 07 and/or 10, determine the application as set out in (1) above.
 - b) In the scenario where the report concludes that there is a conflict with plots 06, 07 and/or 10, which cannot be remediated to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority (advised by the Coal Authority and/or Kirklees Council Environmental Health), amend the proposal to remove the plot(s) in conflict. Thereafter, complete the list of conditions, including those contained within this report as set out in (1) above, and secure a Section 106 agreement (with the contributions as set out in (1) above recalculated, pro-rata, to account for the reduced housing provision).

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- (3) That, in the circumstances where the Section 106 agreement has not been completed within 3 months of the date of the Committee's resolution then the Head of Planning and Development shall consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured; and if so, the Head of Planning and Development be authorised to determine the application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lawson, Pinnock and Sokhal (5 votes)

Against: No votes

11 **Planning Application - Application No. 2023/91212**

The Committee considered Planning Application 2023/91212 in relation to the erection of 21 dwellings, with access from Laithe Avenue, at land off Bankfield Drive, Holmbridge, Holmfirth.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Ian Hodgkinson, Steve Elvidge, Rick Cocker, Angela Mitchell and Sally Emmett (in objection) and Candy Day (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED –

- (1) That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to:
- (a) complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below:
1. Three years to commence development.
 2. Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans.
 3. Samples of walling and roofing materials.
 4. Details of windows and doors.
 5. All windows to be set back into the reveal by 100mm.
 6. Details of secure cycle storage.
 7. Submission of a highway condition survey and remediation measures.
 8. Details regarding the management of waste.
 9. Details of vehicle and pedestrian spaces.
 10. Means of access to and from the site shall be in accordance with the preliminary access arrangements shown on the approved plans.
 11. Details of the preliminary street and footpath design.
 12. Off-site highway works to be provided as shown on 22027/GA/01 Rev. D.
 13. Submission of a full structural dilapidation survey of the existing dry stone highway retaining wall adjacent to Dobb Top Road.
 14. Details for new retaining walls / building retaining walls/ attenuation tanks adjacent to the proposed adoptable / existing highway including any proposed modifications to the existing highway retaining wall adjacent to Dobb Top Road.

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15. Details of the design and construction details for all new surface water attenuation tanks / pipes/manholes located within the proposed highway footprint or influence zone of highway loading.
16. Reporting of unexpected land contamination.
17. Submission of a verification report.
18. Submission of a strategy for imported materials.
19. A scheme detailing the Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs).
20. Submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
21. Details of measures to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.
22. Management and maintenance of landscaped areas.
23. Submission of a Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan.
24. Submission of a CEMP:Biodiversity.
25. Full details of boundary treatment (including the increased size of the hedge to the eastern boundary).
26. Submission of an informed by up-to-date ECIA to include additional surveys of invasive species during optimal growing season.
27. Submission of a revised Method Statement for the Retaining Wall (given the location of the attenuation tank).

- (b) secure a Section 106 agreement to cover the following matters:
- (i) Affordable Housing: Three affordable housing units (all First Homes, comprising 2x 2-bed and 1x 3-bed) to be provided in perpetuity.
 - (ii) Biodiversity: Contribution of £104,880 towards off-site measures to achieve biodiversity net gain, with authority being delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to amend the contribution amount, as necessary, further to the receipt of an amended bio-diversity metric calculation.
 - (iii) Public Open Space: An off-site contribution of £55,932.16.
 - (iv) Public Right of Way: A contribution of £10,000 for the connection onto the Public Right of Way (HOL/91/20).
 - (v) Management and maintenance: The establishment of a management company for the management and maintenance of any land not within private curtilages or adopted by other parties, and of infrastructure (including surface water drainage until formally adopted by the statutory undertaker).

(2) That, in the circumstances where the Section 106 agreement has not been completed within 3 months of the date of the Committee's resolution then the Head of Planning and Development shall consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured; and if so, the Head of Planning and Development be authorised to determine the application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Homewood, Lawson, Pinnock and Sokhal (4 votes)

Against: Councillor Armer (1 vote)

12 Planning Application - Application No. 2023/92490

The Committee considered Planning Application 2023/92490 relating to the erection of 35 dwellings with associated access and landscaping (within a Conservation Area) at the Former Dowker Works, Dowker Street, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to:
- (a) complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report and the Planning Update, as set out below:
 - 1. Three years to commence development.
 - 2. Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and documents.
 - 3. Samples of all walling materials.
 - 4. Notwithstanding the submitted plans, plots 1-3 to be developed from natural stone to the front and gable elevations.
 - 5. Notwithstanding the submitted plans, the roofing materials to include artificial or natural blue slate, including samples.
 - 6. Details of windows and doors.
 - 7. All windows to be set back into the reveal by 100mm.
 - 8. Full details/locations of PV panels.
 - 9. Full details/locations of the air source heat pumps.
 - 10. Full details of boundary treatments.
 - 11. Details of measures to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - 12. Submission of a CEMP.
 - 13. Management and maintenance of green space.
 - 14. Submission of full drainage details.
 - 15. Management and maintenance of drainage features (crate storage/attenuation).
 - 16. Bin store details.
 - 17. Details of temporary waste storage and collection (during construction).
 - 18. Submission of Phase 1.
 - 19. Submission of Phase 2.
 - 20. Submission of Remediation Strategy.
 - 21. Implementation of Remediation Strategy.
 - 22. Submission of Validation Report.
 - 23. Submission of a Noise Assessment and Mitigation Scheme.
 - 24. Details of EVCP's.
 - 25. Permeable surfacing to all vehicle parking areas.
 - 26. Details of any new retaining walls/ building retaining walls adjacent to the proposed adoptable highway.
 - 27. Proposed design and construction details for the reconstruction/strengthening of culverted section of Longwood Brook within the highway footprint.
 - 28. Details of any drainage in the highway.
 - 29. Submission of an up to date survey of Longwood Brook.
 - 30. Development in accordance with Affordable Housing Statement.

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31. Technical road specification, including point of access, to be provided, approved, and implemented.
32. Technical footpath specification (linking southern car parking court to George Street) to be provided, approved, and implemented.
33. Parking spaces as shown to be provided prior to occupation.
34. Details of cycle storage facilities to be provided, approved, and implemented.
35. Construction Management Plan to be provided, approved, and implemented.
36. Pre and post development road condition surveys to be undertaken.

(b) secure a Section 106 agreement to cover the following matters:

- (i) Highways: £10,000 towards promoting a Traffic Regulation Order along Dowker Street.
- (ii) Management and Maintenance: The establishment of a management company for the purpose of maintaining the shared green open spaces (including ecological management), the private parking areas and of infrastructure (including surface water drainage until formally adopted by the statutory undertaker).

- (2) That, in the circumstances where the Section 106 agreement has not been completed within 3 months of the date of the Committee's resolution then the Head of Planning and Development shall consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured; and if so, the Head of Planning and Development be authorised to determine the application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lawson, Pinnock and Sokhal (5 votes)

Against: No votes

13 **Planning Application - Application No. 2024/90357**

The Committee considered Planning Application 2024/90357 in relation to the removal of Conditions 10, 12, 13, 14, 20, 33, 38, 39 and 40 and variation of Conditions 1, 19, 24, 29, 34, 36 and 37 of previous permission, 2019/90949, for variation of Condition 18 (crushing and screening operations) on previous permission, 2013/90793, for mineral extraction at land adjacent to Thewlis Lane, Crosland Hill, Huddersfield.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Ben Parkes (on behalf of the applicant).

Strategic Planning Committee - 5 December 2024

RESOLVED -

- (1) That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to:
 - (a) Allow the publicity period to expire.
 - (b) complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below:
 1. Development to be completed by 31/12/2027.
 2. A copy of approved documents/plans to be retained on site at all times for inspection.
 3. Development to be carried out in accordance with approved plans/documents.
 4. Prior cessation measures to deal with restoration and aftercare in the event that mineral extraction is abandoned/ceases.
 5. Sole means of vehicular access to and egress site via Thewlis Lane.
 6. No commercial vehicles shall enter public highway from permitted site unless wheels and chassis cleaned.
 7. The heavy plant crossing point on Thewlis Lane approved under Discharge of Conditions Application 2014/90920 shall be retained.
 8. The total tonnage of material exported from and imported to the application site shall not exceed 2500 tonnes per day in total.
 9. The temporary bridleway as shown on drawings TL1181-D7 rev C and 10093/600 rev A, shall be retained.
 10. Previous condition deleted.
 11. The development shall be carried out in accordance with details approved under Discharge of Conditions application 2014/90920 with regard to geotechnical stability.
 12. The temporary screen mounds shall be respread back into the site as per submitted drawing TL1181-D7 rev C.
 13. Previous condition deleted.
 14. Previous condition deleted.
 15. No mineral extraction shall take place below the topographical levels previous approved under planning permissions regulating operations.
 16. No mineral extraction within the site shall take place below the topographical levels indicated on plan 10093/464 'Cross Sections Through Thewlis Lane Quarry'.
 17. All mobile crushing and screening operations shall be carried out in accordance with previously approved details.
 18. All mobile screening and crushing operations shall only use mineral extracted from Thewlis Lane, used for backfilling of Thewlis Lane and not export material from the site.
 19. The quarry void shall be backfilled in accordance with submitted details and drawing TL1181-D7 rev C.
 20. Previous condition deleted.
 21. From the date of this permission the operator shall maintain records of monthly production and mineral extraction.
 22. There shall be no discharge of foul or contaminated water from the site into either groundwater or any surface waters.

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23. Any facilities for the storage of oils, fuels, or chemicals shall be sited on impervious bases and surrounded by impervious bund walls.
24. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with submitted Flood Risk Assessment.
25. Previous condition deleted.
26. The stripping, movement and replacement of topsoil and subsoil shall only be carried out under sufficiently dry and friable conditions.
27. Previous condition deleted.
28. Previous condition deleted.
29. After the completion of mineral extraction, the site shall be progressively restored to grassland in accordance with the submitted details.
30. The final surface of backfilled quarry overburden shall be graded to provide an even surface 500mm lower than the agreed final contours.
31. The spreading of subsoil and topsoil shall only be carried out when the material is in a dry and friable condition.
32. Soils to be respread using a backhoe. All stones and any other object larger than 75mm shall be removed from the surface of the soil.
33. Topsoil shall be spread over the surface of the areas to be restored to grassland following completion of works in conditions 30 and 32.
34. Previous condition deleted.
35. If satisfactory grass growth is not obtained as a result of the initial sowing, such part shall be cultivated and reseeded, after the correction of any nutrient deficiencies in the soil.
36. Previous condition deleted.
37. Previous aftercare conditions (37-40) combined into one, as follows:
An outline aftercare scheme detailing the steps which may be necessary over the aftercare period of five years, to ensure a grass sward is established for the whole of the area edged red east of Thewlis Lane, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Mineral Planning Authority at least three months prior to the completion of the site restoration. The approved aftercare scheme shall provide details of:
 - a) The person responsible for implementing the aftercare scheme;
 - b) A plan showing the area subject to aftercare, with demarcation of any areas having different aftercare steps or management proposals; and
 - c) The steps to be carried out in each area during the aftercare period and their timing within the overall programme to ensure grassland is maintained.Following compliance with above, a detailed annual aftercare programme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Mineral Planning Authority before 31 August in each year of aftercare of the site. The programme submitted shall amplify the aftercare scheme for works to be carried out in the following 12 months, including any modifications to the original proposals
38. Previous aftercare conditions (37-40).
39. Previous aftercare conditions (37-40).
40. Previous aftercare conditions (37-40).

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41. Hours for operation of the quarry in accordance with previous approved details.
42. Development to be carried out in accordance with previously approved Noise Impact Assessment/restrictions.
43. Exceptionally noisy operations shall only be carried out within previously approved details.
44. All vehicles, plant and machinery operated within the site shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications at all times.
45. All vehicles on site shall operate using broad band reversing alarms only.
46. There shall be no blasting.
47. The development to be carried out in accordance with the noise monitoring scheme approved under Discharge of Conditions application 2014/90396.
48. The clean supply of water currently provided for the suppression of dust shall be maintained.
49. The development shall be carried out in accordance with previously approved dust suppression scheme.
50. The development shall be carried out in accordance with previously approved dust monitoring scheme.
51. There shall be no storage of waste skips or containers or other plant and equipment not directly associated with the operation of the quarry.
52. Removal of Permitted Development rights – No fixed plant or machinery, buildings, structures and erections, or private ways which would project above natural ground levels.
53. Reporting of any artefact or feature of archaeological or geological interest encountered on the site

(c) secure a Deed of Variation to the original Section 106 agreement, dated 9-6-2006 associated with permission 2003/91691.

- (2) That, should the remaining publicity period raise issues that would result in substantive changes to the officer recommendation, the Head of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Chair, will decide whether the application should be re-submitted for consideration by the Committee.
- (3) That, in the circumstances where the Section 106 Deed of Variation has not been completed within 3 months of the date of the Committee's resolution then the Head of Planning and Development shall consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured; and if so, the Head of Planning and Development be authorised to determine the application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lawson, Pinnock and Sokhal (5 votes)

Against: No votes

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 31st October 2024

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Observer: Councillor Zahid Kahut

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Councillor J D Lawson substituted for Councillor Kahut.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 September 2024 be approved as a correct record
- 3 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying**
Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah advised that they had been lobbied on Application 2023/91715.
- 4 Admission of the Public**
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.
- 5 Public Question Time**
No questions were received.
- 6 Deputations / Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 7 Site Visit: Planning Application No: 2023/91715**
Site visit undertaken.
- 8 Site Visit: Planning Application No: 2024/91907**
Site visit undertaken.
- 9 Site Visit: Planning Application No: 2024/91202**
Site visit undertaken.
- 10 Site Visit: Application for Definitive Map Modification Order**
Site visit undertaken.

12 Application for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)

The Committee gave consideration to an Application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to record a public footpath at Old Lane, Scapegoat Hill, Colne Valley on the Definitive Map and Statement, and two other discovered routes.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Clare Atkinson (local resident).

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Council make an Order under S53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to record a public footpath leading from Old Lane to Taylor Lane via burial ground (route 1) subject to the limitation of a gate, and to record a public footpath leading from Old Lane to High Street via steps (route 2).
- 2) That the Council do not make an Order under S53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to record a public footpath leading from Old Lane to High Street via Vermont Close (route 3).
- 3) That, pursuant to (1) above, the Order be confirmed if unopposed, or, if objections are received and not withdrawn, the matter be referred to the Planning Inspectorate for determination, and that the Order be actively supported at any public inquiry or hearing.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, JD Lawson, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah (8 votes)

Against: (no votes)

13 Planning Application - Application No: 2024/91202

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2024/91202 – Erection of eight dwellings with associated access and external works at land off Marsh Lane, Shepley, Huddersfield.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Steve Armitage (local resident), Nick Wilock (on behalf of local residents and Jake Hinchliffe (architect).

RESOLVED –

1) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve the application, issue the decision notice and complete the list of conditions including matters relating to;

- time scale for commencing development
- in accordance with plans
- unexpected land contamination
- materials
- drainage details

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- overland flow routing
- construction phase surface water flood risk and pollution prevention plan
- areas to be surfaced and drained
- details of junction of new estate road
- visibility splays clear from obstruction
- internal adoptable estate roads
- construction access
- defects survey

2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to secure a S106 Agreement to cover biodiversity – contribution towards off-site measures to achieve biodiversity net gain.

3) That, pursuant to (2) above, in circumstances where the S106 Agreement has not been completed within three months of this decision, the Head of Planning and Development shall be authorised to consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured, and would therefore be permitted to determine the Application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, JD Lawson, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah (8 votes)

Against: (no votes)

14 **Planning Application - Application No: 2024/91907**

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2024/91907 – Change of use of dwelling (C3) to children’s residential home (C2) at 18 Kingfisher Way, Dewsbury.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Humayra Garda (applicant).

RESOLVED – That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve the application, issue the decision notice and complete the list of conditions including matters relating to;

- standard timeframe condition regarding implementation
- development to be in accordance with plans

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, JD Lawson, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah (8 votes)

Against: (no votes)

15 **Planning Application - Application No: 2023/91715**

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2023/91715 – Demolition of existing mosque and erection of mosque and education centre - Mohaddis E Azam Education Centre and Masjid E Madani, 225c Ravenshouse Road, Dewsbury Moor.

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Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Imtiaz Ameen (applicant).

RESOLVED – That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve the application, issue the decision notice and complete the list of conditions including matters relating to;

- time scale for implementation
- development to be carried out in accordance with approved plans and specifications
- samples of external materials to be submitted
- call to prayer; control hours, length of time, sound level
- electric vehicle charging points
- submission of remediation strategy
- implementation of remediation strategy
- submission of verification report
- intrusive site investigations (in relation to coal mining legacy)
- details of external artificial lighting
- parking management plan
- construction access management plan

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, JD Lawson, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah (8 votes)

Against: (no votes)