

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 15 April 2025

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 23 April 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 - 18

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council Meeting held on 5 March 2025.

4: Declaration of Interests

19 - 20

Members will be asked to advise if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in the discussion or vote on any of 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

21 - 34

To receive the Minutes of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 30 January 2025.

9: Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 (Reference from Personnel Committee) 35 - 52

To consider the approval of the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026.

Contact: Shauna Coyle Head of People Services

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

To receive written questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12. A schedule of written questions will be tabled at the meeting. One supplementary oral question will be permitted.

11: Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues 53 - 72

To receive the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 11 February and 11 March 2025 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 22 January and 19 February 2025.

12: Holding the Executive to Account

- (a) To receive an Update from the Leader of the Council regarding the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge.
- (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)
-

13: Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge - Kirklees Council Action Plan (Reference from Cabinet)

73 - 122

To consider the Kirklees Council Action Plan following the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge.

Contact: Stephen Bonnell - Head of Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning

14: Minutes of Other Committees

123 -
162

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

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

- 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)
-

16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protecting Local Democratic Oversight in Planning Decisions

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

“This Council notes that:

- Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, has published a Planning and Infrastructure Bill proposing significant changes to the planning system, aimed at liberalising planning rules.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) has raised serious concerns that these reforms could weaken local democratic oversight and reduce the ability of councils to shape development in their areas.

This Council believes that:

- The proposed changes risk removing councillors from key planning decisions, shifting power to unelected planning officers or central government. This would undermine local democracy and public trust in the planning system.
- These reforms could lead to inappropriate developments, overriding Local Plans and weakening councils' ability to ensure high-quality, sustainable, and locally appropriate developments.
- There is a real danger that infrastructure and public services will not keep pace with new developments if local oversight is removed, leading to increased pressure on roads, schools, healthcare, and other essential services.
- Weakening council control over planning decisions could also result in greater influence from large developers, reducing community input and the ability to enforce affordable housing requirements or environmental protections.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Formally oppose the proposed planning changes and request

that the Leader of the Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister outlining these concerns, calling for amendments to safeguard local democratic accountability.

- Publish the letter (website and social media) to raise public awareness of the issue and seek public support for the Council's stance.
- Engage with Town and Parish Councils across the district to gather their views and ensure their concerns are represented in the Council's formal submission to the Government.
- Work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other local authorities to lobby the Government for protections that retain local councillor involvement in planning decisions.
- Explore alternative mechanisms to ensure councillors can continue to represent their communities and have a meaningful say in planning decisions if these legislative changes proceed."

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 5 March 2025**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Councillor Beverley Addy | Councillor Masood Ahmed |
| Councillor Munir Ahmed | Councillor Itrat Ali |
| Councillor Karen Allison | Councillor Zarina Amin |
| Councillor Ammar Anwar | Councillor Bill Armer |
| Councillor Ali Arshad | Councillor Timothy Bamford |
| Councillor Donna Bellamy | Councillor Martyn Bolt |
| Councillor Tanisha Bramwell | Councillor Damian Brook |
| Councillor Cahal Burke | Councillor Aafaq Butt |
| Councillor Andrew Cooper | Councillor Moses Crook |
| Councillor Hanifa Darwan | Councillor Paola Antonia Davies |
| Councillor Eric Firth | Councillor Charles Greaves |
| Councillor David Hall | Councillor Tyler Hawkins |
| Councillor Caroline Holt | Councillor James Homewood |
| Councillor Yusra Hussain | Councillor Zahid Kahut |
| Councillor Viv Kendrick | Councillor Musarrat Khan |
| Councillor Jo Lawson | Councillor John Lawson |
| Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton | Councillor Susan Lee-Richards |
| Councillor David Longstaff | Councillor Gwen Lowe |
| Councillor 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 Jane Rylah | Councillor Imran Safdar |
| Councillor Cathy Scott | Councillor Angela Sewell |
| Councillor Joshua Sheard | Councillor Will Simpson |
| Councillor Anthony Smith | Councillor Elizabeth Smaje |
| Councillor Richard Smith | Councillor Mohan Sokhal |
| Councillor John Taylor | Councillor Mark Thompson |
| Councillor Graham Turner | Councillor Sheikh Ullah |
| Councillor Alex Vickers | Councillor Adam Zaman |
| Councillor Habiban Zaman | |

- 167 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**
The Chief Executive reminded Members of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in relation to Agenda Item 7 (Minute 173 refers) and the restriction on voting.
- 168 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Daji, Holmes and Robinson.
- 169 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED – That that Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12 February 2025 be approved as a correct record.
- 170 **Declaration of Interests**
A listed of granted dispensations was published and tabled.

No interests were declared.
- 171 **Additional Meeting of Council (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**
It was moved by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Homewood and

RESOLVED – That an additional meeting of Council be scheduled for 23 April 2025 and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to determine whether the meeting is designated as a Key Discussion or Holding Executive to Account format.
- 172 **Our Council Plan - 2025/2026 (Reference from Cabinet)**
It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Crook and

RESOLVED – That the 2025/2026 Council Plan be approved and incorporated within the Council's Policy Framework.
- 173 **Council Budget Report 2025/2026 and 2026/2027; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (Reference from Cabinet)**
It was moved by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Turner that;
- (i) General Fund Revenue
- the Revenue Budget for 2025-2026, to deliver a balanced position, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
 - the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 period, as set out at Appendix A, be noted.
 - the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix C, be noted
 - the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.18 refers) be approved
 - that the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2025-2026, as set out at paragraph 2.25/Appendix G, be approved.

Council - 5 March 2025

- the Council tax requirement for 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix M, be approved.
 - the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves, as set out at paragraph 2.23, be noted.
 - authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Parish Councils, should these be received after 5 March 2025 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)
- (ii) Treasury Management
- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
 - the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)
 - the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.40, Appendix C refers)
 - the treasury management prudential indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
 - the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)
- (iii) Capital
- the updated Capital Plan 2024-2032 be approved (Appendix F refers)
 - the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix I refers)
- (iv) Housing Revenue Account
- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2025-2026 be approved (Appendix K refers)
 - the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix K refers)

Council - 5 March 2025

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hall, by way of **AMENDMENT** that;

Conservative Group Budget Amendment

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Feasibility Study - Housing (One off) | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirklees Clean Up (One-off) | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Lighting Surveys (One-off) | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Littercam - Pilot | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Introduction of Christmas Week Bin Collections | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 |
| Dewsbury Sport Centre Feasibility Study | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 |
| Sub total Developments | 509 | 149 | 149 | 399 | 149 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 56 | 113 | 225 | 375 | 563 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads Resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 75 | 300 | 675 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 750 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -357 | -1,207 | -4,635 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 584 | 281 | 111 | -114 | -2,479 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Reduction in Trade Union Facility time | -258 | -516 | -516 | -516 | -516 |
| Reductions in Communications Activity | -50 | -50 | -50 | -50 | -50 |
| Total Savings | -308 | -566 | -566 | -566 | -566 |
| Reserves - Reduce Contribution to Transformation Reserve | -276 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback to Transformation Reserve | 0 | 276 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserve | 0 | 9 | 455 | 680 | 3045 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 750 | 750 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | -45,487 |
| Total Capital Developments | 1,000 | 750 | -2,262 | -6,280 | -27,987 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 1,000 | 750 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 17,500 |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | -45,487 |
| | 1,000 | 750 | -2,262 | -6,280 | -27,987 |

Council - 5 March 2025

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Feasibility Study - Housing (One off) | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirklees Clean Up (One-off) | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Lighting Surveys (One-off) | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Littercam - Pilot | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Introduction of Christmas Week Bin Collections | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 |
| Dewsbury Sport Centre Feasibility Study | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 |
| Sub total Developments | 509 | 149 | 149 | 399 | 149 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 56 | 113 | 225 | 375 | 563 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads Resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 75 | 300 | 675 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 750 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -357 | -1,207 | -4,635 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 584 | 281 | 111 | -114 | -2,479 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Reduction in Trade Union Facility time | -258 | -516 | -516 | -516 | -516 |
| Reductions in Communications Activity | -50 | -50 | -50 | -50 | -50 |
| Total Savings | -308 | -566 | -566 | -566 | -566 |
| Reserves - Reduce Contribution to Transformation Reserve | -276 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback to Transformation Reserve | 0 | 276 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserve | 0 | 9 | 455 | 680 | 3045 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 750 | 750 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | -45,487 |
| Total Capital Developments | 1,000 | 750 | -2,262 | -6,280 | -27,987 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 1,000 | 750 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 17,500 |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | -45,487 |
| | 1,000 | 750 | -2,262 | -6,280 | -27,987 |

Council - 5 March 2025

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor J C Lawson and seconded by Councillor Davies, by way of **AMENDMENT** that;

Liberal Democrat Group Budget Amendment

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Increase in Ward budgets by £10k per Ward | 230 | 230 | 230 | 230 | 230 |
| Running Costs of Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 0 | 205 | 205 | 205 |
| Feasibility Study for Replacement of Dewsbury Sports Centre | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 | 0 |
| Feasibility for New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 |
| Review of Our Cultural Heart - Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Sub total Developments | 230 | 230 | 685 | 685 | 1,435 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 75 | 225 | 375 | 525 | 525 |
| Investment in Oakenshaw Cross | 0 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Investment in Sports Centres (Borough Wide) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 300 |
| Investment in Highways Local U Roads | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 300 |
| Investment in Provision of New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,260 |
| Switch funding from Cleckheaton Town Fund Schemes | -67 | -67 | -67 | -67 | -67 |
| Reduce Corporate Landlord Heritage - to part fund Cleckheaton & Oakenshaw | -8 | -27 | -27 | -27 | -27 |
| Slip Corporate Landlord Well Being Plan Y2 to Y4 | 0 | -37 | -37 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduce Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 4 by 50% | 0 | -15 | -176 | -838 | -851 |
| Remove Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -357 | -1,207 | -4,635 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 230 | 328 | 415 | -610 | -741 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Reduction in growth budgeted provided for Adult Social Care Demand | -100 | -130 | -130 | -130 | -130 |
| Extend staffing savings target in Corporate Resources | -100 | -120 | -120 | -120 | -120 |
| Reduction in Non Pay inflation budget - held centrally | -30 | -78 | -78 | -78 | -78 |
| Total Savings | -230 | -328 | -328 | -328 | -328 |
| Reserves - Use of Reserves | 0 | 0 | -87 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 0 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | 851 | 1,069 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Investment in Oakenshaw Cross | 0 | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Council - 5 March 2025

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Investment in Sports Centres (Borough Wide) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Investment in Highways Local U Roads | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Investment in Provision of New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,000 |
| Switch funding from Cleckheaton Town Fund Schemes | -900 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduce Corporate Landlord Heritage Budget - to part fund Cleckheaton & Oakenshaw | -100 | -250 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slip Corporate Landlord Well Being Budget Y2 to Y4 | 0 | -500 | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| Reduce Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 4 by 50% | 0 | -200 | -2,138 | -8,784 | -166 |
| Remove Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | -45,487 |
| Total Capital Developments | 0 | 1,300 | -4,900 | -13,564 | -11,653 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 1,000 | 2,250 | 2,000 | 6,000 | 34,000 |
| | - | | | | |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | 1,000 | -950 | -6,900 | -19,564 | -45,653 |
| | 0 | 1,300 | -4,900 | -13,564 | -11,653 |

Council - 5 March 2025

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor H Zaman, by way of **AMENDMENT** that;

Community Alliance Group Budget Amendment

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Increase in Ward Members Budgets by £5k per Ward | 115 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobile Flytipping Cameras | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parking Permits - Independent Review | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grit Bins (1x 23 ward including Fill) | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taxi Licencing (Additional Resource in Dewsbury 2.5 days per week PTE) | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Registrars (Additional Resource in Dewsbury 2.5 days week PTE) | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside Net Operating Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 600 |
| Sub total Developments | 230 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 600 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Highways Traffic Calming Schemes in Dewsbury & Batley | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Investment in Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside | 0 | 0 | 150 | 300 | 450 |
| Investment in Batley Library | 0 | 0 | 38 | 75 | 113 |
| Investment in Crows Nest Café | 0 | 0 | 11 | 23 | 23 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 Budget | 0 | 0 | -357 | -1,207 | -4,635 |
| Reduction in Corporate Landlord (Asset Investment) | -53 | -53 | -53 | -53 | -53 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 177 | -53 | -185 | -836 | -3,476 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Extend staffing savings target in Corporate Resources | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 |
| Total Savings | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 |
| Reserves - Use of Reserves | -100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback of Reserves | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserve | 0 | 30 | 262 | 913 | 3,553 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Highways Traffic Calming Schemes in Dewsbury & Batley | 0 | 0 | 350 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Investment in Batley Library | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Investment in Crows Nest Café | 0 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 0 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 Budget | 0 | 0 | 4,762 | 11,280 | 45,487 |
| Reduction in Corporate Landlord (Asset Investment) | -700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Council - 5 March 2025

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Total Capital Developments | -700 | 0 | 1,762 | -8,630 | 42,987 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | 3,000 | 2,650 | 2,500 |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | -700 | 0 | 4,762 | 11,280 | 45,487 |
| | -700 | 0 | 1,762 | -8,630 | 42,987 |

The Conservative Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor D Hall, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Ali, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Bolt, Brook, Greaves, Hall, Holt, Lees-Hamilton, McGrath, Sheard, Smaje, R Smith, Thompson and Taylor (16 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Amin, Masood Ahmed, Munir Ahmed, Allison, Burke, Butt, Dad, Davies, Cooper, Crook, Darwan, Firth, Hawkins, Homewood, Hussain, Kahut, Kendrick, J C Lawson, J D Lawson, Lee-Richards, Longstaff, Lowe, McCarthy, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Marchington, Moore, Munro, O'Donovan, Pattison, A Pinnock, A U Pinnock, K Pinnock, Rylah, Safdar, Sewell, Scott, Simpson, Sokhal, A Smith, Turner, Ullah, Vickers, A Zaman and H Zaman (46 votes)

ABSTAINED: Councillors Anwar, Arshad and Bramwell.

The Liberal Democrat Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor J C Lawson and seconded by Councillor Davies, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Allison, Anwar, Arshad, Bramwell, Burke, Cooper, Davies, Greaves, Kahut, Khan, J C Lawson, J D Lawson, Lee-Richards, Longstaff, Marchington, Munro, A Pinnock, K Pinnock, Safdar, A Smith, Vickers and H Zaman (23 votes).

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Munir Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Brook, Bolt, Butt, Crook, Dad, Firth, Hall, Hawkins, Holt, Homewood, Kendrick, Lees-Hamilton, Lowe, O'Donovan, McCarthy, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Pattison, A U Pinnock, Rylah, Sewell, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, R Smith, Sokhal, Taylor, Thompson, Turner and Ullah (38 votes).

ABSTAINED: Councillors Darwan, Hussain, Moore, Scott and A Zaman.

The Community Alliance Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor H Zaman, on being put to the vote was LOST.

Council - 5 March 2025

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Anwar, Arshad, Bramwell, Darwan, Hussain, Kahut, Khan, J D Lawson, Moore, Scott, A Zaman and H Zaman (13 votes).

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Munir Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Bolt, Brook, Burke, Butt, Crook, Dad, Davies, Firth, Greaves, Hall, Hawkins, Holt, Homewood, Kendrick, J C Lawson, Lees-Hamilton, Longstaff, Lowe, Marchington, McCarthy, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Munro, O'Donovan, Pattison, A Pinnock, A U Pinnock, K Pinnock, Rylah, Sewell, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, A Smith, R Smith, Sokhal, Taylor, Thompson, Turner and Ullah (48 votes).

ABSTAINED: Councillors Allison, Cooper, Lee-Richards, Safdar, Vickers.

Whereupon, the Substantive Motion was put to the vote and was **NOT CARRIED**.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Addy, Munir Ahmed, Amin, Butt, Crook, Dad, Firth, Hawkins, Homewood, Kendrick, Lowe, McCarthy, McKerchar, McLoughlin, O'Donovan, Pattison, A U Pinnock, Rylah, Sewell, Sokhal, Simpson, Turner and Ullah (23 Votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Ali, Allison, Anwar, Arshad, Bramwell, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Bolt, Brook, Burke, Cooper, Davies, Greaves, Hall, Holt Hussain, Kahut, J C Lawson, J D Lawson, Lee-Richards, Lees-Hamilton, Longstaff, Marchington, McGrath, Moore, Munro, A Pinnock, K Pinnock, Safdar, Scott, Sheard, Smaje, R Smith, Taylor, Thompson, A Smith, Vickers, A Zaman and H Zaman (41 votes)

ABSTAINED: Councillors Darwan and Khan

As the Substantive Motion, nor any of the amendments, were carried, the Mayor adjourned the meeting of Council for further discussions to take place and to enable the opportunity for further amendments to be submitted.

Upon resumption of the meeting, the Mayor advised that further amendments had been received from Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and the Community Alliance Group.

It was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hall, by way of a **Conservative Group Revised Amendment**, that;

Conservative Group Revised Budget Amendment

| | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| General Fund Revenue | | | | | |

Council - 5 March 2025

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Developments | | | | | |
| Feasibility Study - Housing (One off) | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirklees Clean Up (One-off) | 230 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Lighting Surveys (One-off) | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Littercam - Pilot | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Introduction of Christmas Week Bin Collections (provision year 1) | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dewsbury Sport Centre Feasibility Study | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub total Developments | 439 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 113 | 225 | 375 | 563 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads Resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 75 | 300 | 675 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reshape of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -319 | -694 | -1,789 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 458 | 132 | 0 | 0 | -532 |
| | | | | | |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Reduction in Trade Union Facility time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reductions in Communications Activity | -19 | -19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Savings | -19 | -19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | |
| Reserves - reduce VRP Reserve | -439 | -113 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback to Transformation Reserve | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Increase VRP Reserve | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 532 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reshaping of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,253 | -9,253 | -23,853 |
| Total Capital Developments | 250 | 1,500 | -1,753 | -4,253 | -16,353 |
| | | | | | |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 250 | 1,500 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 7,500 |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | -4,253 | -9,253 | -23,853 |
| | 250 | 1,500 | -1,753 | -4,253 | -16,353 |

Council - 5 March 2025

It was moved by Councillor Lawson and seconded by Councillor Davies, by way of the **Liberal Democrat Group Revised Amendment**, that;

Liberal Democrat Group Revised Budget Amendment

| | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| General Fund Revenue | | | | | |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Increase in Ward budgets by £10k per Ward | 230 | 230 | 230 | 230 | 230 |
| Running Costs of Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 0 | 205 | 205 | 205 |
| Feasibility Study for Replacement of Dewsbury Sports Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feasibility for New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Review of Our Cultural Heart - Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub total Developments | 230 | 230 | 435 | 435 | 435 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 75 | 225 | 375 | 525 | 525 |
| Investment in Oakenshaw Cross | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Sports Centres (Borough Wide) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways Road Safety Schemes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 300 |
| Investment in Provision of New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Switch funding from Cleckheaton Town Fund Schemes | -67 | -67 | -67 | -67 | -67 |
| Reduce Corporate Landlord Heritage - to part fund Cleckheaton | -8 | -8 | -8 | -8 | -8 |
| Slip Corporate Landlord Well Being Plan Y2 to Y4 | 0 | -37 | -37 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduce Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 4 by 50% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduce Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -357 | -707 | -1,778 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 230 | 343 | 341 | 328 | -593 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Reduction in growth budgeted provided for Adult Social Care Demand | -100 | -130 | -130 | -130 | -130 |
| Extend staffing savings target in Corporate Resources | -100 | -120 | -120 | -120 | -120 |
| Reduction in Non Pay inflation budget - held centrally | -30 | -78 | -78 | -78 | -78 |
| Total Savings | -230 | -328 | -328 | -328 | -328 |
| Reserves - Use of Reserves | 0 | -15 | -13 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 893 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Council - 5 March 2025

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Investment in Oakenshaw Cross | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Sports Centres (Borough Wide) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways Local Safety Schemes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Investment in Provision of New Build Dementia Care Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Switch funding from Cleckheaton Town Fund Schemes | -900 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduce Corporate Landlord Heritage Budget - to part fund Cleckheaton | -100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slip Corporate Landlord Well Being Budget Y2 to Y4 | 0 | -500 | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| Reduce Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 4 by 50% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Remove Budget for Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -9,427 | 23,596 |
| | | | | | - |
| Total Capital Developments | 0 | 1,500 | -2,762 | -4,927 | 21,596 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 4,500 | 2,000 |
| | | | | | - |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | -1,000 | -500 | -4,762 | -9,427 | 23,596 |
| | | | | | - |
| | 0 | 1,500 | -2,762 | -4,927 | 21,596 |

Council - 5 March 2025

It was moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor H Zaman, by way of the **Community Alliance Group Revised Amendment**, that;

Community Alliance Group Revised Budget Amendment

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Developments | | | | | |
| Increase in Ward Members Budgets by £5k per Ward | 115 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobile Flytipping Cameras | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parking Permits - Independent Review | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grit Bins (1x 23 ward including Fill) | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taxi Licencing (Additional Resource in Dewsbury 2.5 days per week PTE) | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Registrars (Additional Resource in Dewsbury 2.5 days week PTE) | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside Net Operating Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 600 |
| Sub total Developments | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 600 |
| Change in Capital Financing Requirements | | | | | |
| Investment in Highways Traffic Calming Schemes in Dewsbury & Batley | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Investment in Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside | 0 | 0 | 150 | 300 | 450 |
| Investment in Batley Library | 0 | 0 | 38 | 75 | 113 |
| Investment in Crows Nest Café | 0 | 0 | 11 | 23 | 23 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 Budget | 0 | 0 | -357 | -1,207 | -4,635 |
| Reduction in Corporate Landlord (Asset Investment) | -53 | -53 | -53 | -53 | -53 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 147 | -53 | -185 | -836 | -3,476 |
| Savings | | | | | |
| Extend staffing savings target in Corporate Resources | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 |
| Total Savings | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 | -77 |
| Reserves - Use of Reserves | -70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback of Reserves | 0 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Contribution to General Reserve | 0 | 60 | 262 | 913 | 3,553 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Investment in Highways Traffic Calming Schemes in Dewsbury & Batley | 0 | 0 | 350 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Dewsbury Sports Centre - Dryside | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Investment in Batley Library | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Investment in Crows Nest Café | 0 | 0 | 150 | 150 | 0 |
| Removal of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 Budget | 0 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | 45,487 |

Council - 5 March 2025

| | | | | | |
|--|------|---|--------|---------|--------|
| Reduction in Corporate Landlord (Asset Investment) | -700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | - |
| Total Capital Developments | -700 | 0 | -1,762 | -8,630 | 42,987 |
| Funded by : | | | | | |
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | 3,000 | 2,650 | 2,500 |
| | | | | | - |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | -700 | 0 | -4,762 | -11,280 | 45,487 |
| | | | | | - |
| | -700 | 0 | -1,762 | -8,630 | 42,987 |

It was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hall, that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14(14), the amendments be put to the vote without debate. The Motion upon being put to the vote, was **CARRIED**.

The Conservative Group Revised Amendment on being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Addy, Munir Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Bolt, Brook, Butt, Crook, Dad, Firth, Hall, Hawkins, Holt, Homewood, Kendrick, Lees-Hamilton, Lowe, McCarthy, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, O'Donovan, Pattison, A U Pinnock, Rylah, Sewell, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, R Smith, Sokhal, Taylor, Thompson, Turner and Ullah (38 votes).

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Allison, Anwar, Bramwell, Burke, Cooper, Darwan, Davies, Greaves, Hussain, Kahut, Khan, J C Lawson, Lee-Richards, Longstaff, Marchington, Moore, Munro, A Pinnock, K Pinnock, Safdar, Scott, A Smith, Vickers, A Zaman and H Zaman (26 votes).

ABSTAINED: Councillors Arshad and J D Lawson.

The Substantive Motion, as amended, was put to the vote, **CARRIED** and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that;

1) General Fund Revenue

- the Revenue Budget for 2025-2026, to deliver a balanced position, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 period, as set out at Appendix A, be noted.
- the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix C, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.18 refers) be approved
- that the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2025-2026, as set out at paragraph 2.25/Appendix G, be approved.

Council - 5 March 2025

- the Council tax requirement for 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix M, be approved.
- the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves, as set out at paragraph 2.23, be noted.
- authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Parish Councils, should these be received after 5 March 2025 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

2) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.40, Appendix C refers)
- the treasury management prudential indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)

3) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2024-2032 be approved (Appendix F refers)
- the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix I refers)

4) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2025-2026 be approved (Appendix K refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix K refers)

5) That approved Motion incorporate the amendment as set out below;

| General Fund Revenue | 25-26 £000 | 26- 27 £000 | 27-28 £000 | 28-29 £000 | 29-30 £000 |
|--|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Developments | | | | | |
| Feasibility Study - Housing (One off) | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirklees Clean Up (One-off) | 230 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Lighting Surveys (One-off) | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Littercam - Pilot | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Introduction of Christmas Week Bin Collections (provision year 1) | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dewsbury Sport Centre Feasibility Study | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub total Developments | 439 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Council - 5 March 2025

Change in Capital Financing Requirements

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 113 | 225 | 375 | 563 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads Resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 75 | 300 | 675 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reshape of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -319 | -694 | -1,789 |
| Total Cost of Proposals | 458 | 132 | 0 | 0 | -532 |

Savings

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Reduction in Trade Union Facility time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reductions in Communications Activity | -19 | -19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Savings | -19 | -19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Reserves - reduce VRP Reserve | -439 | -113 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Payback to Transformation Reserve | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves - Increase VRP Reserve | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 532 |
| Total Revenue effect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

General Fund Capital

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Investment in Cleckheaton Town Hall | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Investment in Cliffe House Playground | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Investment in Highways - Roads resurfacing | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| Investment in Leisure Provision - Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reshaping of Our Cultural Heart Phase 5 | 0 | 0 | -4,253 | -9,253 | -23,853 |
| Total Capital Developments | 250 | 1,500 | -1,753 | -4,253 | -16,353 |

Funded by :

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| Increase in Borrowing Requirement | 250 | 1,500 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 7,500 |
| Decrease in Borrowing Requirement | 0 | 0 | -4,253 | -9,253 | -23,853 |
| | 250 | 1,500 | -1,753 | -4,253 | -16,353 |

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Addy, Munir Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bamford, Bellamy, Bolt, Brook, Butt, Crook, Dad, Firth, Hall, Hawkins, Holt, Homewood, Kendrick, Lees-Hamilton, Lowe, McCarthy, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, O'Donovan, Pattison, A U Pinnock, Rylah, Sewell, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, R Smith, Sokhal, Taylor, Thompson, Turner and Ullah (38 votes).

AGAINST: Councillors Masood Ahmed, Allison, Anwar, Bramwell, Burke, Cooper, Darwan, Davies, Greaves, Hussain, Kahut, Khan, J C Lawson, Lee-Richards, Longstaff, Marchington, Moore, Munro, A Pinnock, K Pinnock, Safdar, Scott, A Smith, Vickers, A Zaman and H Zaman (26 votes).

ABSTAINED: Councillor Arshad.

This page is intentionally left blank

| 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, 30 JANUARY 2025 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 Sue Holdsworth | Calderdale Council |
| Councillor Jane Scullion | Calderdale Council |
| Councillor Carole Pattison | Kirklees Council |
| Councillor Alan Lamb | Leeds City Council |
| Councillor James Lewis | Leeds City Council |
| Councillor Matthew Morley (Substitute) | Wakefield Council |
| Councillor Claire Douglas | City of York Council |

In attendance:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Councillor Barry Anderson | 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 |
| Felix Kumi-Ampofo (Director) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Damon Lawrenson (Director) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Simon Pope (Director) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Caroline Norreys (Assistant Director) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Alexander Clarke (Officer) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Myles Larrington (Committee Services) | West Yorkshire Combined Authority |

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Combined Authority meeting of 2025, including Damon Lawrenson, Interim Director of Finance, and Simon Pope, Transport Capital Programme Director, who were attending their first meeting since joining the organisation. Emphasising the significance of the meeting, the Chair highlighted the approval of the annual budget.

Acknowledging the funeral of the Rt Hon Lord Prescott in Hull, the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Chair expressed condolences and reflected on his dedication to Yorkshire and the North, recognising his advocacy for regional

equality, social justice, and environmental conservation.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Denise Jeffrey (Wakefield Council) and Mandy Ridyard (West Yorkshire Business Board). Cllr Matthew Morley (Wakefield Council) attended as the substitute for Cllr Jeffrey.

3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests at the meeting.

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

The Chair advised members that Agenda Item 6 – Bus Franchising (Appendix 1, Appendix 2, Appendix 3) had been identified by officers as containing exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and where officers had considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.

The Combined Authority was asked to accept the recommendation in respect of the agenda item listed above, which was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 6 – Bus Franchising (Appendix 1, Appendix 2, Appendix 3) on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information and for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 12 December 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 12 December 2024 were approved as a correct record.

6. Mayor's Update

The Chair provided a brief update, beginning with the successful reopening of Bradford Interchange on 5 January 2025. Thanks were given to the people of Bradford for their patience and to staff at the Combined Authority and Bradford Council for their efforts. The Chair noted the launch of Bradford UK City Year of Culture 2025, the launch of which, attracted over 10,000 attendees to Centenary Square in Bradford earlier in the month.

The Chair highlighted the publication of the English Devolution White Paper, which was launched in West Yorkshire. The significance of this moment was emphasised, with increased powers and funding flexibilities transferring from

Whitehall to local communities.

Following the last Combined Authority meeting, the Chair attended a roundtable in Darlington with the Chancellor and other Mayors, discussing local growth and fiscal devolution. The Chair also participated in the second Mayors' Council in Sheffield, engaging with Ministers on employment, child poverty, and devolution. Evidence was given to a select committee, advocating for deeper devolution.

The Chair then concluded the update and took a question from Cllr Alan Lamb. Cllr Lamb raised concerns about government delays to proposed upgrades at Leeds General Infirmary, now expected to start no earlier than 2032 with revised upscaled costs of around £800m. He suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves, a Leeds MP, had overlooked the city and urged the Combined Authority to challenge the decision while pushing for progress on the Innovation Village, a new world-class hub for science, research and technology. The Chair disagreed with this assessment, emphasising ongoing private discussions to secure a positive outcome. The Chief Executive confirmed discussions with Leeds City Council and partners were continuing, with a public update expected soon.

7. Bus Franchising

The Combined Authority considered a report providing an update on the Bus Franchising Scheme, following the decision made in March 2024. The report outlined progress on the lotting strategy, depot strategy, and transport branding.

The Chair expressed encouragement at the progress made, recognising team efforts and partnerships. The Chair reminded members that Appendices 1, 2, and 3 contained exempt information, and explained that the agenda item would begin with a public discussion, followed by a private session to address sensitive matters. The meeting would then return to the public session to consider and resolve the recommendations.

The Chair invited Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, the Chair of the Transport Committee, to speak. Cllr Hinchcliffe acknowledged the significant progress already made on the Bus Franchising Scheme. Cllr Hinchcliffe also highlighted the work still to be done, including preparing for franchising, transitioning bus operators to a different model, and addressing branding, all while aiming to keep costs as low as possible.

Officers then introduced the report, summarising key developments in mobilising the franchising programme, including approvals for funding, delegations to the Chief Executive, and the adoption of a new transport network brand.

Members discussed the Bus Franchising scheme, highlighting its importance in improving local bus services. One member welcomed the creation of the shadow board, emphasising the need for accountability and addressing service gaps, citing Calderdale as an example. Another member raised concerns about bus operators' performance and the reliability of services,

stressing the significance of oversight in the process. A further member questioned the funding strategy, potential increases in bus patronage, and the practical impact on residents.

The Executive Director for Transport, Simon Warburton, reassured members that the shadow board membership would align with the political leadership of the five West Yorkshire authorities. The Executive Director provided clarification on funding, the balanced cost of franchising, and the ongoing commercial negotiations that would shape the bus network's future. The Executive Director also highlighted the importance of performance data and fleet investment. Members discussed the urgency of the scheme, the need for a communication strategy, and the swift establishment of the shadow boards.

The Chair then turned to the discussion of Appendix 1, Appendix 2, and Appendix 3. In accordance with the resolution passed during Agenda Item 4, the Combined Authority sat in private for the duration of the discussion, with the press and public excluded from the proceedings. After the discussion had concluded, the Combined Authority returned to public proceedings.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

(i) Noted the updates provided in the report.

(ii) Approved the contents of the Bus Franchising Lotting Strategy at Appendix 1.

(iii) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to undertake all such activities as were appropriate to progress and finalise the Lotting Strategy, including conducting market engagement with bus operators on the approach as set out in the exempt appendix.

(iv) Approved the contents of the Bus Franchising Depot Strategy at Appendix 2.

(v) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to undertake all such activities as were appropriate to implement the Depot Strategy, including the negotiation for and acquisition of depots and land.

(vi) Approved that the Bus Reform Depot Programme proceeded through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and that:

- Work commenced on activity 5 (delivery) for acquiring and refurbishing up to 10 depots, subject to conditions.
- Work commenced on activity 3 (outline business case) for any depots to be redeveloped.
- Work commenced on activity 3 (outline business case) for a programme of zero emission bus infrastructure across the acquired depots.

(vii) Approved development funding of £67,000,000, to commence delivery on

acquiring and refurbishing up to 10 depots and progress the depot redevelopment and zero emission bus infrastructure programme schemes to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval to £67,000,000.

(viii) Approved that future approvals in relation to depot business cases were made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in Appendix 3, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

(ix) Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding in relation to depots as set out in Appendix 2.

(x) Endorsed the proposal to retire the 'Metro' transport network identity and to adopt a new name and brand identity for West Yorkshire's integrated transport network.

8. Business Planning and Budget 2025/26

The Combined Authority considered a report on approving multi-year outcomes and the 2025/26 business plan, alongside the proposed revenue budget, transport levy, and treasury management statement.

The Chair noted a slightly different approach this year with approval sought for both multi-year outcomes and the 2025/26 business plan. Despite a challenging financial landscape, the Chair highlighted achievements in skills, housing, and sustainable transport. It was noted that the transport levy had been kept flat for ten years, creating pressures, and would increase by 2% a year from 2026-27 in line with the bus franchising assessment. The Chair also discussed plans for the mass transit system, a universal skills system, and the Home Energy West Yorkshire scheme. The Chair reiterated a focus on delivery and the upcoming single settlement for devolution.

Officers introduced the report, which discussed the 2025/26 budget and funding challenges, with continued support for major regional projects.

The Chair thanked the Interim Director of Finance, Damon Lawrenson, for presenting a comprehensive report on the budget and reassured members that the financial oversight process was being effectively managed. Cllr Lamb also commended the Interim Director of Finance for his work, particularly in implementing upcoming zero-based budgeting, and requested an update on a financial issue reported to the Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on 20 January 2025. This issue related to a £853 million reconciliation variance in the Combined Authority's 2023/24 accounts, latterly highlighted by External Audit.

The Interim Director of Finance clarified that this variance resulted from an inadvertent duplication of data during the consolidation process of the Combined Authority's Statement of Accounts with that of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Statement of Accounts. He assured members that the variance affected only budgetary data inputs, not the approved budget itself, and had no material impact on the Combined Authority's financial status, which remained unchanged. It was also confirmed that the error in no way

reflects on the accounting procedures or reporting of West Yorkshire Police.

The Interim Director of Finance further indicated that the issue with the financial data would be rectified and confirmed that the recruitment of additional personnel had enhanced the resilience of the finance team's operational capacity.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the draft 2025/26 business plans in principle, as set out in the plans on a page at Appendix 2.

(ii) Noted the revised outturn revenue budget for 2024/25.

(iii) Approved the proposed revenue budget for 2025/26.

(iv) Approved the indicative capital programme and funding for 2025/26 – 2028/29.

(v) Determined a levy of £102 million for the year ended 31 March 2026, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and related regulations.

(vi) Authorised the Director, Finance and Commercial Services, to issue the levy letter for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 to the five District Councils in West Yorkshire.

(vii) Approved a payment of £4,099,410, to reflect a partial refund of the Transport Levy, to be made to the five District Councils in accordance with Table 7 of the report.

(viii) Authorised the Director, Finance and Commercial Services, to arrange appropriate funding for all expenditure in 2024/25 and 2025/26, subject to statutory limitations, including the most appropriate application of capital funding as set out in the report.

(ix) Noted that work would be undertaken to revise the Authority's approach to capitalisation of costs.

(x) Reaffirmed the adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services.

(xi) Approved the treasury management policy as set out in Appendix 7.

(xii) Adopted the prudential limits for the next three years as set out in Appendix 7.

9. English Devolution White Paper

The Combined Authority considered a report on the English Devolution White Paper, which outlined the Government's new approach to devolution in England. The report set out the anticipated next steps for planning the

implementation of the White Paper and the workstreams for 2025.

Officers introduced the report, detailing ongoing efforts to secure deeper devolution, including local growth, integrated settlements, health and work programmes, and public service reform, while continuing engagement with Government to influence the forthcoming English Devolution Bill.

The Chair highlighted the significant opportunity for regional growth through increased mayoral powers, emphasising West Yorkshire's strong position due to its collaborative approach and experience. Members recognised the challenges ahead, particularly in recruitment and resourcing, and stressed the need for financial stability for local authorities. Concerns were raised about housing and strategic planning, with Members seeking reassurance on how these would align with local authority responsibilities. The Chair emphasised that the focus was on unlocking opportunities rather than duplicating efforts, with a priority on increasing affordable housing and strengthening partnerships with Homes England and developers.

Members also discussed the capacity for effective scrutiny given the wide-ranging responsibilities of the Combined Authority, including transport, devolution, and economic growth. The Chair acknowledged the challenge and stressed the need for active participation from committee members. The Chief Executive highlighted the lack of mainstream funding for Combined Authorities and ongoing lobbying efforts with government to address this. The Chief Executive also outlined measures to streamline recruitment and resource allocation while adapting to evolving workforce expectations. The Chair concluded by reaffirming enthusiasm for devolution and confidence in delivering meaningful outcomes for West Yorkshire.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

(i) Noted the update provided and the implications of the English Devolution White Paper for West Yorkshire.

(ii) Endorsed the work undertaken to implement the measures set out in the English Devolution White Paper.

10. All-Age Careers Blueprint

The Combined Authority considered a report on the West Yorkshire All-Age Careers Blueprint, a framework for creating a person-centred careers service.

The Chair introduced the update on the West Yorkshire All-Age Careers Blueprint, highlighting its role in improving skills and careers education to drive economic growth and widen opportunities. The Chair welcomed collaboration between partners in shaping the framework and looked forward to its progress, emphasising the importance of further education in supporting lifelong skills development. The Chair then invited Cllr James Lewis to provide further comments on the report.

Cllr Lewis welcomed the Blueprint and the development of a clearer careers appraisal service for West Yorkshire, recognising its importance alongside

other initiatives. Cllr Lewis noted that the new government was reviewing the role of job centres and highlighted the Economy Committee's role in shaping the Blueprint. Cllr Lewis thanked those involved in bringing the work forward.

Officers proceeded to introduce the report, detailing its development and focus on improving the fragmented careers system. They highlighted the Blueprint's alignment with regional priorities, including early years workforce support, technical education, and seamless career transitions, and the upcoming implementation plan.

Members welcomed the report, particularly the focus on early intervention at primary school level to maintain aspirations. Concerns were raised about the difficulty small businesses face in offering work experience due to resource constraints, with calls for funding and reduced bureaucracy to encourage participation. The Chair acknowledged these challenges and highlighted ongoing discussions with Ministers and the potential role of the Fair Work Charter in addressing them.

The Director for Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture emphasised the importance of employer engagement and supporting young people through key transition points. The Director noted lessons from past programmes and the Local Growth Plan's commitment to ensuring young people have meaningful employer encounters. The need for better college engagement with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMES) was recognised, with reference to the SME graduate scheme as a model for improving support and participation.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

(i) Noted the update and forward look for employment, education, and careers, as presented in the report.

(ii) Approved the adoption of the West Yorkshire All-Age Careers Blueprint, as outlined in the submitted report, to support the development of an integrated, person-centred careers and employment support system for the region.

11. Project Approvals

(a) Investment Priority 4 – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure

West Yorkshire and York Broadband Gainshare – Delegation of Approval

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to approve the split of the £2,700,000 repayments to the six authorities, made under the original contract funding framework.

(ii) Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture to approve the funding of future regional connectivity interventions from the remaining £3,600,000 accrued

funds.

(b) Investment Priority 5 (IP5) - Delivering Sustainable, Integrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

The Chair highlighted the poor state of accessibility at West Yorkshire's railway stations, noting that 72% lacked proper access. Despite an unsuccessful funding bid to central government for accessibility improvements, the Combined Authority proceeded with station upgrades and prioritised accessibility in Mass Transit and Bus Franchising plans. The Chair also emphasised the importance of active travel, particularly along canals, though unexpected costs had arisen.

The Transport Capital Programme Director explained that initial cost estimates were based on strategic-level assessments, with additional works required for canal walls. He confirmed that the Canal and River Trust was a key stakeholder.

Members discussed accessibility issues in rail travel, concerns about rolling stock, and the need for improvements. The Chief Executive outlined how some transport projects, despite falling below a benefit-cost ratio of 1, were still recommended due to wider strategic benefits. Members also debated the impact of bus hotspots and enforcement measures on rural services, with ongoing discussions on bus reliability, speed, and infrastructure improvements.

Rail Accessibility Package: Step-free Access (Guiseley Station)

Resolved: The Combined Authority:

(i) Approved that the Rail Accessibility Package: Step-free Access scheme proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline business case) and work commence on activity 4 (full business case).

(ii) Approved that development funding of £1,680,074 be released to progress the scheme to activity 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval from £175,000 to £1,855,074.

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

(iv) Noted the Combined Authority's possible funding contribution of £10,072,546. The estimated total scheme cost was £10,072,546, including £1,776,000 for risk, contingency, and inflation allowances.

Huddersfield Broad Canal – Aspley Basin to Cooper Bridge Towpath Resurfacing

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to conditions:

(i) Approved that the Huddersfield Broad Canal scheme proceed through decision points 2–4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of up to £1,833,264. The total scheme cost was £1,833,264.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for funding of up to £1,833,264.

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

(v) Noted that £198,992 of the total scheme cost was for risk and contingency allowances.

Huddersfield Narrow Canal Phase 3

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to conditions:

(i) Approved that the Huddersfield Narrow Canal scheme proceed through decision points 2–4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of up to £1,497,412. The total scheme cost was £1,497,412.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for funding of up to £1,497,412.

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

(v) Noted that £189,933 of the total scheme cost was for risk and contingency allowances.

Calderdale Bus Hotspots

Resolved: The Combined Authority, subject to conditions:

(i) Approved that the Calderdale CRSTS Bus Hotspots scheme proceed through decision points 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commence on activity 5 (delivery).

(ii) Approved the Combined Authority's funding of £1,341,000. The total scheme cost was £1,341,000.

(iii) Approved that the Combined Authority enter into a Deed of Variation to the existing funding agreement with Calderdale Council for funding of up to £1,341,000.

(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 £252,000 of the total scheme cost was for risk and contingency allowances.

Delegated Decisions

Decisions Delegated to the Chief Executive:

ATF4 Silsden to Kildwick Canal Towpath

(i) That the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 (ATF4) Silsden to Kildwick Canal Towpath 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).

(iii) That the total grant allocation was £1,053,429, representing the total value of the scheme funded through the Combined Authority.

(iv) That the total value of the scheme was £2,027,885.

Decisions Delegated to the Executive Director for Transport:

Leeds-Bradford Airport Parkway Station

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the change request for the Leeds Bradford Airport Parkway 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 a further £250,000 of development costs was released from the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF), which included £65,000 to enable the scheme to carry out a Minimum Viable Product exercise, taking the total approval to £6,000,000.

(iii) That the total value of the scheme was £65,544,365.

(iv) That the total value of the Combined Authority's funding was £65,544,365.

Bradford Forster Square Station Gateway

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the change request for the Bradford Forster Square Station Gateway scheme, which remains a priority scheme within Bradford Council's portfolio, 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 further business case development costs were committed from within the scheme's existing approval of £3,885,314 to enable the resubmission of its outline business case (decision point 3).

(iii) That the total value of the scheme was £17,311,000.

(iv) That the total value of the Combined Authority's funding was £17,061,000.

TCF Huddersfield Bus Station

Resolved: The Combined Authority noted the following delegated decision:

(i) That the change request for the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Transforming Huddersfield Bus Station (Canopy and Public Realm) 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 further development funding of £1,206,000 was approved to progress the scheme to decision point 4 (full business case), taking the total scheme approval to £4,283,100.

(iii) That the total value of the scheme was £28,700,000.

12. Governance Arrangements and Amendments to Contract Standing Orders

The Combined Authority considered a report regarding several key governance matters, including the appointment of co-opted members to the Employment Panel, changes to Contract Standing Orders in line with the new Procurement Act, and consent for a statutory instrument related to adult education funding. Officers introduced the report, seeking approval for the recommendations and noting a consultation on the standards and conduct framework for local authorities.

Resolved: That the Combined Authority:

(i) Approved the co-option of members to the Employment Panel as set out in Appendix 1, in line with the nominations provided by the West Yorkshire

Constituent Councils.

(ii) Approved the revised version of the Contract Standing Orders as provided in Appendix 2.

(iii) Approved, in principle, consent to the creation of the Combined Authorities (Adult Education Functions) (Amendment) Order 2025 and delegated authority to the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Mayor, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the Order.

(iv) Noted the commencement of the MHCLG's consultation on the standards and code of conduct framework for local authorities in England.

13. Minutes for Information

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

14. Chair's Closing Remarks

Before concluding the meeting, the Chair acknowledged Alan Reiss, the Chief Operating Officer, who was departing the Combined Authority in March after six years of service. The Chair noted that this was Mr Reiss's last Combined Authority meeting and expressed gratitude for Mr Reiss's significant contributions, including securing the Mayoral Devolution Deal, leading the response to the pandemic, and driving forward key initiatives. The Chair wished Mr Reiss every success in his upcoming role as Director of Operations at the North East Combined Authority.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Combined Authority was scheduled to be held on Thursday 27 February 2025.

This page is intentionally left blank



REPORT TITLE: Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 (Reference from Personnel Committee)

| | |
|--|--|
| Meeting Date | Council – 23 April 2025 |
| Cabinet Member | N/A |
| Key Decision Eligible for Call In | No – Not applicable No |
| <p>Purpose of Report To comply with the requirements of Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011, that the authority produces a policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority’s principal Chief Officers.</p> | |
| <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Council approve the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2025-26, as appended to the report, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report was considered by Personnel Committee on 7 April 2025 and was recommended for approval by Council. | |
| <p>Resource Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sufficient revenue budgetary provision within the approved budget plans for 2025/26 to implement the attached 2025/26 Pay Policy Statement. | |
| <p>Date signed off by <u>Executive 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>Steve Mawson 28/3/2025</p> <p>Kevin Mulvaney 26/3/2025</p> <p>Sam Lawton 26/3/2025</p> |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: All

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? This report contains no information that falls within the scope of the General Data Protection Regulation.

1. Executive Summary

- Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 requires that the authority produce a policy statement that covers several matters concerning the pay of the authority's staff, principally Chief Officers. The attached policy statement appendices meet the requirements of the Localism Act.
- Section 39 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 specifically include the requirement that a relevant authority's pay policy statement must be approved by a resolution of the authority before it comes into force, and as per Section 39 (3) of the Act, that each subsequent annual statement must be prepared and approved before the end of the 31 March immediately preceding the financial year to which it relates.

2. Information required to take a decision.

- The report is submitted to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011. This requires the Council to produce an annual pay policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority's principal Chief Officers. It also requires a Council resolution to approve the annual statement before the end of the 31 March immediately preceding the financial year to which it relates.
- This policy also has some connection with the data on pay and rewards for staff which the Authority publishes under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and the data which is published under The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2015). This policy statement does not cover or include school staff and is not required to do so.
- The proposed 2025/26 Pay Policy Statement is attached in more detail for Council approval see the appendices.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

N/A

3.2 Working with Partners

N/A

3.3 Place Based Working

N/A

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

N/A

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

N/A

3.6 Financial Implications

There is sufficient revenue budgetary provision within the approved budget plans for 2025/26 to implement the attached 2025/26 pay policy statement.

3.7 Legal Implications

None to report

- 3.8 **Other (e.g., Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**
None to report
4. **Consultation**
N/A
5. **Engagement**
N/A
6. **Options**
- 6.1 **Options considered**
N/A
- 6.2 **Reasons for recommended option**
N/A
7. **Next steps and timelines**
Publish the Pay Policy Statement on the Council's Internet site, to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.
8. **Contact officer**
Shauna Coyle – Head of People Services, shauna.coyle@kirklees.gov.uk
Margaret Lunn – Human Resources Partner, People Services,
Margaret.lunn@kirklees.gov.uk
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**
2024-25 Pay Policy Statement approved and published on the Council Website.
Government Pay policy statement guidance: [Openness and accountability in local pay: supplementary guidance - GOV.UK](#)
10. **Appendices**
Ai) Kirklees Pay Policy Statement 2025/26
Remuneration of Chief Officers
Kirklees Council Single Status Grades (1st April 2024) this will be subject to the national pay award consultations for 2025/26.
Range of Policies
11. **Service Director responsible**
Rachel Spencer-Henshall – Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

This page is intentionally left blank

Pay Policy Statement

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Pay Policy Statement..... | 1 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Definition of Senior Officers covered by the Policy Statement..... | 2 |
| Policy on remunerating Chief Officers | 3 |
| Policy on remunerating the lowest paid in the workforce | 4 |
| Policy on the relationship between Chief Officer remuneration and that of other staff... | 4 |
| Policy on other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration..... | 5 |
| Approval of salary packages in excess of £100k | 5 |
| Flexibility to address recruitment issues for vacant posts | 5 |
| Policy for future years..... | 5 |
| Appendix A - Remuneration of Chief Officers | 1 |
| Appendix B - Kirklees Council Single Status Salary Grades..... | 1 |
| Appendix C – Range of Kirklees Policies..... | 3 |

Introduction

Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 requires that the authority produce a policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority’s staff, principally Chief Officers. This policy statement meets the requirements of the Localism Act in this regard and also meets the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which the authority is required to have regard under Section 40 of the Act. This policy also has some connection with the data on pay and rewards for staff which the Authority publishes under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and the data which is published under The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2015). This policy statement does not cover or include school staff and is not required to do so.

Definition of Senior Officers covered by the Policy Statement

| Level | Position in Organisation | Position Title |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| Level A | Head of Paid Service | Chief Executive |
| Level B | Monitoring Officer | Service Director – Governance & Commissioning |
| Level C | Statutory Chief Officer | Executive Director – Children & Families |
| Level C | Statutory Chief Officer | Executive Director – Adults & Health |
| Level C | Statutory Chief Officer | Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Public Health & Corporate Resources |
| Level C | Statutory Chief Officer | Service Director – Finance – Section 151 Officer |
| Level D | Non-statutory Chief Officer | Executive Director – Place |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Child Protection & Family Support |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Learning & Early Support |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Resources, Improvement & Partnerships |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Adults Social Care Operation |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Communities & Access Services |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Strategic Commissioning, Partnerships & Provider Services |

| Level | Position in Organisation | Position Title |
|---------|--------------------------|--|
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Development |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Environmental Strategy & Climate Change |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Highways & Streetscene |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Homes & Neighbourhoods |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Skills & Regeneration |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Culture & Visitor Economy |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Service Director – Strategy & Innovation |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of People Services |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Consultant in Public Health |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Health Protection |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Improving Population Health |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Accountancy |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Commercial Services |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Finance |
| Level E | Deputy Chief Officers | Head of Welfare & Exchequer Services |

Level E are those officers who report directly to a Statutory or Non-Statutory Chief Officer.

Policy on remunerating Chief Officers

The authority's policy on remunerating Chief Officers is set out on the schedule that is attached to this policy statement at Appendix A. It is the policy of this authority to establish a remuneration package for each Chief Officer post that is sufficient to attract and retain staff of the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities that is consistent with the authority's requirements of the post in question at the relevant time, which may include reference to appropriate benchmarks.

Following the implementation of Single status, all Chief Officers are paid in accordance with the Council's pay spine including national pay awards.

Policy on remunerating the lowest paid in the workforce

The authority applies terms and conditions of employment that have been negotiated and agreed through appropriate collective bargaining mechanisms (national or local) or as a consequence of authority decisions, these are then incorporated into contracts of employment. This authority revised the pay spine with effect from 1 April 2019 to recognise the implementation of the national minimum wage. The lowest pay point in this Authority, is Grade 1, Spinal Column Point (SCP) 2; £12.26 hourly rate.

The pay rate is increased in accordance with any pay settlements which are reached through the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. (The 2024 pay spine shown at Appendix B, will be subject to the national pay award consultations, for 2025/26).

From April 2024, the government is revising the criteria for national living wage payments. Therefore, the authority has reviewed the implementation of apprenticeship rates of pay from the 1st of April 2024, the Year 1 rate will be increased in line with the percentage set by Government for the national living wage. For 2025 the hourly rate will be £11.93 and the Year 2 onwards rate will be £12.21 per hour, in accordance with the national living wage requirements. The rates are paid to all apprentices and is not related to the age of the apprentice.

Policy on the relationship between Chief Officer remuneration and that of other staff

The highest paid (actual) salary in this authority is £176,672, Grade 24, SCP 73, which is paid to Steve Mawson. The median (full-time equivalent) salary * in this authority (not including schools or other external organisations) is £30,060 second point of Grade 7, SCP 17.

*Median

The median is the value falling in the middle when the data items are arranged in an array of either ascending or descending order. If there is an odd number of items, the median is the value of the middle item. If there is an even number of items, the median is obtained by taking the mid points of the two middle points (add middle points together and divide by 2).

Excluded: Kirklees active Leisure, Maintained Schools, Academies, Claiming Teachers, Temp Direct, Teachers pensions, Casual and Paymaster Only Contracts, any record where the actual salary is zero.

The ratio between the two salaries, the 'pay multiple', is 5.88:1.

This authority does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific 'pay multiple', however the authority is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the authority as expressed in this policy statement and its wider pay policy and approach.

The authority's approach to the payment of other staff is to pay that which the authority needs to pay to recruit and retain staff with the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities needed for the post in question at the relevant time, which may include reference to

appropriate benchmarks, and to ensure that the authority meets any contractual requirements for staff including the application of any local or national collective agreements, or authority decisions regarding pay.

Policy on other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration

Other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration are appropriate to be covered by this policy statement, these other aspects are defined as recruitment, pay increases, additions to pay, performance related pay, earn back, bonuses, termination payments, transparency, and re-employment when in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) pension or a redundancy/severance payment. These matters are addressed in the schedule that is attached to this policy statement at Appendix C).

Approval of salary packages in excess of £100k

The authority will ensure that, at the latest before an offer of appointment is made, any salary package for any new post that is not currently included within Appendix A (not including schools and any initial transfer to the Council under TUPE), that is in excess of £100k will be considered by full Council. The salary package will be defined as base salary, any bonuses, fees, routinely payable allowances, and benefits in kind that are due under the contract.

Flexibility to address recruitment issues for vacant posts

In the vast majority of circumstances, the provisions of this policy will enable the authority to ensure that it can recruit effectively to any vacant post. There may be exceptional circumstances when there are recruitment or retention difficulties for a particular post and where there is evidence that an element or elements of the remuneration package are not sufficient to secure an effective appointment or retention through for example market supplements or recruitment and retention payments. This policy statement recognises that this situation may arise in exceptional circumstances and therefore a departure from this policy can be implemented without having to seek full Council approval for a change of the policy statement. Such a departure from this policy will be expressly justified in each case and will be approved through an appropriate authority decision making route.

Policy for future years

This policy statement will be reviewed each year and will be presented to full Council each year for consideration in order to ensure that a policy is in place for the authority prior to the start of each financial year.

Appendix A - Remuneration of Chief Officers

| Job Level | Position in Organisation | Employment Conditions | Job Title | Salary Banding | Election Fees |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| A | Head of Paid Service | Single Status | Chief Executive | £170,000 £199,999 | Contract includes duties of returning officer for District, Regional, & Parliamentary elections. Election duty fees are a normal part of the salary for local elections. Additional payment for other national elections is paid at the nationally agreed rate depending upon the type of election. |
| B | Monitoring Officer | Single Status | Service Director Governance & Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| C | Statutory Chief Officer | Single Status | Executive Director Children & Families | £135,000 £149,999 | Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures |
| C | Statutory Chief Officer | Single Status | Executive Director Adults & Health | £135,000 £149,999 | Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures |
| C | Statutory Chief Officer | Single Status | Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Public Health & Corporate Resources | £135,000 £149,999 | Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures |

| Job Level | Position in Organisation | Employment Conditions | Job Title | Salary Banding | Election Fees |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| C | Statutory Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer) | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| D | Non-statutory Chief Officer | Single Status | Executive Director - Place | £135,000 £149,999 | Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Child Protection & Family Support | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Learning & Early Support | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Resources, Improvement & Partnerships | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Adult Social Care Operation | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Communities & Access Services | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Learning Disabilities & Mental Health | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Development | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Environmental Strategy & Climate Change | £95,000 £114,999 | No |

| Job Level | Position in Organisation | Employment Conditions | Job Title | Salary Banding | Election Fees |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Highways & Streetscene | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Homes & Neighbourhoods | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Skills & Regeneration | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Culture & Visitor Economy | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Service Director - Strategy & Innovation | £95,000 £114,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Consultant in Public Health | £75,000 £90,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Improving Population Health | £60,000 £70,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Health Protection | £75,000 £90,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Accountancy | £60,000 £70,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Commercial Services | £60,000 £70,999 | No |

| Job Level | Position in Organisation | Employment Conditions | Job Title | Salary Banding | Election Fees |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Finance | £60,000 £70,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of Welfare & Exchequer Services | £60,000 £70,999 | No |
| E | Deputy Chief Officer | Single Status | Head of People Service | £75,000 £90,999 | No |

Notes

- 1 Salary is Full Time Equivalent – current salary bands quoted reflect pay levels as of 1 April each year.
- 2 2025 Salaries are still to be confirmed salary band based on 2024 salaries.
- 3 Kirklees Council has a common set of Terms and Conditions that applies to all staff, entitled to claim.
- 4 No positions attract Performance Related Pay (PRP), Earn Back, Bonus or non-cash bonus, arrangements.
- 5 No positions have Joint Authority payment arrangements.

Appendix B - Kirklees Council Single Status Salary Grades

| Grade | SCP | Salary | Grade | SCP | Salary |
|------------|--------|---------|-------|-----|---------|
| Apprentice | Year 1 | £23,016 | 14 | 40 | £49,764 |
| Apprentice | Year 2 | £23,557 | 14 | 41 | £50,788 |
| 1 | 1 | £23,656 | 14 | 42 | £51,802 |
| 2 | 2 | £23,656 | 15 | 43 | £52,805 |
| 3 | 3 | £24,027 | 15 | 44 | £53,748 |
| 4 | 4 | £24,404 | 15 | 45 | £54,742 |
| 4 | 5 | £24,790 | 16 | 46 | £55,675 |
| 5 | 5 | £24,790 | 16 | 47 | £56,649 |
| 5 | 6 | £25,183 | 17 | 48 | £57,604 |
| 6 | 7 | £25,584 | 17 | 49 | £58,574 |
| 6 | 8 | £25,992 | 17 | 50 | £59,546 |
| 6 | 9 | £26,409 | 18 | 51 | £60,537 |
| 6 Not used | 10 | £26,835 | 18 | 52 | £61,336 |
| 6 | 11 | £27,269 | 18 | 53 | £62,551 |
| Unused | 12 | £27,711 | 19 | 54 | £63,586 |
| Unused | 13 | £28,163 | 19 | 55 | £64,648 |
| 7 | 14 | £28,624 | 19 | 56 | £66,101 |
| 7 | 15 | £29,093 | 19 | 57 | £70,791 |
| 7 Not used | 16 | £29,572 | 20 | 58 | £79,214 |
| 7 | 17 | £30,060 | 20 | 59 | £84,837 |
| Unused | 18 | £30,559 | 20 | 60 | £90,885 |
| 8 | 19 | £31,067 | 21 | 61 | £90,497 |

| Grade | SCP | Salary | Grade | SCP | Salary |
|------------|-----|---------|-------|-----|----------|
| 8 | 20 | £31,586 | 21 | 62 | £96,959 |
| 8 Not used | 21 | £32,115 | 21 | 63 | £103,866 |
| 8 | 22 | £32,654 | 22 | 64 | £99,372 |
| 9 | 23 | £33,366 | 22 | 65 | £106,699 |
| 9 | 24 | £34,314 | 22 | 66 | £114,023 |
| 9 | 25 | £35,235 | 23 | 67 | £135,567 |
| 9 | 26 | £36,124 | 23 | 68 | £138,810 |
| 10 | 27 | £37,035 | 23 | 69 | £142,242 |
| 10 | 28 | £37,938 | 23 | 70 | £145,580 |
| 10 | 29 | £38,626 | 23 | 71 | £148,919 |
| 10 | 30 | £39,513 | 24 | 72 | £171,038 |
| 11 | 31 | £40,476 | 24 | 73 | £176,672 |
| 11 | 32 | £41,511 | 24 | 74 | £182,302 |
| 11 | 33 | £42,708 | 24 | 75 | £187,936 |
| 12 | 34 | £43,693 | 24 | 76 | £193,569 |
| 12 | 35 | £44,711 | 24 | 77 | £199,205 |
| 12 | 36 | £45,718 | | | |
| 13 | 37 | £46,731 | | | |
| 13 | 38 | £47,754 | | | |
| 13 | 39 | £48,710 | | | |

*Revised Pay spine Implemented 1st April 2023

** 2025 Salaries are still to be confirmed salary band based on 2024 salaries

*** Apprenticeship rates of pay are increased in accordance with the national minimum wage and national living wage requirements (rates shown are from 01.04.2025).

Appendix C – Range of Kirklees Policies

| Aspect of Chief Officer Remuneration | Authority Policy |
|---|--|
| Recruitment | The post will be advertised and appointed to at the appropriate approved salary for the post in question level unless there is good evidence that a successful appointment of a person with the required skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities cannot be made without varying the remuneration package. In such circumstances a variation to the remuneration package is appropriate under the authority's policy and any variation will be approved through the appropriate authority decision making process. |
| Pay Increases | The authority will apply any pay increases that are agreed by relevant national negotiating bodies and/or any pay increases that are agreed through local negotiations. Following the implementation of Single status, all Chief officers are paid in accordance with the Council's pay spine including national pay awards. The authority will also apply any pay increases that are as a result of authority decisions to significantly increase the duties and responsibilities of the post in question beyond the normal flexing of duties and responsibilities that are expected in senior posts. |
| Additions to Pay | The authority would not make additional payments beyond those specified in the appropriate policies i.e., Market Rate Supplement, Recruitment and Retention, Acting Up or Honoraria payments. |
| Performance Related Pay (PRP) | The authority does not operate a performance related pay system as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance from its senior officers. Any areas of under-performance are addressed rigorously by utilising the Performance Management system. |
| Earn-Back (Withholding an element of base pay related to performance) | The authority does not operate an earn-back pay system as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance from its senior officers. Any areas of under-performance are addressed rigorously. |
| Bonuses | The authority does not pay bonus payments to senior officers. |
| Termination Payments | The authority applies its normal redundancy payments arrangements to senior officers and does not have separate provisions for senior officers. The authority also applies the appropriate Pensions regulations when they apply. The authority has agreed policies in place on how it will apply any discretionary powers it has under Pensions regulations. Any costs that are incurred by the authority regarding senior officers are |

| Aspect of Chief Officer Remuneration | Authority Policy |
|--|---|
| | published in the authority accounts as required under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. |
| Transparency | The authority meets its requirements under the Localism Act, the Code of Practice on Data Transparency and the Accounts and Audit Regulations in order to ensure that it is open and transparent regarding senior officer remuneration. |
| Re-employment of staff in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme Pension or a redundancy/severance payment | <p>The authority is under a statutory duty to appoint on merit and has to ensure that it complies with all appropriate employment and equalities legislation. The authority will always seek to appoint the best available candidate to a post who has the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities needed for the post.</p> <p>The authority will therefore consider all applications for candidates to try to ensure the best available candidate is appointed. If a candidate is a former employee in receipt of an LGPS pension or a redundancy payment this will not rule them out from being re-employed by the authority. Clearly where a former employee left the authority on redundancy terms then the old post has been deleted and the individual cannot return to the post as it will not exist.</p> <p>The authority will apply the provisions of the Redundancy Payments Modification Order regarding the recovery of redundancy payments if this is relevant. Pensions Regulations also have provisions to reduce pension payments in certain circumstances to those who return to work within the local government service.</p> |

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 11th February 2025

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 Ali Arshad
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Habiban Zaman

92 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of Cabinet were present.

93 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 21 January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

94 Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

95 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information had been submitted in relation to Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 102 refers).

96 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

97 Questions by Members of the Public

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

Question from Avalon Rawling

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

"The campaign group formed of families and friends of residents at Castle Grange and Claremont House have been asking questions and raising concerns about the proposal to privatise the homes for five months.

We have sent over 50 emails, submitted more than 10 questions to cabinet and council, and brought deputations, petitions, and press coverage to this chamber.

But we are still here, asking questions, and raising concerns; evidently the decision to proceed with privatisation still does not make sense to members of the public, to a large number of elected councillors, and even to legal professionals.

What will the chief exec, the leader, officers, and cabinet members, learn about public communication and engagement, based on your experience of the last five months?"

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

Question from Michael Forster

"The cabinet report says the Council has been 'robust and transparent' so why can you not break down for us the £0.8m savings you claim to be making in selling off these homes? And how does this plan offer 'long term sustainability'?"

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

Question from Collette Senior

"In a previous report and in other meetings including cabinet meetings, Kirklees have said there would be no short, medium or long care contracts if the homes were to be privatised. In other words, no guarantees of any continuation of care.

In the report for this meeting, Kirklees states that the Council intend to 'restrict the use of the properties to certain social care services for a period of 5 years from point of sale'

Despite this being important and relevant information, the details of the restrictions aren't given in the report.

This information is needed now so it can be considered as part of the decision. What are these restrictions?"

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

Question from Susie Pavey on behalf of UNISON

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

“The cabinet report says the following, 3.3.6: "Minimum pension rights/benefits must be protected under the Pensions Act 2004 and the Transfer of Employment (Pension Protection) Regulations 2005. At this stage we are aware that none of the potential operators wish to join the LGPS. Affected staff and Trade Unions will be consulted as part of the decision-making process at the appropriate time. The transferee employer will need to inform the transferor (i.e. the Council) of any “measures” that it proposes regarding transferring employees following the transfer.

The TUPE legislation states that staff should transfer on 'no less favourable terms', so how can a dilution of pension rights be 'no less favourable'? When do you anticipate consultation taking place with the trade unions? At 4.6.6, the report also states that: " Staffing levels will be at the discretion of any new provider." What exactly does this mean and if hours or staff are going to be cut, will you refuse to entertain the potential provider?"

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

Question from Sara Blagbrough

“Councillor Addy, in a written response you sent to me on 31 Jan, you stated that ‘the negotiated terms include a period of 5 years where the homes must continue to provide these services’. These negotiated terms have not been shared with relatives prior to this response and the most recent cabinet report. Can you detail what other terms have been negotiated and share with me what action Kirklees Council will take if the private provider does not honour these terms?”

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

Question from Donna Mallinson

The Council has made it clear that any increase in fees will be at the discretion of the new provider. The Council also claims that the Homes cannot be run on the current fees being charged. So, we can all be sure that fees will be increased significantly as a private owner will want to make as much profit as possible.

The Council says they will continue to 'contribute to care costs for low income residents based on the outcome of a financial assessment' & based on the information provided by the Council, this will apply to the majority of the Residents.

The word contribute is significant because Kirklees will pay a certain amount of the fee required by the private owner, not the full amount. The difference between what Kirklees will pay & what the new owner requires will be charged to families of the Resident in the form of a Third Party Top Up Fee. This will be hundreds of pounds per week & families will not be able to afford it.

I would like a precise answer to a straight question & my question is:-

What will happen to those residents whose families cannot afford the top up fee?

This information is needed now because without it, none of us, whether we are a family member, or a Cllr have all the information so an informed decision on the future of the Homes cannot be made. Avoidance by Kirklees to answer this extremely important question so far indicates this top up fee will not be covered by Kirklees, so the resident will have to move. But as all the Homes will be privately owned, & therefore requiring a top up fee, there won't be anywhere for them to live, never mind the fact that a move would be detrimental to them.

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

98 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received oral questions under Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor A Munro

“A planning application was submitted in December 2024 for Castle Hill; however the supporting documents have not been published, and public comments have not been uploaded. How can the public have faith in the decisions made in the planning department when there is a lack of transparency?”

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

Question from Councillor H Zaman

“I wonder whether the whole initiative in relation to the Care Homes has been properly evaluated, including whether the impact on residents and impact on the wider community? In line with some of the questions asked here today, can you explain about the payment, where does that payment go; does that income go to the Council or to the providers? It is not clear where that income goes, how does that work?”

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

Question from Councillor I Safdar

“How can the Council be sure of the cost of provision, when numbers have been based on an average of care homes, some of whom don't provide dementia care, and some have been rated as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement'?”

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

99 Long Stay Dementia Residential Homes

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

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Jo Lawson, A Cooper, A Arshad, John Lawson, C Scott and A Munro).

Cabinet considered a report which provided details of the future of Council operated care home provision at Castle Grange and Claremont House. Within the report, Cabinet was advised that three options for the care homes had to be carefully considered, being (i) to do nothing and retain the care homes, (ii) pursue the transfer the care homes as going concern businesses and (iii) to close the homes, although it was noted that option (iii) had been rejected previously following a comprehensive public consultation.

Cabinet noted the potential revenue cost savings of more than £0.8m each year and the recommended option to pursue the transfer, would ensure minimal disruption to residents and their families, along with a transfer of employment arrangements for staff. The transfer would also enable the Council to better manage the financial position it faced, and to focus resource on specialist activity where there were market gaps or where only the Council could play a market facilitating role, such as for dementia day service facilities.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the outcome and recommendations of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel in respect of the future of Council operated dementia care home provision be noted.
- 2) That the detailed financial analysis as at appendix 3 of the considered report in relation to:
 - (i) the 5-year summary of actual direct and net direct costs of operating these care homes under Council control,
 - (ii) historical and future comparisons of budgeted and actual direct costs (deficit) of operating the care homes,
 - (iii) historical and future comparisons of budgeted and actual income for both care homes,
 - (iv) historical and future comparisons of budgeted and actual net costs (deficit) and the real term potential saving to the Council for 2025/26, be noted.
- 3) To re-affirm the decision made by cabinet at its meeting on 10 December 2024 to progress with the sale and business transfer of Castle Grange and Claremont House as going concerns.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Adults and Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, the Service Director - Finance, and the Service Director – Legal, Governance & Commissioning, to select and finalise negotiations and agree the terms of the freehold transfers and Business Transfer Agreement with a preferred bidder.
- 5) That pursuant to (4) authority be delegated to the Service Director -Legal, Governance and Commissioning to execute and enter into all necessary documentation to effect the transfer of the care homes as going concerns.

100 Council Plan - 2025/2026 (Reference to Council)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors A Cooper and John Lawson).

Cabinet considered the 2025/26 Council Plan which set out the commitment to the long-term vision, shared outcomes, council priorities, areas of focus for the 2025/26 financial year, and was considered alongside the 2025/26 annual budget (Minute No. 101 refers).

Cabinet noted the changes within the plan which set out the direction and priorities of the Council and included (i) getting the basics right, (ii) protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion, (iii) thriving people and communities and (iv) local economic growth.

The report advised that should Council adopt the Plan on 5 March 2025, it would move to implementation and be used across all council directorates to guide and prioritise planning, along with activities relating to the delivery of services. The Plan would then be communicated internally and externally to ensure wider awareness and engagement.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, as outlined at section 5 of the considered report, be noted.
- 2) That the results of the public engagement as detailed at appendix L of the 2025/26 Budget Report be noted.
- 3) That the 2025/26 Council Plan be submitted to the meeting of Council on 5 March 2025 with a recommendation to adopt.

101 Council Annual Budget Report 2025-2026 and following years; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund, Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (Reference to Council)

(The report gave notice to Cabinet Members of the requirements of Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 in relation to voting and participation in the meeting).

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors A Cooper and John Lawson).

Cabinet considered the Council Budget Report 2025/2026 and future years, incorporating General Fund Revenue, Treasury Management, Capital, and Housing Revenue Account prior to its submission to Council on 5 March 2025.

The report provided a summary of the overall budget position along with information on the financial strategy and medium-term financial strategy update 2025/2026 to 2027/2028. The report set out an overview of spending plans in each Directorate and provided information in regard to (i) central budgets (ii) West Yorkshire Combined Authority funding (iii) treasury management (iv) flexible capital receipts

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

(v) budget savings (vi) monitoring and challenge (vii) reserves (viii) schools funding – dedicated schools grant (ix) housing revenue account and (x) capital.

Paragraphs 2.23.2 to 2.23.16 of the report set out the Section 25 Statement from the Section 151 Officer.

Having considered the content of the report and the accompanying appendices, it was agreed that the proposed budget be submitted to the meeting of Council for determination.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, as outlined at section 5 of the considered report, be noted.
- 2) That the Motion be submitted to the Meeting of Council on 5 March 2025 with a recommendation that;
 - (i) General Fund Revenue
 - the Revenue Budget for 2025-2026, to deliver a balanced position, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
 - the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 period, as set out at Appendix A, be noted.
 - the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix C, be noted
 - the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.18 refers) be approved
 - that the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2025-2026, as set out at paragraph 2.25/Appendix G, be approved.
 - the Council tax requirement for 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix M, be approved.
 - the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves, as set out at paragraph 2.23, be noted.
 - authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Parish Councils, should these be received after 5 March 2025 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)
 - (ii) Treasury Management
 - the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
 - the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)
 - the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.40, Appendix C refers)
 - the treasury management prudential indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

- the investment strategy (non-treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2024-2032 be approved (Appendix F refers)
- the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix I refers)

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2025-2026 be approved (Appendix K refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix K refers)

102 **Leasehold Acquisition of housing properties in order to provide Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households**

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

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to enter into longer term lease agreements with private landlords to increase the level of the Council's temporary accommodation stock for homeless households.

Cabinet was advised that an increase in the Council's stock of temporary accommodation would reduce the reliance on Hotel and Bed & Breakfast (B&B) accommodation and would provide better quality accommodation, whilst reducing the Council's net spend on this provision.

Cabinet noted that the Council had a statutory duty to prevent and relieve homelessness through the provision of temporary accommodation, and that demand significantly outweighed the stock of Council owned premises. This resulted in the use of Hotel and B&B accommodation, which was expensive, with only a small proportion of the cost being able to be claimed from Housing Benefit.

The report advised that a site of existing properties which would provide up to 38 family units had been identified, and information regarding the lease of these properties could be found within the considered private appendix.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the strategic leasehold acquisition of the temporary accommodation as considered in the Private Appendix and on the terms contained in the Private Appendix, be approved.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning, the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder, to negotiate future leasehold property arrangements to increase the Councils stock of temporary accommodation that can be used for homeless households and reduce the Councils net spend on temporary accommodation.

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

- 3) That pursuant to (1) and (2), authority be delegated to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into all agreements necessary to effect the arrangements.

103 **Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2025/2026**

Cabinet considered a report which sought to determine admission arrangements for all Kirklees Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2026-2027 year. It was noted that arrangements needed to be determined by 28 February 2025, to comply with the requirements of the Schools Admission Code.

The proposals for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2026/27 admissions year included reducing the PAN (i) from 89 to 60 for Crossley Fields J & I School (ii) for the Reception year group from 66 to 60 at Honley C of E (VC) J I & N School (iii) from 90 to 60 at Hyrstmount Junior School (iv) from 45 to 30 at Linthwaite Clough J I & EY School (v) from 75 to 55 at Netherhall Learning Campus Junior School (vi) from 49 to 30 at Pentland I & N School and from 90 to 60 at Staincliffe CE (VC) Junior School.

Cabinet noted that all proposed arrangements and schemes were the subject of a statutory six week consultation between 22 October 2024 and 2 December 2024.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given Kirklees co-ordinated admission schemes for 2026/27 including in-year admissions, as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2) That approval be given to the admission arrangements for Kirklees community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in Appendix 1C.
- 3) That approval be given for the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for each community and voluntary controlled school set out in appendix 1D of the considered report which include:
 - (i) Crossley Fields J & I School – PAN decrease from 89 to 60 in 2026/27.
 - (ii) Hyrstmount Junior School – PAN decrease from 90 to 60 in 2026/27.
 - (iii) Linthwaite Clough J I & EY School – PAN decrease from 45 to 30 in 2026/27.
 - (iv) Netherhall Learning Campus Junior School – PAN decrease from 75 to 55 in 2026/27.
 - (v) Pentland I & N School – PAN decrease from 49 to 30 in 2026/27.
 - (vi) Staincliffe CE (VC) Junior School – PAN decrease from 90 to 60 in 2026/27.
 - (vii) Honley C of E (VC) J I & N School – PAN decrease from 66 to 60 and removal of historic mismatch between KS1 and KS2 places in 2026/27

104 **Draft Kirklees Transport Strategy, Policy Themes and Consultation Plan**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which contained the draft Transport Strategy and sought authority to commence public consultation.

Cabinet - 11 February 2025

The report advised that a better approach to transport in Kirklees would help to deliver against core Council priorities as good transport was a core factor in the support of investment and regeneration, and it helped places to thrive and allowed communities to become more connected. A stronger focus on more sustainable forms of transport would help to deliver a greener, healthier Kirklees and work in tandem with the Council's Net Zero ambitions.

Cabinet noted that following the public consultation, a final Transport Strategy would be considered by Cabinet in Spring 2024 with the aim to publish the document by Summer 2024. Once adopted, the Strategy would establish the Council's transport ambition, support decision making, direct future funding bids, project activity and spend and would align with the key priorities detail in the Council Plan.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the draft Kirklees Transport Strategy, as at Appendix 1 of the considered report, be approved.
- 2) That authority be given to commence public consultation for a period of eight weeks from 3 March 2025.
- 3) That authority be given to commission a report detailing the outcome of the public consultation for further consideration at a future meeting of Cabinet.

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 11th March 2025

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

Apologies: Councillor Viv Kendrick

105 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Viv Kendrick.

106 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

107 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

108 Admission of the Public

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

109 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

110 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were received.

111 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

No questions were asked.

112 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2024-25

Cabinet considered a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 3 (month 9), 2024/25.

The report advised that the forecast outturn position at Quarter 3 was an overspend of £13.0m after which the use of earmarked reserves and contingencies reduced to £9.9m. Within the £13m, an estimated £9m was due to slippage in the approved savings programme across the Council.

In line with Financial Procedure Rules, the S151 Officer would undertake a review of all balances, earmarked reserves, grant reserves and consider whether some of those could be brought into revenue as they were no longer needed or there were no immediate plans for their use.

The report provided a breakdown of the projected outturn financial monitoring position in terms of (i) forecast general fund revenue outturn position in 2024/25 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 3 for 2024/25 (£9.9m overspend) be noted.
- 2) That in line with Financial Procedure Rules the Service Director - Finance would undertake a review of all balances and earmarked reserves to fund any remaining overspend.
- 3) That authority be given to the wrap around school hours (8am to 6pm) child care for primary school aged pupils funding, and that the proposed allocation method be noted.
- 4) That it be noted the Quarter 3 DSG deficit was forecast to increase by £20.6m in 2024/25.
- 5) That the Quarter 3 forecast HRA position as breakeven and forecast year-end reserves position of £21m be noted.
- 6) That the Quarter 3 forecast capital monitoring position for 2024/25 be noted, and that approval be given to a further net reduction in the 2024/25 position of £33.3m due to £36.4m re-profiling (£30.4m General Fund and £6m HRA) into future years.
- 7) That approval be given to the £3.5m net increase in the overall capital plan (£3.1m 2024/25, £0.4m 2025/26) due to increased grant.
- 8) That the Quarter 3 treasury management prudential indicators be noted.

113 Q3 2024/25 Council Plan and Performance Update Report

Cabinet considered a report which provided an update on performance against the 2024/25 Council Plan deliverables contributing to the Kirklees Shared Outcomes and the Council's aspiration to be effective and efficient in the delivery of its services.

Cabinet noted that throughout 2024/25, the Council Key Measures had been continuously reviewed to ensure that they reflected and represented the most critical and important areas of the council.

The report advised that updates would continue to be presented on a quarterly basis which would enable Executive Directors, the Chief Executive and Members of Cabinet to monitor progress against key priorities and enact change where needed.

RESOLVED – That the Q3 2024/25 Council Plan and Performance Update Report be noted.

114 Corporate Risk - Quarterly Report 3 2024/25

Cabinet received the Corporate Risk Quarterly Report (3) 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 as part of a strong assurance and governance framework and that identifying current and potential future controls played a key role in that.

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

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Risk Quarter 3 2024/25 report be noted.

115 Vulnerable Tenant Policy

Cabinet considered a report setting out the Homes and Neighbourhoods Vulnerable Tenant Policy, which ensured the Council's commitment to try and ensure that vulnerable tenants with support needs were not disadvantaged when accessing housing-related support.

The report advised that the Vulnerable Tenant Policy was essential to ensure that social housing was inclusive, supportive, and responsive to the needs of all tenants, particularly those who were most at risk. The policy aimed to support staff in making informed decisions when supporting vulnerable tenants and household members. This underlined the Council's commitment to being a responsible social landlord in assisting vulnerable tenants in accessing housing related services and in sustaining their tenancies and homes.

RESOLVED – That the Homes and Neighbourhood Vulnerable Tenant Policy be adopted.

116 Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (Incorporating Hate Crime and noise nuisance)

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for the Homes and Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Policy. Cabinet noted that the policy incorporated hate crime and noise nuisance.

The report advised that Homes and Neighbourhoods strived to improve services for tenants and residents and the approach to ASB needed strengthening to improve satisfaction with ASB services.

Cabinet noted that the new policy had considered reports from the Housing Ombudsman Services along with reports in 2019 and 2024 by Baroness Newlove which provided an understanding of the lived experiences of victims of antisocial behaviour.

RESOLVED – That the Homes and Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour Policy (incorporating hate crime and noise nuisance) be adopted.

117 Domestic Abuse Policy

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for the updated Homes and Neighbourhoods Domestic Abuse Policy.

The report advised that the Domestic Abuse Policy complemented the Vulnerable Tenant and ASB Policies, and by working together the policies helped to identify and address issues early, preventing escalation and ensuring tenants well-being. The policies provided a robust and interconnected support system that enhanced tenant safety, well-being, and community cohesion.

Cabinet noted that the updated Domestic Abuse Policy had several important implications for the community and individuals (i) Increased Awareness, encouraging tenants and staff to recognise the signs and understand the resources available (ii) Support for Victims, providing a clear framework for the support and (iii) Empowerment, by giving tenants the knowledge and resources to seek help and report incidents without fear of stigma or retaliation.

RESOLVED – That the revised Homes and Neighbourhoods Domestic Abuse Policy be adopted.

Public Document Pack

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE - LOCAL ISSUES

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Present:

Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Graham Turner

Co-optees

In attendance:

Elizabeth Cusick, Operational Manager – Highways and
Street Scene
Charles Wong, Principal Engineer – Highways and Street
scene

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Munir Ahmed

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Munir Ahmed.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 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

No questions were asked.

8 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - Amendment Order No 9 2024 - A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield

The Committee considered an objection received to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – Amendment Order No 9 2024 – A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield which was presented by Charles Wong, Principal Engineer – Highways and Street scene.

It was explained that the A629 Halifax Road Phase 5 project would lead to the widening of Halifax Road between Yew Tree Road and Ainley Top roundabout to provide two approach lanes. This improvement will cater for traffic heading north towards Halifax; west along the A643 Lindley Moor Road; and to the east along the A643 Brighouse Road.

The objection referred to restrictions being placed in the “layby” outside their property. However, the area of the carriageway referred to was a diverging lane from Halifax Road into Yew Tree Road West. This was currently subject to “Keep Clear” markings, which were regularly abused.

Under the proposals, the current diverge lane of Yew Tree Road would become the beginning of the left slip lane for M62 traffic to bypass Ainley Top roundabout, and the Give Way line for Yew Tree Road moved back to accommodate this change. Parking in this vicinity would impact on visibility from the new layout.

The A629 proposals were subject to several public consultation events, and changes were made to the scheme as a result. A planning application was submitted for the scheme and approval was secured in December 2023.

The TRO was advertised between 9 August 2024 and 30 August 2024. One objection was received during the informal consultation for the legal order in June 2024 but was accepted as a formal objection as the issues remained unresolved at the time of advertising.

The initial reasons for the objection were in relation to adequate consultation, being prevented from parking outside their property due to the removal of the Keep Clear Lines and concerns that the installation of double yellow lines would prevent parking a vehicle in front of the driveway, which was felt to be unusable due to its width.

Officers responded to confirm that as the property was purchased in 2022 by the current occupier, which was within the period when the planning application was being considered. As part of the property purchase process, the objector’s conveyancer should have carried out a Local Authority search.

In respect of the addition of double yellow lines, these proposals reinforced the current arrangements as parking to the frontage was not technically permitted with the existing ‘keep clear’ road marking.

Mr Fariq also attended the meeting to support the initial reasons for objection as outlined in the report (2.7) and to highlight further concerns around safety when accessing the drive. It was noted that reversing into a narrow driveway off a road with 2 lanes of traffic was difficult, and reversing onto the pavement with a restricted

Cabinet Committee - Local Issues - 22 January 2025

view was unsafe for both pedestrians and motorists. It was also highlighted that a disabled family member who regularly visited the property required parking nearby as the drive was not wide enough for them to fully open their car door making it impossible for them to exit the vehicle.

In response the Committee noted that this was a key connecting route between Kirklees, Calderdale and the Motorway and that it was clear from the evidence that the current advisory road markings were not being respected and the installation of double yellow lines would enable enforcement as part of the wider scheme. The Committee did express their sympathy for residents due to challenges caused by an ageing road network and appreciated the comments regarding safety, but this was already an issue due to the advisory road markings being ignored and vehicles blocking access to the pedestrian crossing.

In regard to accessibility, the Committee advised Mr Fariq to contact local ward councillors to start the process around obtaining an advisory disabled parking bay outside the property. It was also highlighted that officers were still prepared to work with Mr Fariq around widening the entrance to the drive which the Committee encouraged.

Having considered the information presented both verbally and in writing the Committee agreed that:

RESOLVED – That the Objection to the proposed ‘Traffic Regulation Order Amendment Order No 9 2024 – A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield’ be overruled and that the Order be implemented as advertised.

RESOLVED: That the Objection to the proposed ‘Traffic Regulation Order Amendment Order No 9 2024 – A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield’ be overruled and that the Order be implemented as advertised.

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE - LOCAL ISSUES

Wednesday 19th February 2025

Present:

Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Graham Turner

Co-optees

In attendance:

Elizabeth Cusick, Operational Manager – Highways and
Street scene
Karen North, Principal Technical Officer

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Moses Crook

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Moses Crook

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January be deferred to the next meeting for approval.

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

No questions were asked.

8 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - 'Amendment Order No 15 of 2024' - Leeds Road/Jubilee Gardens, Mirfield

The Committee considered objections received to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – 'Amendment Order No 15 of 2024' – Leeds Road/Jubilee Gardens, Mirfield which was presented by Karen North, Principal Technical Officer.

It was explained that a Planning Application (2020/62/92368/E) was submitted, by developers, and approved, for 14 dwellings with garages and the formation of a new access road off Leeds Road, Mirfield. Planning conditions were added to the planning approval, one of which required details of the access road to be submitted, along with an appropriate road safety audit, for approval, prior to commencement of the development (Appendix 1). This identified that drivers could continue to use the A62 Leeds Road and / or the junction mouth of the new development to park in, thus obstructing access and blocking visibility for drivers legitimately using the residential access, and/or for cyclists and pedestrians crossing the junction mouth. (Appendix 2). The road safety audit recommended the introduction of waiting restrictions into the access to protect it, and along the main road for a sufficient length to ensure adequate visibility for emerging vehicles onto Leeds Road.

The scheme to improve road safety for all road users using this route, at this location, was approved as part of the planning process, to ensure road safety, and the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) required to implement the waiting restrictions was advertised from 31 October 2024 to 28 November 2024. During the formal advertisement period two objections were received.

The three local ward councillors were consulted on the proposals and although Councillor Bolt raised some concerns regarding the reasoning for the proposal, no formal objections were raised at that time.

The Committee were presented with and considered two options which were;

- a) That the objection be overruled, and the proposals implemented as advertised
- b) That the objection should be upheld, and the proposals abandoned.

Having considered the information presented both verbally and in writing the Committee noted that the traffic audit was part of a planning condition and that they were satisfied that the amendments were to improve road safety for all road users. It was agreed:

RESOLVED – That the objections be overruled and that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – 'Amendment Order No 15 of 2024' – Leeds Road/Jubilee Gardens, Mirfield be implemented as advertised.



Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge – Kirklees Council Action Plan (Reference from Cabinet)

| | |
|--|--|
| Meeting | Council |
| Date | 23 April 2025 |
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Carole Pattison, Leader of the Council |
| Key Decision Eligible for Call In | Yes N/A |

Purpose of Report

The Local Government Association (LGA) came to Kirklees Council in November 2024 to carry out a corporate peer challenge, which is a key part of the LGA’s improvement and assurance framework and is required at least every five years. The LGA produced a feedback report (Appendix A) which has been published on the council’s website. It outlines significant strengths and opportunities for the council, as well as recommendations on how to go further.

The Council has now produced and published an action plan (Appendix B), which was agreed by Cabinet on 8th April. It sets out the activity planned and underway in response to the peer challenge report.

The report and action plan are now being presented to Council for noting, to ensure members are aware of the report and associated action. The action plan supports the priorities set out within the 2025/26 Council Plan (agreed by Council on the 5th March). It will also inform several areas of interest for members, including member development and support, future iterations of the Council Plan and other strategies and plans that form part of the Council’s Policy Framework.

Recommendations

1. For Council to note the LGA’s report (**Appendix A**).
2. For Council to note the action plan (**Appendix B**).
3. For Council to note the reporting and next steps outlined in this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

- The corporate peer challenge addressed five areas of wide interest: local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance and culture, and financial planning and management.
- It involved interviews and focus groups with elected members from across political groups, staff from all directorates (leadership, management, and frontline), partners (both local and regional across the public, private, and third sector), and other key stakeholders (e.g. auditors and trade unions). It included activity involving all council directorates, such as priority-setting, leadership, governance, culture, finance, and improvement activity.
- The LGA’s feedback report outlines significant strengths and opportunities for the council, as well as recommendations on how to go further.
- The council’s action plan was agreed by Cabinet on 8th April and sets out the activity planned across council directorates in response to the peer challenge report.
- It is now being presented to Council for noting, to ensure members are aware of the report and associated action

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The action plan supports the priorities set out within the 2025/26 Council Plan (agreed by Council on the 5th March) and other strategies previously agreed at Council. • The action plan will inform several areas of interest for members, including member development and support, future iterations of the Council Plan and other strategies and plans that form part of the Council's Policy Framework. | |
| <p>Resource Implication: The action plan is mostly being delivered within existing resources and complements existing planned activity. Where additional resources are required to deliver specific actions within the plan, relevant council process and procedure rules will be followed, with value for money clearly demonstrated.</p> | |
| <p>Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name</p> | <p>Andy Simcox, Service Director Strategy and Innovation (sub.) 10/4/25</p> |
| <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</p> | <p>Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance 10/4/25</p> |
| <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?</p> | <p>Leigh Webb, Head of Governance (sub.) 10/4/25</p> |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No personal data is included in this report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) came to Kirklees Council in November 2024 to carry out a corporate peer challenge, which is a key part of the LGA's improvement and assurance framework and is required at least every five years. The LGA produced a feedback report (Appendix A) which has been published on the council's website. It outlines significant strengths and opportunities for the council, as well as recommendations on how to go further.
- 1.2 The council has now produced and published an action plan (Appendix B), which was agreed by Cabinet on 8th April. It sets out the activity planned and underway in response to the peer challenge report.
- 1.3 The report and action plan are now being presented to Council for noting, to ensure members are aware of the report and associated action. The action plan supports the priorities set out within the 2025/26 Council Plan (agreed by Council on the 5th March). It will also inform several areas of interest for members, including member development and support, future iterations of the Council Plan and other strategies and plans that form part of the Council's Policy Framework.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background to Local Government Association corporate peer challenges

- 2.1.1 The corporate peer challenge is a key part of the LGA's improvement and assurance framework. As described by the LGA, the process provides 'robust, strategic and credible challenge and support to councils, bringing together political and managerial leadership,

through the use of member and officer peers'. More information can be found here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-challenge/peer-challenges-we-offer/corporate-peer-2>.

- 2.1.2 The LGA requires every member council to undertake a corporate peer challenge at least once every five years, and by doing so, this process is recognised by the LGA as a way to assist councils in meeting their Best Value Duty. The Best Value Duty is a statutory requirement contained within Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999. It requires authorities to 'make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised'. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-value-standards-and-intervention-a-statutory-guide-for-best-value-authorities/best-value-standards-and-intervention-a-statutory-guide-for-best-value-authorities>.
- 2.1.3 The peer challenge is available at no cost to the Council.
- 2.1.4 All corporate peer challenges focus on five core elements, as well as any additional local areas of focus or specific challenges requested by the council. The five core elements are:
- Local priorities and outcomes
 - Organisational and place leadership
 - Governance and culture
 - Financial planning and management
 - Capacity for improvement
- 2.1.5 Ahead of the visit, the peer team receive key finance, performance, governance, and other information related to these areas as well as an overall position statement.
- 2.1.6 The peer team then spend up to four days at the council where further information can be requested alongside interviews and focus groups with staff, councillors, partners, and other key stakeholders.
- 2.1.7 Following a corporate peer challenge, a report outlining the findings and recommendations from the peer team is shared with the council. In the spirit of openness and transparency, councils are required to publish this report within three months of the visit. The council is also required to publish an action plan no later than five months following the visit, setting out key actions in response to the recommendations.
- 2.1.8 All corporate peer challenges now include a progress review which takes place approximately ten months after the original visit. The progress review provides space for a council's senior leadership to report to the peer team on the progress made against the corporate peer challenge recommendations, discuss early impact or learning and received feedback on the implementation of the action plan.
- 2.1.9 Following the progress review, a report outlining the peer team's findings is shared with the council. Again, in the spirit of openness and transparency, the council is required to publish this report, no later than 12 months after the original visit.
- 2.1.10 Since April 2024 the LGA have implemented an improved approach to delivering corporate peer challenges. As part of this, the LGA have improved the overall rigour and robustness of the approach, with an increased focus on governance, finance, performance and assurance, investments, improvements made to the training and development of member and officer peers, and improved robustness and consistency of reporting.

2.2 **Our last peer challenge in Kirklees**

2.2.1 Our last corporate peer challenge took place in July 2019. Since then we have experienced and dealt with some significant challenges, including responding to and recovering from the global coronavirus pandemic, cost-of-living pressures, and the impact of ongoing global economic challenges. In addition, the council has been dealing with significant financial challenges, as costs and demand for council services have continued to grow.

2.2.2 Our last corporate peer challenge included recommendations around strengthening strategic communications, resident engagement, place-based working, and strengthening the corporate centre to develop its capacity. It also provided recommendations around prioritising a decision around the long-term future of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH), the Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO) and pushing for the establishment of a single Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Recommendations related to streamlining decision-making and bringing clarity around roles and responsibilities of members and officers were also provided, plus a recommendation around reviewing the electoral cycle to support a more stable electoral pattern.

2.2.3 Despite the challenges outlined above, the council has made significant progress on those recommendations:

- We have successfully brought the ALMO back in-house (now 'Kirklees Homes and Neighbourhoods')
- We have a clear communications strategy, made improvements to citizen engagement and we now routinely work in a 'place-based' way.
- Since the previous peer challenge, we have increased capacity in our corporate centre to support improvement and transformation activities.
- Following the last peer challenge, we worked closely with our partners to help establish one borough-wide CCG (NHS Kirklees CCG), which has helped to simplify and strengthen partnership working arrangements within the health and care sector.
- We have also worked to streamline our decision-making processes, and to ensure there is greater clarity in the role of officers and members.

We still operate a staggered election system held by thirds, as there was no local appetite at the time to review the electoral pattern.

2.2.4 Five years ago, the council also embarked upon the development of plans for a substantial and unprecedented programme of regeneration and development for all our major towns and villages. In July 2019, Council agreed our vision for the future regeneration of Kirklees, and in 2020, the Huddersfield and Dewsbury blueprints were approved by Cabinet. This vision is becoming a reality, with works having commenced for several of our most significant projects.

2.3 **Scope and focus for the 2024 corporate peer challenge**

2.3.1 2024 marked five years since our last peer challenge, and so we requested a peer challenge earlier that year.

2.3.2 At the time of the visit, we understood our most critical task was delivery of our budget, whilst continuing to deliver positive outcomes and maintaining our longer-term regeneration and place shaping ambitions. We understood that we had difficult decisions ahead, and to support those decisions we wanted to ensure we had the right priorities, structures, culture, and corporate enabling services in place.

2.3.3 Considering our context and the challenges we were grappling with at the time, we asked the peer team to focus on the five core areas of inquiry:

- Local priorities and outcomes
- Organisational and place leadership
- Governance and culture
- Financial planning and management
- Capacity for improvement

2.3.4 The 2024 peer challenge took place 26-29th November. During these four days on-site, the team reviewed extensive amounts of council documentation and gathered evidence, information, and views from more than 35 meetings, in addition to further research and reading. Most of these meetings were face-to-face, with some were conducted virtually. As part of these meetings, the team also spoke to more than 140 people including elected members from across political groups, staff from all directorates (leadership, management, and frontline), partners (both local and regional across the public, private, and third sector), and other key stakeholders (e.g. auditors and trade unions).

2.4 **Feedback report**

2.4.1 The LGA were complimentary about the planning and preparation for the visit and stated that the position statement prepared for the team was an honest reflection of the challenges facing the council. Our position statement was based on a rigorous self-assessment engaging staff across all directorates and the council leadership.

2.4.2 The report outlines significant strengths and opportunities for the council. According to the LGA, the council:

- is now in a more stable position, following recent changes to political and officer leadership.
- has a clear vision and priorities set out in the Council Plan
- is tackling its financial issues in a thorough and strategic way and is seeking external support, and the budget position is improving and normalising.
- can point to some real successes in delivering both savings and improved outcomes, for example in both adults and children's social care (with strong performance and leadership visible across these services).
- has performance reporting that is presented well, is accessible and timely, and has links to budget reporting.
- has stakeholders and public sector partners who report positive working relationships with the council and plays an active role in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- has an established Executive Leadership Team which is widely respected across the organisation.
- has council staff that generally feel valued, with a clear sense of commitment to the council as an organisation, as well as to Kirklees as a place.
- has governance arrangements that are working well, a collegiate Cabinet that is prepared to take tough decisions, scrutiny that is taken seriously, and a Corporate Governance and Audit Committee that is engaged and well supported.

2.4.3 The report also provides eight recommendations on how to build on these strengths and progress so far. These are as follows:

1. **Budget:** Continue to keep a grip on the council's budget. The financial challenges continue to be significant and require ongoing focus to deliver planned savings and replenish reserves. A longer-term plan needs to be developed to deliver a more sustainable financial situation for the council.

2. Transformation: Apply successes and learning from transformation across the council more widely. There is a range of good projects and approaches from transformation, but they tend to remain within services. There are successes in children and adults social care and the learning from these approaches could be better understood by wider council services to help drive their improvement.
3. Regeneration Plans: The council has some large-scale regeneration plans agreed with delivery underway. Revisit the plans to ensure they are affordable, viable and deliverable in the current financial context. Part of this consideration should include the balance of housing provision.
4. Planning: Explore planning in a more expansive and strategic way, including the role it can play in delivering the housing aspects of the new local plan, nationally determined local targets and how the council will deliver much-needed new homes.
5. Working with Business and Economic Partners: Work more closely with businesses and economic partners to define potential growth, skills and investment opportunities in Kirklees.
6. Member Roles and Development: At the political level there has been some instability over the past 18 months. Given the position of no overall control, members need to be mindful of their roles, responsibilities and work collaboratively to put communities and residents first. The council needs to keep working at good governance across a range of issues, including clarity of reports, Member development programmes and councillors' behaviours.
7. Continuing to Improve Performance: Considerable progress has been made in some service areas, with tangible progress, for example in children's services. Maintain this focus so that performance continues to improve.
8. Pivoting to a Longer-Term Horizon: Use this peer challenge as an opportunity to pivot towards a longer horizon for key decisions.

2.4.4 We welcome the findings in the LGA report and support the recommendations. The findings complement our ongoing improvement journey and build on recent work to improve and strengthen our position for delivering on our priorities into the future.

2.5 **Process for developing the action plan**

2.5.1 Once the LGA report was received in February, a draft set of actions were produced based on conversations with senior officers with the relevant responsibilities. These draft actions were then discussed and further refined with the Executive Leadership Team and Cabinet.

2.5.2 An overview of initial areas of focus for actions was discussed informally with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and Group Leaders in March. This was followed by a formal discussion with OSMC on the 4th April to share specific actions and discuss delivery and reporting. Feedback from OSMC and Group Leaders has been included in section 5 of this report.

2.5.3 On 8th April, Cabinet approved the action plan presented at **Appendix B**. It is now being presented to Council for noting, so that members are aware of the LGA's recommendations and the associated actions.

2.5.4 The action plan includes specific timescales associated with each action, and a responsible Service Director.

2.6 **Delivery and reporting**

2.6.1 Delivery has begun on the action plan and actions will be regularly monitored to ensure they are delivered on time.

- 2.6.2 In the summer, an update on delivery of the actions will be provided to Cabinet and OSMC (specific committee meeting dates currently to be confirmed).
- 2.6.3 In September, the LGA will come back to Kirklees to undertake a progress review. This will enable the council to report on progress made against the recommendations, discuss early impact or learning, and receive feedback on the implementation of the action plan. The LGA will then produce a report outlining their findings. As required by the LGA, the Council will then publish the report within 12 months of the initial corporate peer challenge visit (November 2025 in our case).

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

The action plan sets out some important next steps for the council and builds on recent work to improve and strengthen our position into the future. It will support the council to deliver on the priorities set out within the 2025/26 Council Plan (agreed by Council on the 5th March). Delivery of the LGA Peer Challenge action plan has been included as an area of focus under the 'Getting the Basics Right' priority of the Council Plan. Delivery of the action plan will be reported via regular progress and delivery reports relating to the 2025/26 Council Plan.

3.2 Financial Implications

One of the five core areas of focus for the corporate peer challenge is 'Financial Planning and Management'. The first recommendation provided in the LGA report outlines how the council should develop a longer-term plan to deliver a more sustainable financial situation. The action plan provided at **Appendix B** includes actions to deliver on this recommendation.

3.3 Legal Implications

The LGA requires every member council to undertake a corporate peer challenge at least once every five years, and by doing so, this process is recognised by the LGA as a way to assist councils in meeting their Best Value Duty. The Best Value Duty is a statutory requirement contained within Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999. It requires authorities to 'make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised'. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-value-standards-and-intervention-a-statutory-guide-for-best-value-authorities/best-value-standards-and-intervention-a-statutory-guide-for-best-value-authorities>.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Impacts on climate change and air quality are routinely considered as part of Integrated Impact Assessments. When required these will be completed to support the planning and decision-making processes associated with the actions in the action plan.

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

The action plan addresses recommendations relevant to all council services.

Integrated Impact Assessments for individual changes and projects referred to within the actions will be developed as required.

The council maintains a corporate risk register, and risks for individual areas of activity within the action plan will be managed accordingly and as part of the established corporate process.

Some of the actions within the action plan relate to organisational culture and ways of working, most notably the 'Our Council' culture refresh initiative included as an action under Recommendation 8. This will support positive changes in the way that all council employees work, for example by developing a customer-focussed culture and a focus on getting the basics right, as well as other principles relating to our ways of working.

4 Consultation

Corporate peer challenges involve extensive consultation, which is carried out by the peer team during the week of the visit. This is so the team can gather evidence and formulate their feedback. The LGA Peer Team spent four days onsite at Kirklees Council during which they:

- Gathered evidence, information, and views from more than 35 meetings, in addition to further research and reading. Most of these meetings were face-to-face, with some were conducted virtually.
- Spoke to more than 140 people including elected members from across political groups, staff from all directorates (leadership, management, and frontline), partners (both local and regional across the public, private, and third sector), and other key stakeholders (e.g. auditors and trade unions).

5 Engagement

5.1 Relevant council officers (including Service Directors and the Executive Leadership Team) and the Cabinet have been engaged in the development of the action plan.

5.2 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee were also engaged in the development of actions for the action plan at an informal meeting on the 20th March and a formal public meeting on the 4th April. Group Leaders were also engaged and asked for feedback on development of the actions. Feedback from members across these meetings includes:

Feedback on Recommendation 1 (Budget)

- Support for further development of the cross-party working group focused on the budget.
- Suggestion to compare best practice from other local authorities to ensure we are able to develop a clear strategy for replenishing reserves.

Feedback on Recommendation 2 (Transformation)

- Support required for the third sector to enhance transformation opportunities.
- Suggestion around the need for improved external communication around transformation initiatives, including the need to balance this with transparency around reducing service provision.

Feedback on Recommendation 3 (Regeneration Plans)

- Question around how the capital programme review and outcomes will be communicated, and how stakeholders and elected members will be engaged as part of that review.
- Request for elected members to be engaged in any revisions of regeneration plans
- Regeneration plans should focus not just on the larger, capital funded schemes, but also support to smaller, local businesses.
- Consideration should be given to how we ensure we get a fair share of funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, including through effective engagement and performance

Feedback on Recommendation 4 (Planning)

- Support for inclusion of the new Housing Strategy as an action, and a suggestion to ensure this strategy will cover delivery of a range of different housing needs and that it addresses sustainability, affordability and local demographics.

Feedback on Recommendation 5 (Working with Business and Economic Partners)

- Ensure we consider the kind of growth we want as part of the Inclusive Economy Strategy development, recognising the benefits and downsides of different kinds of growth
- Support for a stronger role for local businesses in shaping policy and strategy, through a range of engagement forums.
- A question around how we will better integrate with WYCA on growth, skills and investment.
- A suggestion around ensuring there is a focus on engaging with locally owned and managed businesses so that we can maximise opportunities and benefits for local communities and the Kirklees economy

Feedback on Recommendation 6 (Member Roles and Development)

- Support for an improved member training and development offer, and a request to ensure members are involved in the development of the offer.
- Suggestions for things to include in the member development offer, including mentoring, peer support, and making training mandatory for being on a committee.
- A suggestion to ensure we focus on the promotion and communication of the member-officer protocol, as this will help to ensure it is used and adhered to.
- The importance of the new member induction, and support provided to new councillors and new committee members, to help them understand their roles and how to make the most of them
- Explore creating further opportunities for councillors and staff to get to know each other, especially for frontline staff

Feedback on Recommendation 7 (Continuing to Improve Performance)

- Further detail required on how performance will be monitored in children's social care.
- Ensure that scrutiny has a robust role in monitoring implementation of any improvement plans.
- Important that adult social care has similar levels of monitoring as children's social care and Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Feedback on Recommendation 8 (Pivoting to a Longer-Term Horizon)

- Support for the inclusion of Digital Strategy as an action and noted the need for this to be ambitious, with a request for further information as this develops.
- Linked to the Digital Strategy, a suggestion to consider more innovative app-based solutions for citizens to report issues or request a service.
- Suggestion that we ensure the Digital Strategy takes improvements to accessibility into consideration
- Support for improved communication and clearer expectations for our customers.
- Support for review of existing strategic partnership agreements to ensure long-term co-operation with our partners.
- Suggestion around having a clearer, more consistent voice and clear asks of regional bodies such as West Yorkshire Combined Authority to support our outcomes
- Consider how members can be more engaged in long-term policy formulation, not just at the decision stage

- Consider how officers can better use councillor enquiries and data on interactions with councillors to understand customer expectations and inform activity around customer expectations

More broadly, members also:

- Noted the required next steps of the LGA in terms of progress reporting.
- Were supportive of timescales against the actions
- Agreed with the need for ongoing reporting and engagement with Scrutiny around delivery of the action plan

The feedback from members on the action plan demonstrates support for the actions that have been included, with helpful suggestions to consider as part of implementation and reporting. Points of feedback are being fed back to lead officers to be considered when implementing related actions. Following the feedback we will, for example, ensure we engage with locally owned and managed businesses as part of the action around delivering the Kirklees Economic Summit, so that we can maximise opportunities and benefits for local communities and the Kirklees economy. We will also consider how we build a consistent voice as a council when working at a regional level, as part of refreshing our Partnership Framework.

6 Options

6.1 Options considered

Several options for action were considered as part of developing the peer challenge action plan ahead of approval at Cabinet on 8th April. The actions chosen were judged to be efficient and effective ways to make progress on the recommendations.

Our recommendations to Council are:

1. For Council to note the LGA's report (**Appendix A**).
2. For Council to note the action plan (**Appendix B**).
3. For Council to note the reporting and next steps outlined in this report.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

- The corporate peer challenge addressed five areas of wide interest: local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance and culture, and financial planning and management.
- It involved interviews and focus groups with elected members from across political groups, staff from all directorates (leadership, management, and frontline), partners (both local and regional across the public, private, and third sector), and other key stakeholders (e.g. auditors and trade unions). It included activity involving all council directorates, such as priority-setting, leadership, governance, culture, finance, and improvement activity.
- The LGA's feedback report outlines significant strengths and opportunities for the council, as well as recommendations on how to go further.
- The council's action plan was agreed by Cabinet on 8th April and sets out the activity planned across council directorates in response to the peer challenge report.
- It is now being presented to Council for noting, to ensure members are aware of the report and associated action.
- The action plan supports the priorities set out within the 2025/26 Council Plan (agreed by Council on the 5th March) and other strategies previously agreed at Council.
- The action plan will inform several areas of interest for members, including member development and support, future iterations of the Council Plan and other strategies and plans that form part of the Council's Policy Framework.

7. Next steps and timelines

- Delivery of the action plan will continue.
- Monitoring and reporting against delivery of the action plan will include reports to Cabinet and OSMC in the summer as set out in section 2.6 of this report.
- The LGA will visit the Council in September 2025 to carry out a progress review. This will enable the council to report on progress made against the recommendations, discuss early impact or learning, and receive feedback on the implementation of the action plan.
- As required by the LGA, the Council will then publish a progress review report within 12 months of the initial corporate peer challenge visit (November 2025 in our case).

8. Contact officers

Stephen Bonnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships, and Corporate Planning

Stephen.Bonnell@kirklees.gov.uk

Michelle Hope, Corporate Planning and Coordination Manager, Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning

Michelle.Hope@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

The LGA's feedback report, has been published on the Council's website here:

[LGA \(Local Government Association\) Corporate Peer Challenge | Kirklees Council](#)

Previous corporate peer challenge Report and Action Plan (Approved at Council, 15 January 2020):

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday 15th January 2020, 5.30 pm | Kirklees Council](#)

[CPC Feedback and Action Plan Report - Full Council - 15 January 2020.pdf](#)

10. Appendices

Appendix A: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Kirklees Council Feedback Report

Appendix B: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Kirklees Council Action Plan

11. Service Director responsible

Andy Simcox, Service Director Strategy and Innovation

This page is intentionally left blank

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge

Kirklees Council

26-29 November 2024

Feedback report



Contents

- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Executive summary..... 3
- 3. Recommendations..... 5
- 4. Summary of peer challenge approach 7
- 5. Feedback..... 9
- 6. Next steps..... 22

1. Introduction

Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a highly valued improvement and assurance tool that is delivered by the sector for the sector. It involves a team of senior local government councillors and officers undertaking a comprehensive review of key finance, performance and governance information and then spending four days at Kirklees Council to provide robust, strategic, and credible challenge and support.

CPC forms a key part of the improvement and assurance framework for local government. It is underpinned by the principles of Sector-led Improvement (SLI) put in place by councils and the Local Government Association (LGA) to support continuous improvement and assurance across the sector. These state that local authorities are: Responsible for their own performance, Accountable locally not nationally and have a collective responsibility for the performance of the sector.

CPC assists councils in meeting part of their Best Value duty, with the UK Government expecting all local authorities to have a CPC at least every five years.

Peers remain at the heart of the peer challenge process and provide a 'practitioner perspective' and 'critical friend' challenge.

This report outlines the key findings of the peer team and the recommendations that the council are required to action.

2. Executive summary

After a period of political upheaval during the summer of 2024 the council is now more stable. The new leader of the council and the chief executive have a constructive working relationship, and cabinet and the executive leadership team (ELT) are working well together. Working relationships at the senior levels are based on cordiality and appropriate levels of challenge.

In August 2023 the council's finances were in the local and national media spotlights due to concerns about whether it would issue a S.114 notice. Although news about the council's finances have continued to attract attention since then, some of this is because of the actions the council has had to consider and act upon in order to

3

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



stabilise its finances and have included some difficult and high-profile decisions which have attracted local and national interest.

The council is tackling its financial issues in a thorough and strategic way and seeking external support, for example from external advisers to review the technical accounting approach to minimum revenue provision (MRP) and views to help it shape what it does next. The scale and public profile of the budget has meant that a lot of corporate focus has been on the short term, particularly on tackling its in-year budget positions, delivering on savings proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and preparing savings proposals for 2025/26.

It can however point to some real successes in delivering both savings and improved outcomes, for example in both adults and children's social care. Some of this has been driven by cost, but there are also approaches to transformation and improvement which could be applied elsewhere across the wider organisation, that would help support better services for residents.

The council reports its performance using an array of graphics and data which show it is performing both against its own historic data, as well as to other councils, and national trends. The information is presented well and is accessible, and is timely, with links with budget reporting. There is an ambition to build on what the council is already doing well, to explore how to use data better and with more insight and analysis. This will help to improve decision making and targeting of resources for the longer term.

Not all councillors behave in ways which are expected of them and there needs to be a greater focus on achieving and maintaining standards in public life. Some councillors are new and are still learning their ways around how the council works. A minority of councillors behave discourteously and unprofessionally: this is unacceptable irrespective of the issue, circumstances or their duration on the council. All members should consistently work to the highest standards of behaviours, and accept and receive support, advice and feedback where it is offered from officers.

The council continues to face difficult decisions over the next few months and years, and must continue to address them, and maintain its grip for the foreseeable future.

4

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



The peer team gained the sense that the approach to the council's budget is improving and is normalising. The leadership is juggling the short- and medium-term challenges whilst looking to the longer term.

A change in political leadership inevitably brings new ideas and a different emphasis and interpretation of existing plans and new aims and ambitions. Some plans such as the council's regeneration plans were crafted and agreed pre-Covid, but the context has changed. The new local plan will also shape the built environment across the borough and brings new opportunities for investment and housing delivery. Revisiting big strategic plans in the context of the council's very significant budget pressures, alongside more discussion with partners, stakeholders and businesses about their aspirations for Kirklees might produce the same proposals or different ones.

A next step should be to accelerate thinking about a sustainable, longer term financial vision for the council. Such a vision should not be undertaken in isolation and it needs to be both ambitious and realistic. It needs to be joined up to more exploration of big ideas, such as what the council's future role should be; how and what it can provide for residents; and exploring with residents what communities and individuals can do for themselves.

3. Recommendations

There are a number of observations and suggestions within the main section of the report. The following are the peer team's key recommendations to the council:

3.1 Recommendation 1: Continue to keep a grip on the council's budget.

The financial challenges continue to be significant and require ongoing focus to deliver planned savings and replenish reserves. A longer-term plan needs to be developed to deliver a more sustainable financial situation for the council.

3.2 Recommendation 2: Apply successes and learning from transformation across the council more widely

5

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



There is a range of good projects and approaches from transformation but they tend to remain within services. There are successes in children's and adults social care and the learning from these approaches could be better understood by wider council services to help drive their improvement.

3.3 Recommendation 3

The council has some large-scale regeneration plans agreed with delivery underway. Revisit the plans to ensure they are affordable, viable and deliverable in the current financial context. Part of this consideration should include the balance of housing provision.

3.4 Recommendation 4

Explore Planning in a more expansive and strategic way, including the role it can play in delivering the housing aspects of the new local plan, nationally determined local targets and how the council will deliver much-needed new homes.

3.5 Recommendation 5

Work more closely with businesses and economic partners to define potential growth, skills and investment opportunities in Kirklees.

3.6 Recommendation 6

At the political level there has been some instability over the past 18 months. Given the position of no overall control, Members need to be mindful of their roles, responsibilities and work collaboratively to put communities and residents first. The council needs to keep working at good governance across a range of issues, including clarity of reports, member development programmes and councillors' behaviours.

3.7 Recommendation 7

Considerable progress has been made in some service areas, with tangible

6

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson

progress, for example in children's services. Maintain this focus so that performance continues to improve

3.8 Recommendation 8

Use this peer challenge as an opportunity to pivot towards a longer horizon for key decisions.

4. Summary of peer challenge approach

4.1 The peer team

Peer challenges are delivered by experienced elected member and officer peers. The make-up of the peer team reflected the focus of the peer challenge and peers were selected by the LGA on the basis of their relevant expertise. The peers were:

- Member peer, Cllr Chris Read, leader, Rotherham Council
- Member peer, Philip Broadhead, leader of the Conservative Group, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
- Chief executive peer, Sam Plum, Westmorland and Furness Council
- Senior officer peer, Jill Travers, director of law and corporate services, Wirral Council
- Senior officer associate, Dipti Patel, former Corporate Director of Place, LB Harrow
- Senior officer associate, Neil Thornton, former director of resources/S.151
- Shadow officer peer, Nathan Koskella, policy adviser, Local Government Association
- LGA peer challenge manager, Judith Hurcombe

4.2 Scope and focus

The peer team considered the following five themes which form the core components of all Corporate Peer Challenges. These areas are critical to councils' performance and improvement.

7

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson

- 
1. **Local priorities and outcomes** - Are the council's priorities clear and informed by the local context? Is the council delivering effectively on its priorities? Is there an organisational-wide approach to continuous improvement, with frequent monitoring, reporting on and updating of performance and improvement plans?
 2. **Organisational and place leadership** - Does the council provide effective local leadership? Are there good relationships with partner organisations and local communities?
 3. **Governance and culture** - Are there clear and robust governance arrangements? Is there a culture of challenge and scrutiny?
 4. **Financial planning and management** - Does the council have a grip on its current financial position? Does the council have a strategy and a plan to address its financial challenges? What is the relative financial resilience of the council like?
 5. **Capacity for improvement** - Is the organisation able to bring about the improvements it needs, including delivering on locally identified priorities? Does the council have the capacity to improve?

As part of the five core elements outlined above, every Corporate Peer Challenge includes a strong focus on financial sustainability, performance, governance, and assurance.

4.3 The peer challenge process

Peer challenges are improvement focused; it is important to stress that this was not an inspection. The process is not designed to provide an in-depth or technical assessment of plans and proposals. The peer team used their experience and knowledge of local government to reflect on the information presented to them by people they met, things they saw and material that they read.

The peer team prepared by reviewing a range of documents and information in order to ensure they were familiar with the council and the challenges it is facing. This included a position statement prepared by the council in advance of the peer team's

8

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



time on site. This provided a clear steer to the peer team on the local context at Kirklees Council and what the peer team should focus on. It was a well written and honest reflection of the challenges facing the council. Preparations included a comprehensive LGA Finance briefing (prepared using public reports from the council's website) and a LGA performance report outlining benchmarking data for the council across a range of metrics. The latter was produced using the LGA's local area benchmarking tool called LG Inform.

The peer team then spent four days onsite at Huddersfield during which they:

- Gathered evidence, information, and views from more than 35 meetings, in addition to further research and reading. Most of these meetings were face to face, and some were conducted via MS Teams.
- Spoke to more than 140 people including a range of council staff together with members and external stakeholders.
- Attended meetings at Dewsbury Town Hall.

This report provides a summary of the peer team's findings. In presenting feedback, they have done so as fellow local government officers and members.

5. Feedback

5.1 Local priorities and outcomes

Kirklees Council's vision and priorities are clearly set out in the council plan, which was most recently refreshed in March 2024. These priorities are underpinned by a clear range of annual deliverables and are reported to cabinet on a quarterly basis. They do however feel overshadowed by the council's large scale, immediate and ongoing budget pressures.

Performance in adults and children's services is good and the leadership of these services has been strong. The council has a strong story to share with others on what it has done to improve these services, including how it has delivered outcomes on a comparatively low-cost basis.

There is a good degree of self-awareness and identification of the issues that the

9

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



council is facing. The position statement prepared for the CPC was well written and feels like an accurate reflection of those challenges. Thorny issues are discussed and explored at the highest levels through cabinet and the executive leadership team and reflects this self-awareness. The decision to self-refer to the Housing Regulator is a good example of this self-awareness and a wider tendency towards openness about the risks the council faces.

Despite the challenges facing the council on its budget, there is also a willingness to look to the future. Some of this is driven by finances and practicalities about what is and is not affordable, and there is also an enthusiasm across pockets of the organisation to start to explore what the council's long-term role is, and what its relationships with residents could be. This may include some radical thinking about what the council should no longer do and what else it can encourage people to do for themselves. Some of that may include exploring what might currently feel like thinking the unthinkable, as well as being ambitious for a new relationship between the citizens of Kirklees and their council.

5.1.1 Performance

The council can evidence its focus on outcomes through a range of achievements. These include sustained improvement in children's services resulting in a good inspection rating from Ofsted in July 2024. There are a low numbers of looked after children and external placements, and with low-cost bases in adults and children's social care, and no waiting lists for domiciliary care. As of November 2024, the council had yet to receive notification of inspection for its adults services from the Commission for Quality Care (CQC), although it was anticipating an inspection at some point during 2025. The council's own analysis of its housing performance has led to it self-referring to the Regulator of Social Housing.

The LG Inform headline report illustrates the council's comparative performance data and can be found here [Headline Report for Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council - Bar Chart View | LG Inform](#). This shows the council's performance when compared to "family group" similar councils as:

- Better than average performance on uncollected council tax

10

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson

- Lower than average numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- Lowest expenditure per head on children's services for the family group
- Higher than average expenditure per head on housing and on highways and transport services
- Higher than average numbers of people on the housing waiting list
- Lower than average performance on household recycling and higher than average levels of residual household waste
- Average levels of expenditure per head of population on adult social care

Other successes for Kirklees include:

- The National Health Innovation Campus in Huddersfield, developed by the University of Huddersfield, aims to improve health outcomes
- Lobbying for the upgrade of the Trans-Pennine line between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York

There is clarity about the challenges facing the council and an ambition to be efficient and a modern deliverer of services. There is an established transformation programme in place, which reports into the executive leadership team quarterly. This includes challenge and consideration of progress and has helped to bring more grip on delivery. Its focus is wide and includes programmes for adult social care, special educational needs (SEND), homes and neighbourhoods, temporary accommodation, and access to services.

Performance overall is reported against the established strategic priorities set out in the council plan on a quarterly cycle. Information in the reports is presented clearly with a good use of graphics and benchmarking of comparative data, including trends.

The council is data rich although there are concerns about the variable quality of some of its performance data and how its reported. There is a clear ambition to build on the already solid approach to improve on analysis and intelligence, and to explore further how artificial intelligence can add value, and to do this well may require some



further capacity. Learning could be drawn in from services which have taken a successful transformative approach, for example in social care, as the council can evidence good leadership and service improvement in these areas.

In response to the last CPC in 2019 the council has, amongst other things, brought its housing function back in-house; lobbied for the establishment of a single Clinical Commissioning Group; developed a communication strategy; and worked to streamline its decision-making processes.

5.2 Organisational and place leadership

Stakeholders and public sector partners speak of positive working relationships with the council. Externally of the council and internally there is strong support for the focus on regeneration and the scale of the council's ambition to improve its town centres.

Partners, particularly businesses, would welcome more opportunities to engage with the council at strategic levels, particularly on the delivery of priorities and outcomes for residents, communities and the economy. Consideration of how to do this is needed, so that everyone is as clear as they can be about the role and potential roles they can play in making Kirklees a better place.

The council has in place large scale ambitious regeneration programmes with significant external funding to both develop and enhance its major towns and villages. The Blueprints for both Huddersfield and Dewsbury details the ambition and outcomes to create thriving modern town centres which are now taking shape. The focus for Huddersfield is to enhance the cultural opportunities and creating business growth that benefits communities. It is essential that the council actively considers how it can integrate housing development through the regeneration of Huddersfield town centre to concentrate and address the increasing demand for housing needs alongside meeting the Local Plan housing delivery targets. In respect of Dewsbury there is an imperative to accelerate housing development delivering the 3,500 new homes and economic growth within its 10-year plan by 2029. Understanding the financial and market challenges will be pivotal for achieving the council's ambitions.

As a constituent member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) the

12

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



council can do more to make the most of its assets and what it can deliver for the region. It could do this by showcasing and promoting Kirklees' location, heritage and connections to attract opportunities and funding, highlighting its destination for inward investment and business growth. The council may wish to refresh its economic strategy reflecting and integrating The West Yorkshire Plan and inward investment proposals through more engagement with business partners locally and regionally.

The business sector and local partners are extremely keen to collaborate and work with Kirklees Council, sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise to support growth and investment. The peer team felt that the council should therefore consider how to do this, and an option could be to create a formal business Partnership Forum/Board.

A review of the existing Kirklees local plan was undertaken in accordance with national planning guidance and reported to Cabinet in October 2023. It highlights a number of areas to be addressed, in particular, the absence of a five-year supply of housing, not meeting housing delivery targets, how to reflect the ambition of being net zero and climate ready by 2038, as well as addressing issues to achieve the twenty three thousand jobs target. The council has already committed to starting its review, including launching early engagement to shape the updated local plan with its vision & objectives; the main challenges and future opportunities in planning, critical to propel and meet the housing targets, promote development and economic growth and achieve net zero.

The council plays an active role in the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. There is recognition of the opportunities and investment potential arising through being a good partner and having constructive working relationships in the region.

The senior political leadership team is in place and efforts are made to have a calm and consistent approach to working with members across the council. Working relationships between councillors and officers appear to be largely good and respectful, and at the most senior levels the collective working appears to be organised and structured, so that everyone knows what to expect.

The executive leadership team is also established and widely respected across the organisation. Council staff generally feel valued and there is a clear sense of



commitment to the council as an organisation, as well as to Kirklees as a place.

Investment has been made into communications both internally and externally. Internally this included staff initiatives to attract and retain staff and to motivate staff who have worked at the council for a long time.

Historically the council's approach to transformation appears to have been largely sat within services and regarded as a departmental approach and resource. Since the arrival of the new chief executive there is growing corporate ownership of what transformation is. This could be extended further by applying some of the learning from successes in social care to other parts of the council which need to deliver further improvement, for example in housing. Extending this learning as well as WHAT could also help to foster more of a "one council" approach to working to further improve services and realise savings in a more consistent way.

Further clarification is needed on what transformation means in Kirklees Council. This is common across local authorities where transformation can mean the approach that the council has taken to cut its budgets and services. In some places transformation means how the council is delivering services in a different or enhanced way which better meets the needs of its residents. It can also be a combination of both. Further articulation of what it means would be helpful so that staff can understand their roles and be encouraged to innovate further.

The new government announced new housing delivery targets in July 2024 of 1.5m new homes across the country, which in turn will bring increased pressures to deliver more new homes across Kirklees. Delivery against the local plan has not met the council's own targets, and the new local plan will have bigger targets. More leadership and strategic thinking is needed if these national and local targets are to be met, about what types of housing and where they will be built in Kirklees.

Elsewhere in this report reference is made to the council's capital plan and regeneration ambitions, and their affordability. The regeneration plans are bold and well defined. Any review of urban regeneration sites should consider new and different opportunities and whether considerable numbers of new homes could be delivered as part of a mixed-use approach to urban sites. Reprofiling of these plans



may help to deliver more than one strategic ambition for the council, as well as contribute to its financial sustainability.

There is an emerging economic strategy which at the time of the CPC was in its early stages. Conversations with partners and stakeholders early on in this process would be welcomed by them, so they can support the Kirklees brand and influence future growth and investment.

Partners in the public, voluntary and community sectors are keen to work more closely with the council, as are businesses. All are clear that they would value deeper working relationships to understand each other's plans and strategies, as well as how they can contribute to shared goals and ambitions.

Investment in internal and external communications has been increased. Communicating what the council delivers across the whole of its borough and addressing perceptions of where resources are distributed and whether these are fair or not have been an ongoing feature of local debate in Kirklees since the council's creation in 1974. Communications need to continue to try and address these perceptions and could be part of the broader debate about the council's relationship with its citizens.

5.3 Governance and culture

Overall, the governance arrangements are working well. The cabinet is collegiate and is prepared to take tough decisions. Scrutiny is taken seriously and plays a robust, critical friend role to decision making, with a lot of emphasis and input into the pre-decision stage. The corporate governance and audit committee is engaged and is well supported. There are clearly differences in political approach and opinion which result in robust debate across the council's membership.

The senior officer team works with pace and focus and is widely observed by staff as showing good managerial leadership to the organisation. Partners praise the visibility of the executive leadership team. As might be expected in an era of change, and with some new appointments, there is an appetite from staff for that visibility to both increase and be sustained.



The political changes and budget pressures of the past two years have been challenging for the council. At times a minority of councillors have reacted in ways which have been difficult for the council's reputation, as well as for their fellow politicians and officers to accommodate. The council's monitoring officer has written to councillors to remind them of the expectations on them as agreed through the council's code of conduct and its constitution. Councillors should not have to be reminded on how to behave and need to be mindful of the reputational damage that poor behaviours can have on partners' willingness to work with the council. Everyone – members and officers – should remind themselves of the Nolan Principles of Public Life and strive to embody them [The Seven Principles of Public Life - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-seven-principles-of-public-life). As there are not any elections for 2025 this year could be used to embed good practice, maintain constructive political dialogue and remind councillors of their obligations through a focused programme of member development. As with many other councils there is often a lower than ideal uptake of councillors for the latter, despite officers' best efforts in making sessions accessible, at the right time and with the right content.

Good, clear and well written reports are essential for good decision making. How information is presented overall would benefit from an overhaul, particularly in helping the reader get the gist of a report and why particular reports are being presented to particular arenas. Which information is included and how it is included should also be revisited, to ensure that decision making is undertaken in the most transparent and accessible ways. This should include information about the chronology of previous decisions/processes to date, the alternative options considered and discarded, reflect external and internal advice/perspectives and ensure that risks are clearly explained.

Given the ongoing challenges facing the council's finances it will be important for members to retain strong oversight of the budget, performance and risk. Outside of the budget setting process how can cross-party oversight be maintained throughout the municipal year?

5.4 Financial planning and management

Kirklees Council's financial position has been managed over the past 14 years

16

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



through a combination of savings programmes, income generation and significant use of reserves. As with other metropolitan councils, the reduction in funding has been substantial: between 2011-2019 its budget reduced by £160m. The revenue budget for 2024/25 is £363.5m. The council continues to face rising costs with increasing demand, especially in social care, housing and SEND. The Housing Revenue Account has a budgeted deficit of £4.5m for the current financial year and a projected deficit of £4.7m for 2025/26. The dedicated schools grant (DSG) had an accumulated DSG deficit of £43.7m on 31st March 2024, and which is expected to increase by £20m during 2024/25.

The council's finances attracted national attention in the summer of 2023 when concerns were raised about it being at risk of a S.114 notice. Efforts to stabilise the finances appear to have worked so far, in that the council is more confident in its abilities to manage its future substantial funding gaps, although some of the steps it is taking through changes to services and closing some amenities also attract significant media and local interest. The council plan for 2024/25 was agreed in March. Its stated first priority is to "address our financial position in a fair and balanced way": members and officers know there is more to do in order to balance its budget for the medium and long term, and much of this will require difficult decisions and steadfastness to achieve.

If the current trajectory is adhered to, the overall amount of the council's reserves will have reduced by over £140.8m (70 per cent) between March 2021 and March 2027. Beyond the current financial year, the council's medium term financial plan has a significant identified shortfall of £40.9m by 2029/30. At 31st March 2025 the council is forecasting total useable reserves will be £56.6m, and the minimum, working balance is assessed at £15m, with a desirable working balance of £25m.

At the time of the peer challenge in November 2024 the council's second quarter monitoring report was available. This was forecasting a net overspend of £10m for the 2024/25 financial year, some of which related to slippage in the delivery of savings targets. The aim in part is to stem this gap through the use of budget contingencies and further use of reserves.

For 2023/24 the council met all of its in-year savings targets of £19.8m, although

17

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



£6.1m of this arose from a revised approach to the technical accounting adjustment of MRP. However, the quarter two monitoring report for 2024/25 shows difficulty in achieving these further savings targets, given that these are savings on top of previous years savings. The overall forecast for the delivery of in-year savings is at 79 per cent. The savings targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 exceed 10 per cent of the council's net budget.

Measures taken during 2024/25 to contain expenditure so far include:

- The cessation of non-priority expenditure
- Stricter controls on recruitment, with all review by executive directors and the cross-directorate people panel for all recruitment requests
- Ongoing review of discretionary fees and charges with a view to full cost recovery
- Accelerating asset sales and seeking further options for asset disposal
- Reviewing the capital programme

Consideration should also be given to accelerating some decisions and implementing sooner what needs to stop if it has become unaffordable. This means stopping doing some things, reconfiguring services, ongoing and aggressive rationalisation and disposal of assets. It also means revisiting contracts and considering new ones which bring in opportunities for further cost control or reductions in expenditure and creating income.

There is an intention to “rebase” the revenue budget so that it more accurately reflects demand and the realities involved in delivering services according to the council's policy framework and known pressures. This “rebasings” if reflected in the budget for 2025/26 will require a considerable amount of effort, discipline and determination to achieve because the council's reserves are too low to keep bailing out overspending services.

Progress has been made with planning for the 2025/26 budget although the timing of the peer challenge meant that the proposals had not been approved by cabinet at that point. The draft budget proposals for 2025/26 were due to be published earlier

18

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577

Chair: Councillor Louise Gittins

Chief Executive: Joanna Killian

President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



than in previous years, in early December 2024. Delivery of the 2025/26 budget will require achieving significant further savings from services, as well as use of reserves and funding increases to close the gap.

The capital plan is of a significant scale and magnitude of £1.4bn to 2032. The current year's capital programme is £278.7m of which £47.8m relates to the HRA. The bulk of the general fund programme is for regeneration, investment in transport connectivity, town centres and the cultural offer. Given the timing of the peer challenge, now would be a good time to revisit the scale of the programme to ensure it still fits with the council's overall aims and intentions, and to take a hard look at its affordability. Given the pressures on the revenue budget, the size of the capital plan means the cost of servicing the debt involved will put more pressure on the revenue budget. The council should consider the capital plan in the round and ask firstly, is it still affordable in its current context? Secondly, if it is fully delivered what contribution will the plan's projects will make to the sustainability of the council? How will its projects contribute to improving the council's overall tax base either through council tax or national non-domestic rates (business rates) growth?

Overall, the revenue budget position depends heavily on the identification and achievement of savings plans, one-off pots of funding and the use of reserves. This is a precarious and urgent position which members and officers are acutely aware of, and the need to go further and more quickly is reflected in the position statement. These issues must be addressed now and without delay: budget sustainability is the singular fundamental and most important issue facing Kirklees Council.

Further application of cost benchmarking will help the to gain a better understanding where more cost reductions can be made across the organisation.

Although the council's financial situation does not currently grab the headlines as much at the national level, and the organisation feels more confident about how it deals with its budget, the overall risks and challenges, which are substantial, have not gone away. The short, medium and long-term budget pressures are large scale and recurring, and need addressing without delay and without complacency.

The external auditors completed the audit of 2022/23 and issued their report in



January 2024. In November 2024 the draft audit report for 2023/24 was shared with the council. Kirklees is more up to date with its audits than many local authorities. The main issues flagged by the external auditor are on the financial sustainability of the council. The 2022/23 report also recommended that the council seeks a second co-opted member for its audit committee, consistent with CIPFA advice, and this was recommended by the committee to the full council in July 2024.

Internal audit reports regularly to the audit committee. An external assessment of the service in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards took place in 2022/23 and the service was found to be “generally compliant”.

5.5 Capacity for improvement

There are some good building blocks which underpin capacity for future improvement.

The leadership forum that some peer team members attended at Dewsbury Town Hall was well attended, and showed a good level of commitment to the council from managers. It reflected strong team collaboration and feedback from the senior leadership team.

A new approach to staff wellbeing and performance called ‘My Conversation’ replaces the previous staff appraisal process. This is based on a six-monthly conversation which is broad ranging and includes a focus on performance, learning and development, and health and wellbeing for employees.

Since Covid the development of the hybrid working policy and flexible working where possible has enabled rationalisation of office accommodation. Investment has been made in Civic Centre 1 to become a flagship office space which supports hybrid working.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is taken seriously and is championed across the organisation. It has a high profile with clear political and managerial leadership endorsement. Councillors and officers are largely confident and comfortable about how they discuss and approach EDI in Kirklees. The inclusion and diversity strategy 2024-27 includes refreshed and relaunched values of kindness, inclusion and pride.



It has been communicated widely across the organisation and is closely linked to the High Five staff recognition programme.

There are equality and diversity networks across a range of protected characteristics. These are chaired by ambitious and energetic employees who are passionate about their networks and want to achieve more and are prepared to challenge the status quo. Each network has a sponsor at director level and participates in the Kirklees Leadership Forum. The chairs are keen to have more consistency of approach across the networks on matters such as budgets and what these can be used on. They are confident they can achieve more for their members through the networks internally on EDI and with communities.

The inclusive communities framework was developed with partners. Its aim is to help services plan and evaluate their work with communities.

Across the organisation and from members there is a degree of consensus for further widespread change and improvement, and this is a reflection of an overall ambition for the council, its services and the communities it serves. Some of this aspiration is stated through existing plans, such as the overall vision and priorities for Kirklees and how this will be delivered through the council plan. Some of the aspiration isn't yet worked through or determined and needs to be explored further. The desire for change also needs to be driven and balanced by the resources available and to bring more long-term sustainability to the council's finances.

The new political leadership, supported by the relatively new executive leadership team could use the time created through the fallow election year to explore and articulate a new programme of transformation for the council.

Now would be a good time to revisit the council's stated vision for the regeneration of Kirklees. In summer 2019 the overall vision was agreed and the blueprints for Huddersfield and Dewsbury were ratified by cabinet in 2020. But much has changed since then. Revisiting would help to check it is consistent with the political aspiration for the area, matched to what is known about the resources available. The timeline for this should stretch beyond the current short term budget setting cycle and focus towards the medium and long term.



In common with other metropolitan and upper tier councils there is clearly ongoing time and effort needed on the council's budget to ensure it is as robust as it can be for the future. Relative to the past two years the approach to the budget is calmer but the council knows it has much more to do.

Consideration needs to be given to whether the right resources are in the right places in order to achieve transformation it needs to be sustainable for the future and which it aspires to for its communities. The council knows it may not yet have all the skills it needs to achieve this. Continuing to bring transformation together at the corporate level and driving it more consistently and with rigour across the organisation has the potential to deliver more extensive outcomes.

6. Next steps

It is recognised that senior political and managerial leadership will want to consider, discuss and reflect on these findings. The LGA will continue to provide on-going support to the council. Following publication of CPC report you need to produce and publish an action plan within five months of the time on site, that is by 29 April 2025. As part of the CPC, the council are also required to have a progress review and publish the findings from this within twelve months of the CPC. The LGA will also publish the progress review report on their website.

The progress review will provide space for a council's senior leadership to report to peers on the progress made against each of the CPC's recommendations, discuss early impact or learning and receive feedback on the implementation of the CPC action plan. The progress review will usually be delivered on-site over one day.

The date for the progress review at Kirklees Council is during September 2025.

In the meantime, Mark Edgell, principal adviser for Yorkshire and the Humber, is the main contact between your authority and the Local Government Association. As outlined above, Mark is available to discuss any further support the council requires mark.edgell@local.gov.uk 07747 636910.

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Kirklees Council Action Plan

Recommendation 1

Continue to keep a grip on the council's budget. The financial challenges continue to be significant and require ongoing focus to deliver planned savings and replenish reserves. A longer-term plan needs to be developed to deliver a more sustainable financial situation for the council.

Current position and next steps

As we emerged from the pandemic, the global economic challenges began to escalate, which resulted in some significant financial challenges for the council. Rising costs and demand for services became an increasing, significant problem. Initially, the council was able to manage the emerging financial challenge by utilising reserves to address the deficit. However, as the impact worsened, and as reserves continued to be depleted, the council quickly moved to put in place an approach to help support effective decision making around the development, delivery and monitoring of budget savings and our overall financial position.

We now have robust financial monitoring arrangements in place and have strengthened public and Member engagement around the development of our budget. These arrangements will help us to ensure we can keep a grip on the council's budget, and monitor the delivery of savings, pressures, and related service budgets. Overall, our budget position has now significantly improved, and we are looking ahead to a period of greater financial stability. As we now enter the new 25/26 financial year, we have a balanced budget agreed by Council, which sets out the starting point for achieving that stability.

The council welcomes this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of moving towards a place where reserves are replenished back to a more stable level, and we have a longer-term plan for our finances to enable more effective planning. This will help put us in a stronger position to be able to deliver on our outcomes into the future, and the actions to support this recommendation will help us move forward towards delivering this.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ensure monthly and quarterly financial monitoring to officers and Members continues to be clear, accurate and enables responsive and timely decision-making to support effective service delivery and planned savings. | April 2025 – March 2026 | Service Director, Finance |
| 1.2 | Continue to strengthen and develop our cross-party working group and budget consultation to support ongoing financial monitoring and the development of the next budget. | April 2025 - March 2026 | Service Director, Finance |
| 1.3 | Publish a 'budget book' – which provides a breakdown of all service budgets to support greater transparency and | August 2025 | Service Director, Finance |

| | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|---|
| | challenge and ensure a shared understanding of service budgets across the council. | | |
| 1.4 | <p>Within the next MTFS (Medium-Term Financial Strategy) update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a detailed 3-year budget for each service, to support longer term financial planning and stability for services across the council. • Continue to sustainably increase reserves over the coming years, including unallocated reserves. | September 2025 | Service Director, Finance |
| 1.5 | Implement an annual benchmarking exercise to help with the identification of further opportunities for transformation and efficiencies. | September 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

Recommendation 2

Apply successes and learning from transformation across the council more widely. There is a range of good projects and approaches from transformation, but they tend to remain within services. There are successes in children and adults social care and the learning from these approaches could be better understood by wider council services to help drive their improvement.

Current position and next steps

The council has a dedicated corporate transformation service as well as several change hubs across the organisation. Senior officer oversight of our corporate transformation programme comes via the Executive Leadership Team and four directorate-specific Change Boards.

Transformation efforts focus on both cross-council and individual service areas. We have seen some key transformation successes over recent years, including:

- Being seen as a leader on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), through, for example additionally resourced provision, and working with the Department for Education to bring down costs and improve some of our most important services
- Continuing to deliver our Access to Services Strategy, increasing the accessibility of services and improving how we work with people when they contact us - achieving a 17% reduction in calls on Council Tax from 2022/23 to 2023/24.
- Reforming our local planning application process, with the aim of making it more modern and efficient.
- Embedding a succession planning process, with the aim of mitigating the risk of our most critical posts being left vacant through employees leaving the organisation.

We have a clear, effective, and well-established approach to delivering, reporting and decision making around transformation initiatives, and we acknowledge the LGA's recommendations in relation to needing to share successes and learning more widely across the council, to help drive improvement across wider council services. The actions within this plan will build on our approach to transformation.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| 2.1 | Implement a new approach for resourcing transformation activity, with a focus on better outcomes and further efficiencies, including tracking the benefits and impacts of the initiatives which are delivered. | April 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 2.2 | Develop and begin delivery of a new plan for more effective support and engagement with the third sector working closely with our local infrastructure and voice organisation (Third Sector Leaders) to identify ways to enable communities to do more for themselves. | July 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 2.3 | <p>Further develop our council-wide approach to resourcing, connecting, and communicating about transformation initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening connections and coordination between transformation initiatives. • Sharing more widely the learning, methodologies, and approaches. • Communicating our transformation successes to Members and officers, to help build a culture of ongoing transformation and support shared learning. | <p>September 2025 (develop) December 2025 (implement)</p> | <p>Service Director, Strategy and Innovation</p> |
| 2.4 | <p>Identify opportunities for partnership-led transformation in Kirklees and ensure these are being effectively managed.</p> | <p>March 2026</p> | <p>Service Director, Strategy and Innovation</p> |
| 2.5 | <p>Develop and describe a council-wide transformation vision for long-term transformation across the whole council connected to the next, longer-term Council Plan.</p> | <p>March 2026</p> | <p>Service Director, Strategy and Innovation</p> |
| 2.6 | <p>Deliver the Assets Property Transformation Programme, using external advice to support implementation.</p> | <p>March 2026</p> | <p>Service Director, Development</p> |

Recommendation 3

The council has some large-scale regeneration plans agreed with delivery underway. Revisit the plans to ensure they are affordable, viable and deliverable in the current financial context. Part of this consideration should include the balance of housing provision.

Current position and next steps

Five years ago, the council embarked upon the development of plans for a substantial and unprecedented programme of regeneration and development for all our major towns and villages. In July 2019, Council agreed our vision for the future regeneration of Kirklees, and in 2020, the Huddersfield and Dewsbury blueprints were approved by Cabinet. Fast forward to now, this vision is starting to become a reality, and works have commenced for several of our most significant projects. Our regeneration plans for our towns and villages, are starting to take shape.

Our Capital Strategy outlines over £1.29bn of investment in Kirklees over the next five years, and we recognise that such a significant level of ambition and investment will naturally take time to start to demonstrate the benefits and outcomes for the future, and for the people and places of Kirklees. We accept the LGA's recommendation to revisit our regeneration plans, because we understand that as these plans span such a long period of time, that the external environment and wider context can change. The recent financial challenges facing the council has certainly meant changes to the wider context for these plans. We acknowledge that our plans must remain affordable, viable and deliverable, and the actions contained within this plan will help provide the necessary assurance moving forward.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|---|------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Review the capital programme, to make sure we have affordable plans, including considering an externally led capital plan review. | September 2025 | Service Director, Finance |
| 3.2 | Complete the review of phase 5 of Our Cultural Heart to ensure we maximise value for money whilst maintaining our ambition of long-term benefits for people, businesses and the local economy. | September 2025 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |
| 3.3 | Analyse the direct and indirect costs and implications for our major regeneration projects across all council services and directorates and continue to deliver a 'Cultural Heart mobilisation' plan to manage associated risks and opportunities in a cross-directorate coordinated way. | March 2026 | Service Director, Finance/ Service Director, Strategy and Innovation/ Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |

| | | | |
|-----|--|------------|---|
| 3.4 | Conduct a governance review to ensure the right governance mechanisms are in place to support ongoing, effective delivery monitoring of our capital plans and programmes. Implement refreshed governance arrangements. | March 2026 | Service Director, Finance |
| 3.5 | Decide priorities for securing further external investment funding - including considering the balance of housing provisions alongside other types of development and investment – and proactively monitor external funding opportunities to support these priorities. | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation / Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |
| 3.6 | Develop a longer-term strategy and plan to support the development of residential provision in our town centres, linked to the update of the Local Plan. | March 2027 | Service Director, Development |
| 3.7 | Refresh all our town centre blueprints and smaller centre regeneration plans to reflect the current financial context and consider future plans beyond the current timescales, ensuring they are fit for the future and ready for changes in transport, technology, and the economy. | March 2027 | Service Director, Development |

Recommendation 4

Explore planning in a more expansive and strategic way, including the role it can play in delivering the housing aspects of the new local plan, nationally determined local targets and how the council will deliver much-needed new homes.

Current position and next steps

The current Kirklees Local Plan was first adopted in 2019. At the time, the council committed to reviewing the plan within five years, to ensure it was still fit for purpose. The Kirklees Local Plan sets out the planning policy framework for the district, guiding future growth and change over a longer-term planning period. It includes a vision and strategic objectives for development within Kirklees, how and where different levels of development will be located, and a suite of planning policies to guide decisions on planning applications.

On the 25 November 2024, the council launched the Kirklees Local Plan Early Engagement, to help shape an updated local plan for the future. The new plan will account for wider environmental and economic changes, and ensure the Local Plan is in keeping with emerging national planning policy changes.

The national planning policy landscape is changing, with new, emerging government guidance and legislation, and new mandatory housing targets for local authority areas. Ensuring the council continues to monitor and analyse changes to policy and understands how this should be reflected in local plans and strategies, will be important for shaping local planning delivery moving forward.

The council recognises that as well as delivering mandated house building targets, having the right balance of housing provision is also important, which includes market rate, affordable, and social housing. The new housing strategy for Kirklees aims to understand and deliver the right balance of housing Kirklees will need for the future.

The council proposes that through continued monitoring of national policy changes, delivery of a new Housing Strategy, and continued work to refresh and review the Local Plan, we will sufficiently address the LGA's recommendation in this area.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| 4.1 | Monitor and analyse the impact of national policy changes related to planning (including more powers for Combined Authorities), and ensure we are prepared to benefit, including through further workforce development to ensure we have sufficient capacity and skills. | December 2025 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration/ Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

| | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|---|
| 4.2 | Develop a new Housing Strategy for Kirklees, setting out a long-term approach for the types of housing Kirklees will need in the future, including the balance across market, affordable, and social housing. | December 2026 | Service Director, Development |
| 4.3 | Continue to progress work associated with the implementation of the next refresh of our Local Plan ('Local Plan 2'), including local engagement and cross-party working. | December 2027 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |

Recommendation 5

Work more closely with businesses and economic partners to define potential growth, skills and investment opportunities in Kirklees.

Current position and next steps

We are currently working on finalising the Inclusive Economy Strategy with an expectation to take it to Cabinet in July and Full Council in August. The final version will incorporate views from recent partnership engagement. The strategy will focus on place, businesses, people, skills and employment within Kirklees, and will form the basis of strategic partnership working with business and economic partners to define potential growth, skills and investment opportunities in Kirklees going forward. The strategy will help deliver on the government’s ambitions for growth and will be aligned with the West Yorkshire Growth Plan.

The business and economic partnership landscape in Kirklees is complex, and there are several partnership forums which exist that support the delivery of our economic development ambitions. We acknowledge the LGA’s recommendation that there is more work to do to build on existing partnership engagement mechanisms in this area, and to work closely with partners to deliver the economic strategy once it has been agreed.

In response to this recommendation, the council proposes the delivery of an economic summit, which will bring together a wide range of businesses and economic partners, to develop tangible actions for delivering the economic strategy, and for responding to economic opportunities across Kirklees. We acknowledge the important role that locally owned and managed businesses have to play as part of this engagement and will ensure there is sufficient representation from local businesses as part of our approach to this. The event will also inform the shape and focus for ongoing partnership engagement, which will be supported by more effectively mapping out the forums and mechanisms which already exist in this area. We also recognise the role of the third sector as part of responding to this recommendation and will develop a programme of activity which more effectively links the sector to wider economic development work at both a local and regional level.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| 5.1 | Building on partner engagement, begin delivery of the Inclusive Economy Strategy. | August 2025 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |
| 5.2 | Deliver a Kirklees economic summit, bringing together key businesses and economic partners to develop tangible actions for delivering the Inclusive Economy Strategy and responding to economic opportunities across Kirklees. | By December 2025 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |
| 5.3 | Review the economic partnership arrangements, including engagement mechanisms, identifying any areas for improving collaboration and communication, and decide actions to progress these. | December 2025 | Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |

| | | | |
|-----|---|------------|---|
| 5.4 | In the context of increasing powers and flexibility at a West Yorkshire level, support better connections between the Combined Authority and local third sector organisations with a role supporting economic growth, skills, and investment. This includes organisations indirectly supporting the economy through improving health and wellbeing. | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 5.5 | Deliver a programme of events for local businesses helping them connect to local third sector organisations to support their aspirations for Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Value, including volunteering and mentoring. | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation/ Service Director, Skills and Regeneration |

Recommendation 6

At the political level there has been some instability over the past 18 months. Given the position of no overall control, Members need to be mindful of their roles, responsibilities and work collaboratively to put communities and residents first. The council needs to keep working at good governance across a range of issues, including clarity of reports, Member development programmes and councillors' behaviours.

Current position and next steps

Kirklees has robust and effective systems and relationships in place which support the council to be effective, well run, and accountable. The council uses a strong leader model, with a Leader and Cabinet, supported by a corporate governance, audit and scrutiny process. Our operational practice under this model is assessed against our local code of corporate governance.

For much of our history, we have been under no overall control, and majorities are often small. We also have elections three in every four years, meaning that political power has changed more often than in some neighbouring authorities. This means that officers have been required to effectively engage with councillors across parties, especially through our scrutiny functions, to ensure decisions – especially difficult or longer-term decisions, are sustainable.

We welcome the recommendation from the LGA, as we understand that maintaining good governance practices is critical for our success moving forward, and how collaborative working across members and officers help to establish the fundamental building blocks for good governance, particularly because of our local political context.

We will continue to work on reviewing our Member Development Framework and officer training and development initiatives, which help councillors and officers develop their knowledge and skills, so all councillors feel confident in their role supporting and challenging council services, and officers feel confident in their role working with and alongside members. We will also refresh and review our member-officer protocol, which sets out standards for collaborative working across members and officers.

To support these actions, and to ensure the foundations for ensuring good governance are in place, we will also make further improvements in the clarity of decision-making reports, including improving templates, processes, and guidance.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|---|------------------|--|
| 6.1 | Update and improve awareness of the Member-officer protocol across both Members and officers and continue to identify issues and required action through reports to standards committee every six months. | May 2025 | Service Director, Governance and Commissioning |
| 6.2 | Make further improvements in the clarity of decision-making reports, including improving templates, processes, and guidance. | July 2025 | Service Director, Governance and Commissioning |

| | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|--|
| 6.3 | Review and improve existing officer training and development initiatives for working with and alongside Members, to help develop a shared understanding of what working together looks like. | January 2026 | Service Director, Governance and Commissioning |
| 6.4 | Develop and launch a new Member Development Framework, and associated action plan, which aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bring together existing support • identify opportunities for further support • This will support new and existing Members. | January 2026 | Service Director, Governance and Commissioning |

Recommendation 7

Considerable progress has been made in some service areas, with tangible progress, for example in children’s services. Maintain this focus so that performance continues to improve.

Current position and next steps

Even though addressing our financial situation continues to be challenging, we also continue to manage services well and make good progress on our improvement plans. Our recent Children’s Services assessment by Ofsted of ‘Good’ – demonstrates the improvement journey we’ve been on since 2016 when these services were deemed ‘Inadequate’.

Our Housing Improvement Board is now making good progress on addressing issues around fire safety, and damp and mould from the recent Regulator for Social Housing notice. We self-referred ourselves to the regulator, as we knew we had specific challenges we should make them aware of, and by actively engaging with the regulator, we knew we’d get the right support to help us tackle these issues. We’ve got significant transformation programmes in place for Adult Social Care, for SEND, and Kirklees Homes and Neighbourhoods. We are also implementing plans to tackle some of the issues we’re experiencing around temporary accommodation and homelessness.

The council has improved its performance monitoring processes to ensure it is more transparent and supports effective management and decision-making. We produce a quarterly Council Plan and Performance monitoring report, approved by Cabinet, detailing progress and key performance measures. We have also introduced a quarterly corporate reporting cycle, which consolidates key quarterly reports and aligns them with organisational decision-making structures. This includes budget monitoring, transformation programme reporting, risk reporting, and performance updates, fostering coordinated and strategic decision-making.

Moving forward, we will ensure that we can maintain an effective, ongoing approach to monitoring and reporting on performance across all council services, ensure there is a continued focus on specific areas where improvements have recently been made to maintain that, and a focus on specific areas where it is important to maintain robust monitoring to deliver the improvements we require. The actions included for this recommendation will support a corporately coordinated approach to the maintenance and delivery of our continuous improvement journey.

We are encouraged to see the LGA acknowledge the improvement journey we are on, and the good progress we have made over the last few years. We support the recommendation that we must focus on ensuring we are able to maintain these improvements moving forward.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|---|------------------|---|
| 7.1 | Develop an overview of external inspections, and any associated improvement plans to ensure there is sufficient planning and coordinated follow up. This includes inspections related to CQC, SEND, and the Regulator for Social Housing. Develop a set of principles for engaging with inspection regimes. | September 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

| | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------|---|
| 7.2 | Ensure an effective, ongoing approach to monitoring and reporting performance across the council, that effectively informs decision making around improving performance. | September 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 7.3 | Support and guidance provided to services around service planning, supporting service delivery against the priorities set out within the Council Plan and associated annual budget. | September 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 7.4 | Ensure effective delivery and performance monitoring across children's social care, to ensure recent progress and improvements are maintained over the long-term. | Review by December 2025 | Service Director, Child Protection and Family Support |
| 7.5 | Ensure effective delivery and performance monitoring across Kirklees Homes and Neighbourhoods, to ensure required improvements are delivered over the long-term. | Review by December 2025 | Service Director, Homes and Neighbourhoods |

Recommendation 8

Use this peer challenge as an opportunity to pivot towards a longer horizon for key decisions.

Current position and next steps

The Council's vision and supporting outcomes have been in place for nearly 10 years – and have continued to provide us with a long-term framework for planning and delivery, working together alongside our partners. The council's vision and priorities are detailed within our 2025/26 Council Plan, which is aligned with our annual budget. Both were approved by Council on the 5/6 March 2025.

In response to this recommendation, and other feedback we've received, we are proposing that we review these key commitments alongside our partners, to ensure they are fit for purpose, relevant in the current context, and provide a clear basis for what it is we want to achieve together for the longer-term benefit of the places and people who live and work in Kirklees. Linked to the LGA's recommendation around having a longer-term strategy for the budget, we support this recommendation and agree that it is time to review our longer-term strategic approach. Alongside the review of our main partnership commitments, we also propose to develop a longer-term Council Plan, which will set out key priorities and areas of focus beyond the next financial year.

To support delivery of the peer challenge action plan, the 'Our Council' culture refresh initiative is underway, building on our existing approach to support positive changes in the way that all council employees work. The initiative will help support the council to have an improved focus on the needs of our customers, encourage better budget management, and ensure we continue to embed our corporate values of kindness, inclusion and pride.

The actions we have included against this recommendation, will support the council in positioning itself towards a longer-term horizon, and support effective decision-making, partnership working, and service delivery that is focused on outcomes and a clear vision for the future for the people and places of Kirklees.

Actions

| Ref. | Action | Timescale | Responsible Service Director |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 8.1 | Launch and begin delivery of the 'Our Council' culture refresh in support of the peer challenge action plan and other improvements. | April 2025 – September 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 8.2 | Review current strategic partnership commitments as set out within the current Council Plan, with a view to developing a refreshed Partnership Framework for a longer-term period. This will include engagement across key partnerships, and potentially the development of a supporting action plan. | By November 2025 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 8.3 | Ensure we continue to monitor national policy changes and implications across all council directorates (e.g. devolution, | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

| | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---|
| | local government finance, and planning) to maximise the benefits for Kirklees residents. | | |
| 8.4 | Deliver the customer expectations programme, which aims to deliver a customer-focused culture, shared customer expectations, and make it easier for residents and customers to engage with the council. | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 8.5 | Develop a new longer-term Council Plan, supported by the implementation of multi-year local funding settlements and more flexible West Yorkshire funding, to maximise the benefits for Kirklees residents. | By March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 8.6 | Develop a new Digital Strategy, setting out how we will maximise the opportunities for technology and data to support our outcomes over the longer-term, including through considering the skills and capabilities we need in the organisation and the role of artificial intelligence. | March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |
| 8.7 | Work with partners on shared leadership and management development programmes for more efficient leadership development and support connections across our organisations. | September 25 - March 2026 | Service Director, Strategy and Innovation |

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 31st January 2025

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: Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Corporate Strategy,
Samantha Lawton, Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance
Leigh Webb, Head of Governance
James Anderson, Head of Accountancy
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk and Internal Audit
Simon Straker, Audit Manager (Virtual)
Rachel Firth, Finance Manager (Virtual)
Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton
Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton

1 Membership of the Committee

No apologies were received.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

Councillor John Taylor declared an interest in item 8 as Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit,
Cllr Caroline Holt declared an interest in item 8 as a member of the Adoption Panel,
Cllr Angela Sewell declared an interest in item 8 as a member of the Fostering Panel.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No Deputations or Petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Dates of Council Meetings - 2025/26 Municipal Year (Reference to Council)

The Committee received a report which set out a schedule of Council meeting dates for the 2025-2026 municipal year.

The Committee raised concerns that there were no planned meetings between February 2025 and July 2025, apart from the meetings solely for consideration of the Budget and the AGM. The Committee requested that officers reviewed the dates for Council meetings and submit to the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED- That the Dates of Council Meetings – 2025-26 Municipal Year report be noted with the request of a report setting out potential dates reflected in the discussion be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

8 Report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel

The Committee received a report on Members' Allowance Independent Review Panel who met to consider the Members Allowance Scheme.

The Members Allowance Independent Review Panel (MAIRP) met on 3rd December 2024 to consider the Members Allowances Scheme for 2025/26 and put forward recommendations in the report. It was noted that the financial implications arising from the recommendations of the MAIRP could be met from within the existing Members Allowances base budget.

RESOLVED-

- 1) That the report of the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel be noted.
- 2) That the Committee recommends Council approve the recommendations of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel in the report.

9 Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2025/26

The Committee received the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/2026 and associated appendices, in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on treasury management. The report provided information regarding (i) the outlook for interest rates and credit risk, and a recommended investment strategy (ii) the current and estimated future levels of Council borrowing (internal and external) and a recommended borrowing strategy (iii) methodologies adopted for providing for the repayment of debt and a recommended policy for calculating minimum revenue provision (iv) other treasury management matters including the policy on the use of financial derivatives, prudential indicators, the use of consultants and the policy on charging interest to the housing revenue account and (v) recommended an annual investment strategy(Non-Treasury Investment) for the Council in 2025/26.

The Committee was advised that the report and recommendations were to be submitted to Cabinet and Council for approval.

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 31 January 2025

During discussion, the Committee raised concerns regarding the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy and calculation and the financial implications. The Committee requested that Cabinet and Council be made aware of their concerns. The Committee also requested that an explanatory paper on MRP including different methodologies be submitted for consideration at a future committee meeting.

RESOLVED-

- 1) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 incorporating (i) the borrowing strategy, (ii) the investment strategy, (iii) the policy for provision of repayment of debt (Minimum Revenue Provision) (iv) the treasury management prudential indicators and (v) the investment strategy (non-treasury investments) be recommended for consideration by Cabinet and then approval by Council.
- 2) That an explanatory paper on Minimum Revenue Provision including different methodologies be submitted to a future Committee meeting.

10 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.

The Council must produce an Annual Governance Statement as a compulsory part of its accounts. A draft report was considered in June 2024 and had since been reformatted to show completed items, progress on existing items, and new items more clearly, but with a similar content.

During consideration of this item, the Committee referred to the reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous occurrences regulations (RIDDOR) and requested that the Annual Health and Safety report submitted to the Committee included key RIDDOR reportable accidents and near misses.

RESOLVED- That the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

11 Audit Findings Report 2023/24

The Committee received the External Audit Findings Report, for year ending 31 March 2024, as submitted by Grant Thornton.

It was reported that Grant Thornton's audit work was completed using a hybrid of on-site and remote work between July and November as planned, and it was noted that the auditors had not identified any adjustments impacting on the Council's usable reserves. Misstatements and audit adjustments were presented in the report.

It was reported that the value for money work was now complete and summarised within the report. The auditors had not identified any statutory recommendations, however their work did identify the existence of three significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements and were not satisfied that the Council had made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

During consideration of this item, the Committee noted the progress made in completing the accounts and getting them signed off in a timely period, leaving the council in a particularly good position, and thanked officers for their work.

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 31 January 2025

The Committee also highlighted the concerns of the external auditors on the level of external borrowing, with the recommendation that the Council should set up its own sensitivity analysis. The Committee requested that details of the financial weaknesses be reported to the Committee to be assured of the risk.

RESOLVED– That the Audit Findings Report 2023/24 be noted.

12 Approval of the Council's final accounts for 2023/24

The Committee received a report setting out an update on the final accounts and audit processes for 2023/24 and requested Members of this Committee to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2024/24 including the final version of the Annual Governance Statement. The preparation of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement, and local authorities are now required to have them signed by the section 151 Officer by 31 May and published with an Audit Certificate by 30 September, following the end of the financial year.

It was reported that despite the significant challenges to the Council's finance team dealing with multiple competing demands, the draft accounts were completed and signed by the Council's Service Director - Finance on 28 June 2024. The six-week public inspection period for the draft accounts ran from 28 June 2024 to 9 August 2024. An objection was raised separately by two local electors in the period, which was subsequently formally accepted by the Council's Auditors, Grant Thornton. The audit of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts was substantially complete and the Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, had issued their Draft Audit Findings Report (ISA 260). The report highlighted that the Council's Annual Governance Statement had been approved earlier by this committee.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 incorporating the Annual Governance Statement be approved.
- 2) That the draft letter of Representation (Appendix C) be approved.
- 3) The Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be authorised to sign the final versions on behalf of the Committee, upon completion of the audit.

13 Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24

The Committee received the Auditors Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The report set out a summary of the work of the Auditor's with specific regard to the current local government landscape, financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Council. It was reported that significant weakness had been identified in the 2022-23 report in Financial Sustainability. The Council had taken action but, in the Auditors view the weakness still remained. A key recommendation had been made which had been accepted by management. The report acknowledged that the Council experienced extensive budget pressures in 2023-24 and ended the year with an overspend of £7.3m but delivered all the planned savings of £19.8m. It was noted that a key action was that the Council should take action to return spend on Dedicated Schools Grant back in

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 31 January 2025

line with the renegotiated Safety Valve management plan with the Department for Education has also been accepted by management.

During discussion of the item, the committee noted that financial sustainability appeared for the third time as a key risk in the report, with a significant recommendation being broadly the same in each report.

RESOLVED- That the Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24 be noted.

14 Agenda Plan

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 21st February 2025

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

Co-optees Chris Jones

In attendance: Steve Mawson, Chief Executive
Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal, Governance
and Commissioning,
Andy Simcox, Service Director for Strategy and
Innovation,
Leigh Webb, Head of Governance,
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk,
Terence Hudson, Head of Technology,
Chris Read, Corporate Customer Standards Officer,
Alice Caruthers, Senior Risk Officer,
Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton.

Apologies: Councillor Tyler Hawkins (ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Tyler Hawkins (ex Officio)

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held 31st January 2025 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 15 would be considered in private session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No Deputations/Petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Corporate Customer Standards Annual Report 2023-24

The Committee received a report on Corporate Customer Standards 2023/24. The report provided a commentary on ongoing performance and covered other areas of interest.

The report included statistical information from across West Yorkshire relating to the number of Ombudsman complaints received. It was highlighted that Kirklees had not received any formal reports in 2023/24. The report set out details of Ombudsman complaints considered across West Yorkshire along with the headline figures for the first 6 months of the 2024/25 year. Appendix 2 to the report showed a summary of the Council's complaints process, in total 920 cases passed through the Corporate Customer Standards Section in 2023/24, which was a similar number to the previous year. The report set out detail of complaints by service area and provided a breakdown of third stage complaints. There had been a significant increase in the number of complaints received, with complaints for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Waste Collection being the variation in numbers. Council Tax also saw an increase in complaints.

During discussion, the Committee felt that a committee of the Council should have oversight of all complaints and procedures, and that Members were frequently left out of the loop with regards to complaints/service changes. It was noted that the Chair would liaise with the Portfolio Holder to gain an understanding of the information that Cabinet Members receive and would engage with scrutiny regarding local issues that ward members felt they should be informed about.

RESOLVED- That the Corporate Customer Standards Annual Report 2023-24 be approved.

8 Risk Management Annual Report 2024/25

The Committee received a report which provided information on the Council's strategy and approach to Risk Management and its governance arrangements to deliver in line with the approved strategy, and to outline priority actions for development during 2025-26.

The report explained that Service Directors and Heads of Service were responsible for assessing and monitoring risks and implementing effective and proportionate mitigation to control identified risks, where required. Risk registers were used to record and track information, and the Service and/or directorate level risk registers were submitted on a quarterly basis for review and challenge by risk officers and then used to update and inform the Corporate Risk Register, along with significant Emerging Risks and Issues under Management. The corporate risk report had been reformatted, to coincide with the beginning of the 2024/25 report cycle. A new Service Risk Register template had been introduced and was in the process of being rolled out across the Council.

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 21 February 2025

The report advised that at the end of Q3 2024/25, the Corporate Risk Register listed 24 risks, nine were reported as red rated risks, thirteen amber and two were green.

During consideration of this item, the Committee asked for confirmation of their role regarding risk. The Chief Executive advised that the Corporate Governance and Audit committees' responsibility was to consider the system of internal control and risk, considering if the system and approach was correct, but not the risks themselves as this should be considered at Cabinet/Scrutiny. The Committee requested that background risk reports provided to other committees be provided or linked in future reports to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. The Committee indicated that they would consider inviting service directors to attend future meetings of this committee to discuss the process of risks identification. The Committee noted the Chair of OSMC was an ex officio of this committee and noted his attendance would be helpful to consider matters such as this.

RESOLVED- That the Risk Management Annual Report 2024/25 be noted.

9 Dates of Council Meetings - Proposal for Additional Council Meeting (Reference to Council)

The Committee received a report proposing an additional meeting of Council during the current Municipal Year. Following discussion at the last Committee meeting held on 31st January 2025, it was proposed to hold an additional meeting in April 2025. As there would be no elections scheduled for May 2025, the proposed date did not conflict with rules and guidance in respect of the pre-election period which was normally considered for meetings proposed in April.

Council Procedure Rule 2 (1) advised that the dates of ordinary Council Meeting in each Municipal Year would be determined by the Council following recommendations made by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. The dates of Council meeting for 2024/25 were approved by full Council following consideration by this Committee on 19th January 2024. Council Procedure Rule 2 (1) further advised that any changes to the agreed schedule of Council meetings required agreement of Full Council following a proposal from the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED- That an additional meeting of Council be agreed to be scheduled to take place on 23rd April 2025 and be recommended to Council.

10 Update to Corporate Code of Governance

The Committee received a report of Corporate Code of Governance with updates intended to provide clarification around how Kirklees measured its performance and demonstrated compliance with the code.

The Code of Corporate Governance set out arrangements by which the Council ensures effective governance. The code was drafted with reference to guidelines published by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and SOLACE.

During discussion the committee thanked officers for a comprehensive report and asked a question on how performance was judged. The Service Director, Legal,

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 21 February 2025

Governance and Commissioning advised that performance data, audit reports, and complaints judged the outcome. The Committee suggested that the Code of Corporate Governance report be included in Councillors induction.

RESOLVED- That the suggested updates to the Code of Corporate Governance be recommended to Council.

11 Update on representations on Outside Bodies

The Committee received an update on the Representation on Outside Bodies.

The Service Director, Legal, Governance & Monitoring had delegated authority, in consultation with Group Business Managers, to receive and process nominations to the Outside Bodies. Any Changes in the Council's representation on Outside Bodies were reported to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for Information.

Since the last update to Committee, changes to the Council's Outside Body representation had occurred and had been incorporated into the Council's database of outside body representation. An update report on the changes would normally be presented to this Committee in September each year, however, due to a number of Member changes which affected the nominations during the 2024/25 Municipal year, there report could not be finalised until recently.

During consideration of this item the committee suggested that a link to representatives of outside bodies be published on the Councils transparency page.

RESOLVED-

- 1) That the update on representation on Outside Bodies as Appendix 1 be noted.
- 2) That Outside Body representation be continued to be monitored and any changes following the Annual General Meeting be reported to this Committee in September each year.

12 Cyber Security Assurance

The Committee received a report on Cyber Security which provided information about the Council's existing cyber control and processes in line with UK Government standards.

The report advised that the Council carried out rigorous annual testing and external assessment to achieve Public Sector Network accreditation. The Council had started a process to adopt the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Assessment Framework which would be independently assessed during 2025. The Councils Data Security Protection Toolkit submission strictly followed NHS England's guidance for Standards Met, but the controls had not been directly audited.

During discussion of this item the Committee suggested that a second report which addressed practical information be considered at an informal meeting of this committee.

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - 21 February 2025

RESOLVED- That the cyber security technical controls and process already in place which meet UK Government expectations be noted.

- 13 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2024/25, October 2024 to December 2024**
The Committee received a report relating to the internal audit work in quarter 3 of 2024/25.

The report set out the work of Internal Audit completed October to December 2024. All work had reached a finalised state. Except where shown otherwise, management had accepted the findings and agreed to implement the recommendations. A number of audits were awaiting finalisation and were to be reported in the next quarter.

RESOLVED- That the Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2024/5, October 2024 to December 2024 be noted.

- 14 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 stated in the undermentioned minutes.

- 15 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2024/25, October 2024 to December 2024**

RESOLVED- That the Committee noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to agenda item 13.

This page is intentionally left blank

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 23rd January 2025

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Tony McGrath

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McGrath.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

No interests were declared.

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 asked.

6 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

7 Site Visit - Application: 2024/92992

Site visit undertaken.

8 Planning Application - Application No: 2024/92992

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2024/92992 – Installation of click and collect facility at 28-30 Leeds Road, Birstall.

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(3) the Committee received a representation from Cllr Elizabeth Smaje (ward member).

RESOLVED – That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve the application, issue the decision notice and complete the

District-Wide Planning Committee - 23 January 2025

list of conditions, including that the development be carried out in accordance with approved plans and specifications.

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

For: Arshad, Davies, Firth, Lee-Richards, Sokhal and Ullah (6 votes)

Against: Councillor Bellamy (1 vote)

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday 16th January 2025

Present: Councillor Beverley Addy (Chair)
Councillor Carole Pattison, Leader of the Council
Tom Brailsford, Executive Director, Children and Families
Michelle Cross, Executive Director, Adults and Health
Carol McKenna, Place Lead, Kirklees Health and Care Partnership
James Creegan, CEO of Kirklees Care Association
Christine Fox, Director of Customer and Community Services
Alasdair Brown, Chief Executive, of Kirklees Active Leisure Representing Third Sector Leaders
Warren Gillibrand, Director of Customer and Community Services

In attendance: Alex Chaplin, Strategy and Policy Adults and Health
Jonathan Nunn, Policy and Partnership Officer
Lisa Williams, Deputy Director Transformation
Emily Parry-Harries, Consultant in Public Health
Steve Brennan, Kirklees Director Partner Development
Melissa Harvey, General Manager Adult Communities SWYFT
Liz Town-Andrews, Regional Business Lead for the National Health Innovation Campus - University of Huddersfield
Steffi Rogers, Community Champions Lead
Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and Regeneration
Chris Duffill, Head of Business and Skills
Clare Groves, Services Manager CGL

Apologies: Rachel Spencer-Henshall
Liz Mear
Sean Rayner
Len Richards
Catherine Riley

1 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies were received from Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Liz Mear, Catherine Riley, Sean Rayner and Len Richards.

Health and Wellbeing Board - 16 January 2025

Melissa Harvey attended as sub for Sean Rayner.
Lisa Williams attended as sub for Catherine Riley.

2 **Minutes of previous meeting**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 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 **CQC Inspection Notification**

Michelle Cross, Executive Director for Adults and Health provided the Board with a summary update on the current notification received in Kirklees from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Board was provided with background information particularly for those who are not subject to regulation or inspection. The Board was informed that the CQC are the regulator for health and care in England. They already inspect all registered provision such as care homes, hospitals and specialist care providers.

Local authorities were previously inspected by the then Commissioner for Social Care Inspection, however that duty was removed some years ago. CQC piloted their new framework last year with five different councils, and through that pilot there were several learning aspects and CQC have started to roll out inspections across the country.

The focus of the inspections is how well local authorities perform against their duties under the Care Act, with an interest being on the frontline. Whilst it has not focused on managers and leaders, that approach is maturing, and they are now speaking to leaders and that is through feedback from pilot sites and also from councils that have been inspected.

On the 9th December 2024, Kirklees received its notification. The expectation is to provide a return which has 38 elements to it and that return had to be completed by the 10th January 2025. The teams worked tirelessly throughout Christmas to ensure that the relevant evidence was gathered. One hundred and 20 pieces of evidence was submitted to the CQC which comprised of data, intelligence, performance data, case studies and a whole plethora of information that supported the IR38.

Once that is completed, a formal notification from the CQC is awaited, where they come and undertake the inspection, and the formal notification can take anywhere from between six weeks to six months.

A lengthy self-assessment will need to be submitted which is undertaken once the date that CQC will be on site has been received. Following formal notification, there will be eight weeks to gather the evidence which should give teams sufficient time. During that period, briefings will be held and will include briefing the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Portfolio Holder, key partners and leaders across the council.

There is a great deal of support from the Local Government Association (LGA), and from Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) colleagues. Currently work is being undertaken to ensure that there are workshops being planned with frontline staff and leaders and there will be a specific session planned for Elected Members, the portfolio holder and the leadership team. The LGA will undertake a session with up to 100 staff.

The difficulty being faced is that if there is six months wait, this will require the information being constantly updated and gathering case studies. When the formal notification is received, 50 cases have to be submitted which they will then decide which cases they will look at, assessing cases that addresses the customer journey. CQC will only be on site for two days, therefore they will need to be succinct about who they speak to and in terms of the opening presentation.

The Principal Social Worker (PSW) plays a key role because the assessment is against Care Act duties and the PSW will be working across the region making sure they are well prepared for the inspection, because a lot of time is spent with the PSW.

The Board was advised that once the formal notification has been received, a further update will be provided at a future meeting. This is to ensure that Board members are fully briefed on what the intentions are and how much support and preparation will need to be given to partners across the whole partnership across Kirklees.

RESOLVED:

That Michelle Cross be thanked for providing an initial update on the CQC Inspection Notification and that the information be noted.

8 Draft Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy

Edward Highfield, Service Director, Skills and Regeneration, Chris Duffill Head of Business and Skills and Jonathan Nunn, Policy and Partnership Officer attended the meeting to present and receive comment on the Draft Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy.

In summary, the Board was informed that the Economic Strategy is one of the four top tier strategies in Kirklees and the current strategy expires in 2025, and therefore work is being undertaken to review and refresh the strategy. A draft of the strategy is almost complete and is yet to go through the political process for endorsement.

The Board was informed that this time around in developing the strategy, it has been deliberately called an inclusive economy strategy rather than a growth plan or

growth strategy, reflecting the data and the inequality seen in Kirklees. While economic growth is important it is not the only objective, and it is not growth at any cost because it has to be an inclusive type of growth that addresses inequality and closes gaps.

There are many global factors that significantly affects the economy in Kirklees, however, it is important to create an environment where businesses can succeed, in essence businesses create growth and employment. The aim is to make Kirklees a good place to start and grow a business and to create conditions for inclusive growth and a growing economy is vital for achieving the Kirklees shared outcomes including, best start, achieving and aspiring and a sustainable economy.

The main structure of the strategy is people, business/partners and place, underpinned by cross-cutting themes and objectives around productivity, inclusion and sustainability.

Productivity is a challenge in Kirklees, because fundamentally productivity drives wages. For example, if Kirklees was to match the UK average in terms of productivity, every adult in full-time employment in Kirklees would have £70 extra each week in their pocket. Attracting more productive businesses and greater share of employment in higher value sectors is important because it drives wages.

Sustainability is around climate emergency, use of resources and future resilience to climate change and climate shock.

Inclusion, it has to be more inclusive, and analysis has been conducted over the bottom decile of the population and there are widening disparities and therefore there is a need to do something different. While the economy is controlled by many factors outside of local control, there are resources and investment choices to be made, and making choices to tackle at least two or three of those things at the same time. Going forward where there are limited resources, there is an action plan that will sit behind the strategy.

Referring to the presentation, the Board was shown information highlighting a 'plan on a page' which outlined the different sections that will be in the document as follows:

People – linked to the employment and skills strategy

- Empowering Young People
- Digital inclusion
- Supporting communities to learn and progress
- Skills for the future

Business / partners – growth and survival of indigenous businesses

- Start/grow
- Inward investment
- Community engagement
- Buying local and social value
- Social enterprise and shared ownership

Health and Wellbeing Board - 16 January 2025

Place – physical aspects that influence the economy those wider determinants

- Town centres/rural
- Culture and the outdoors
- Transport
- Place marketing
- Housing growth

The Board was informed that in terms of the timescale for the strategy, there is currently a working draft, with follow-up conversations with partners being undertaken. There will be further refinement of text, case studies and numerical targets, linked to the Local Plan update, and dates to Cabinet and Full Council are yet to be determined. It is the actions that flow from the strategy that is important.

It is well known that there are links between health and the economy, and this document articulates this in a stronger way than previous versions. Many of the social determinants of health are moving in the wrong direction, poor quality housing, low income, insecure employment (Darzi Review). Waiting times increasing which impacts on people's ability to work and more than half of the current people on the waiting list are working age.

Better health can be an enabler and better employment opportunities can be an enabler of health. There are many initiatives to come as this is a major focus of the new government. Get Britain Working White Paper will bring initiatives seeking to remove health barriers and help people find work.

The Board was asked to consider the following:

- What does delivering health services closer to the community actually look like in practice?
- What opportunities does it present for our towns and places?
- What is your organisation's role and challenges?

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

- During the presentation, health was mentioned quite a bit, however, social care was not mentioned, and it is important that social care does not get missed particularly from the point of view of business as there is a great deal of businesses within the sector, independent, private and voluntary sectors. In Kirklees, social care businesses employ more people than the NHS and local authority combined.
- Has there been any communication with third sector leaders or the VCS as they would welcome the opportunity for engagement as there is a big role for this sector to play. Kirklees is fortunate to have some big companies who do a great job with corporate social responsibility and that includes the public sector also linking into the corporate social responsibility role.

Health and Wellbeing Board - 16 January 2025

- There are approximately 25,000 whole time equivalent people employed across health and social care in Kirklees, and if volunteers were added in, that is approximately another 25,000 which is a significant workforce. The joint workforce programme with Calderdale, is an example of larger and smaller organisations working together to try and get people into employment and supporting them whilst in employment. One of the challenges will be continuing with that in the long term and some of the short-term funding that support these schemes are a challenge. There is the infrastructure in place that could support some of this.
- Following a recent meeting with a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the rep was supportive of this, and is keen to do something innovative around jobs, employment and health and wellbeing. It might be beneficial to have a conversation to get DWP involved and engage as they are a significant stakeholder.
- It is positive to see the section in the document on children and young people as a priority. Given the fact that there is the learning and skills agenda and wanting children to grow up and stay in Kirklees, it is unclear where the link is to the Kirklees Futures which clearly outlines outcomes and would like to see a link to that included in the strategy.
- It is encouraging to see information regarding extending the care leavers offer and would be interested to hear further detail on that and what that looks like and would be happy to be involved in joint working.
- In terms of the impact of child poverty and impact on families, how are we going to focus on the most disadvantaged children and young people to ensure they have better life chances. Additionally, families with children with additional needs often struggle financially for a number of reasons which could be from caring responsibilities.
- There are a growing number of people in the population who are economically inactive due to social, emotional and mental health problems. It is important to consider how to harness the real skills of children going into adulthood, with things like autism and other conditions. How do we focus on the most disadvantaged communities and children and young people because that could potentially lead to crime and youth violence?
- It is a good strategy and feels holistic and realistic. It is good to have it recognised the contribution good quality affordable housing that gives people a stable home can make, and also the contribution that housing providers make to people, place and neighbourhoods.
- Board members have been complimentary about the strategy, which is good. The challenge is, has any thought been given to where to start, what are the first priorities and who will set them given that it is such a big agenda.
- In addition to the how, going forward it will be important to ensure through regular reporting and updates that it is making a difference, and tactics can be

Health and Wellbeing Board - 16 January 2025

changed if it is not working. How is it going to be measured and how are the desired outcomes going to be set?

RESOLVED:

That Edward Highfield, Chris Duffill and Jonathan Nunn be thanked for presenting the Draft Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy for information and comment.

This page is intentionally left blank

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Present: Councillor Eric Firth (Chair)
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Paola Davies
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Alex Vickers
Councillor Jane Rylah

In attendance: Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader
David Stickley, Senior Legal Officer

Apologies: Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Yusra Hussain

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor D Bellamy and Councillor Y Hussain.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

An 'other' interest was declared by Councillor Timothy Bamford in relation to being a member of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee.

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 questions were asked.

7 Proposed Revision to Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 - 2030

The Committee received a report highlighting the proposed revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Licensing and Safety Committee - 14 February 2024

Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader advised the Committee that it was a statutory requirement to prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy at least every 5 years, and that the previous policy had been approved and adopted at Council in January 2020. Changes to the policy reflected the Secretary of State Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 as amended in December 2023 and provided more guidance in relation to public safety. Additional information had been added to the enforcement section of the Policy, as well as additional sections relating to the Alcohol Toolkit, Spiking Prevention, Sustainable Events Management, Martin's Law and a Safer Nighttime Economy for Kirklees.

Engagement had taken place with key stakeholders, the Chief Officer of Police, the Fire and Rescue Authority, each Local Authorities Director of Public Health, Premises License Holders, Local Club Premises Certificate Holders, businesses and residents within the area, via written correspondence. Information had also been shared through social media platforms and on the Kirklees website to ensure a robust policy.

An eight-week formal statutory consultation had taken place between July 2024 and September 2024, of which 9 responses were received. This included four members of the public, four existing license holders and one Parish Council.

The Committee queried the low number of responses to the consultation and were advised that the Licensing Department had gone above and beyond the statutory requirements for consultation.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed that the proposed revisions to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2025 – 2030 be formally submitted to full Council on Wednesday 15th January 2025 for adoption.

8 Cumulative Impact Assessment – Consultation Results

The Committee received a report detailing the results of the consultation for Cumulative Impact Assessments to be introduced in Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres.

Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader, advised that at a meeting on the 19th July 2024, the Licensing and Safety Committee were asked to determine if there was sufficient evidence presented to them, for the Licensing Authority to proceed with the consultation on the proposal to introduce Cumulative Impact Assessments within the boundaries of Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres. Members resolved that the Licensing Department commenced formal consultation and returned to the Licensing and Safety Committee with the results.

Ms Goldsmith shared that the Cumulative Impact Assessments helped to identify the potential impact on the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives, on a significant number of licensed premises concentrated within one area. Work had been undertaken with Public Health Colleagues, and data provided by West Yorkshire Police provided indicative evidence that offences were linked to off licenses, with off sales, in both areas. However, the Cumulative Impact Assessment

Licensing and Safety Committee - 14 February 2024

was not purely based on hard data, but also perception and public views, which were included within the report.

An eight-week consultation had been carried out between July 2024 and September 2024, alongside the Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy, so that it could be incorporated into the Policy if it was adopted. In total 135 people responded to the consultation.

The Committee queried the cost of the consultation and the implementation of the Policy. Ms Goldsmith advised that there would be no extra cost to adopt the Policy, but that it would be a useful tool for members to use when considering new applications and variations to existing licences within those areas.

Ms Goldsmith advised that the Cumulative Impact Assessment did not change the way licensing applications were dealt with. The Licensing Department and the Police would consider the Operating Schedule and if it did not fall within an area with particular issues, an objection would not be submitted. However, the Cumulative Impact Assessment would strengthen any decisions to refuse an application, within problem areas, if objections were received.

The Committee queried the results of the Cumulative Impact Assessment. Ms Goldsmith advised that it was a statutory requirement to review it every three years, however if crime statistics dropped dramatically, or increased issues elsewhere, a review could be held sooner.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed that a Cumulative Impact Assessment be introduced in both Huddersfield and Dewsbury, and that it be formally recommended to full Council on Wednesday 15th January 2025 for adoption.

9 Licensing Services – Update Report

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's Licensing functions between 1st October 2023 and 31st March 2024.

Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader advised that the current number of hackney carriage and private hire licenses was 5820 as of the 21st October 2024. There had been 2304 applications received which was an increase compared to the previous two years; however, the number of driver renewal applications was less, this was due to a change from issuing annual licenses to issuing 3-year licences.

Ms Goldsmith highlighted that in August 2021, the Licensing Service introduced Service Standards with the aim to process vehicle applications within 5 working days, and driver and operator applications within 10 working days, following receipt of completed applications. Progress towards these standards identified that 75% of driver application were processed within target, 92% of vehicle applications were processed within target and 84% of operator applications were processed within target.

Licensing and Safety Committee - 14 February 2024

The figures highlighted that customer service had improved considerably and would continue to improve with the effective processes that had been put in place.

Ms Goldsmith highlighted the information in relation to the number of delegated decisions that had been taken by the Group Leader for Licensing with regards to new and existing hackney carriage / private hire driver's fitness and suitability.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Licensing Services Update Report from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024, and agreed that officers be commended for the work they have undertaken.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 17th January 2025

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

39 Membership of Committee

All members of the Committee were in attendance.

40 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

41 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

42 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

43 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

44 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

45 Budget 2025/26 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive presented an introduction to the 2025/26 Council Plan and Annual Budget, setting out:

- The approach to the development of the Council Plan alongside, and to align with, the Council's Budget for 2025/26.
- The consultation had been more extensive this year, with the aim of increasing engagement and transparency.
- The six budget principles:
 1. Set a balanced budget and maintain a prudent level of reserves.
 2. Maintain a focus on prevention and intervention to prevent longer term pressures.
 3. Safeguard regeneration to support longer term economic growth.
 4. Maximise income and seek new funding opportunities.
 5. Prioritise transformation to increase efficiency and effectiveness of service.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

6. Maintain appropriate risk and governance practices.
- An initial early analysis of the key themes arising from the public consultation on the budget proposals across three areas:
 - The services where most respondents thought spend should be prioritised.
 - The proposals having the most impact on people (identified by the numbers of people raising them).
 - Ideas for saving money.
 - The four Council Plan priorities:
 1. Getting the basics right – a balanced budget and a modern organisation.
 2. Protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion.
 3. Thriving people and communities – now and over the longer-term.
 4. Local economic growth – working with regional and national partners.
 - This session was in addition to the discussions that would take place with each of the political groups and was intended to take a strategic approach focussing on the extent to which the budget proposals fit with the Council's desired outcomes, the national picture, had taken account of engagement and evidence, and addressed the challenges of delivery.
 - The challenges associated with developing a modern Council and ensuring that the approach was a good fit for Kirklees. Work was ongoing in respect of customer expectations and ensuring that the Authority was responsive in supporting communities with elements that they were able to deliver and minimised bureaucracy where possible.

This was followed by a presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration and the Service Director – Finance which highlighted:

- This was a provisional budget further to the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement received in mid-December; the final figures were anticipated to be received in early February. The indication of a move towards a fairer funding scheme and a multi-year settlement in the future was welcomed and would assist with longer term planning.
- The elements of the budget; Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account, and the impact of rising demand and demographic/inflationary pressures, particularly in Adults and Children's Services.
- Headlines relating to the development of the budget for 2025/26, including the national context. The final proposals would be considered by Cabinet on 11 February 2025 and would take account of the feedback received and the final Local Government Financial Settlement.
- The overall updated budget position for 2025/26 to achieve a balanced budget including additional savings proposals of £11.4 million.
- The Net Revenue Budget Funding Assumptions including a 4.99% increase in Council Tax and additional Government funding.
- Proposed Directorate Budgets, which had been designed to reflect the pressures and to be as robust as possible. It was noted that there may be an impact from the increase in National Insurance.
- Draft Budget savings for each directorate.
- The position in respect of general reserves, from 2024 to 2027.
- A summary of the updated Medium-Term Capital Plan 2024-2032.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

- The updated Treasury Management Strategy was to be considered by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee by the end of the month.

The Portfolio Holders and Executive Directors for:

- Adults and Health
- Children and Families
- Place, including the Housing Revenue Account
- Public Health and Corporate Resources

detailed the key issues and key pressures affecting their work for 2025/26, the draft savings proposals for the year and the key borrowing for capital schemes.

At each stage, questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In respect of the inclusion of resilience within the budget principles; the concept of resilience was very important and, whilst it was believed that this was intrinsic within the stated principles, it was acknowledged that consideration could be given to addressing this more explicitly.
- Scrutiny was needed at an early point, at the stage when proposals/policies/decisions were being formulated, to allow the detail and the options to be explored and to allow for meaningful input. This would also assist in achieving consensus across the Council.
- The improvements made in respect of the involvement of scrutiny and the use of pre-decision scrutiny were acknowledged.
- There was an intention to strengthen joint working.
- The emphasis on the Council avoiding bureaucracy that could impact on the ability of communities to undertake activities was welcomed.
- The view was expressed that the processes in place for monitoring ward budgets, a relatively small sum, may be too complex, and an undertaking was given to take a look at the current arrangements.
- Reference was made to the 'Budget Book' which had been provided in the past and had included detailed information in respect of all the proposals, pressures and savings. It was suggested that the provision of something similar, including information in respect of impacts and how they would be dealt with, would help to improve governance, decision-making and scrutiny. In response it was noted that a far greater level of information had been shared with the groups this year and opinions differed on how helpful the previous approach had been in aiding understanding, however this could be considered for future years.
- In response to a question about the approach, in light of the funding settlement being for one year, with multi-year settlements anticipated from 2025, it was acknowledged that 2025/26 was a transitional year but also that there was volatility in the markets. A prudent approach was being taken to achieve a balanced budget which provided, as far as possible, the necessary services for residents.
- Reform was being considered by Central Government and the authority was lobbying on relevant issues including adult and children's social care, the funding formula and the achievement of 'fair funding' for Kirklees. This, alongside a 3-

year settlement to enable longer term planning, may offer the potential for a less risk-averse approach in 2026/27.

- A refreshed Medium Term Financial Plan would be presented to Cabinet and Council in Autumn 2025. This would include a strategy to build reserves.
- In response to a question about means-tested, chargeable adult social care services and any annual changes, it was explained that an assessment was undertaken on an individual basis for each person receiving such services and the personal expenses allowance had risen in 2024/25 in line with inflation.
- In respect of the impact of the increase in Employer's National Insurance on the private care sector, the issue of resilience in that sector and addressing associated risks, the importance of the authority's relationship with partners such as private sector care providers was stressed. Although it was not possible to say that there would be no issues, work was being undertaken to support care providers to mitigate the impacts as far as possible. Contract negotiations took place with providers, at local level, on an annual basis in respect of fee uplift for the different types of service, with the aim of ensuring the uplift would allow providers to provide the services at a demand and a cost reasonable to all parties. Additional funding had been allocated by Central Government, in respect of social care grant but more information was needed in respect of whether this came with additional responsibilities.
- The view was expressed that the provision of further information on the impact in terms of the transfer of the two dementia homes into the private sector would help to demonstrate the decision was robust.
- In relation to the proposed reduction in the contract with C&K Careers, it was explained that the Council had an excellent relationship with the organisation; the impact it had was valued and there was a commitment to support its sustainability. The Children's and Families Service would work closely with them to try and ensure that they could draw in wider external funding to maintain their offer.
- In respect of the proposed review of the way in which children with additional needs are supported in the community; this was currently done using a fairly traditional model. In order to improve inclusion, the aim was to move towards the provision of support to allow them to take part in activities within their communities, whilst still taking account of the individual needs of each child or young person, and to ensure that, where possible, groups that could provide for these young people were supported and enabled to do so.
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service was very small. Additional recruitment had taken place further to an issue being highlighted by an inspection in 2019. The resources were to be reviewed to ensure they were being used efficiently and assurance was given that the statutory role would be maintained.
- The improvements achieved in children's services and the recent 'Good' outcome from Ofsted were acknowledged and thanks were expressed to all those involved for their dedication and efforts to bring this about. The investment into early years and support and the efforts being made to reduce the numbers of out of area placements were welcomed.
- In relation to potential opportunities for funding associated with green energy and the capacity to be able to undertake projects associated with climate change, it was noted that, whilst there were vacancies in the team arising from members of staff who had progressed to new roles, recruitment would be undertaken to

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

these posts to ensure the core resource was in place so that Kirklees was able to benefit from any such opportunities. The appetite from government and other agencies in this area, and the potential for funding to be forthcoming was recognised.

- A question was asked in relation to the 'Cultural Heart', the new venue planned as part of Phase 5, and the potential for overlap/competition with other venues in Huddersfield such as Lawrence Batley Theatre and the Town Hall. It was explained that there would be a difference in terms of capacity, viability and suitability for certain events and activities where there was a known market. This multi-purpose space could be split into sections and would also be used during the day for events and conferences.
- The strategic outline business case set out in detail how the venue would complement existing activity and would generate further footfall. The Council had started to receive expressions of interest from businesses, in response to the investment being made.
- It was proposed that Phase 5 be reviewed to ensure that the package was the right one and that efficiencies were put in place to deliver it and the offer within the available funding.
- The Council was working closely with partners; the University was very keen on the plans for the town centre as they would improve the offer for their students and the investment was also welcomed by the football and rugby clubs.
- A range of options had been considered in respect of the council accommodation at Buxton House; the tenant feedback had been clear that they wished to stay there, a cost appraisal had been undertaken and the cost per unit had been taken into account in making the decision to refurbish.
- In relation to the income pressure associated with court fee income, as many court dates as possible were booked but the courts were still dealing with a backlog from the pandemic.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Leader and Cabinet Members, Executive Directors, and Service Director, Finance be thanked for attending the meeting to present the budget proposals for 2025/26 and the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny be welcomed.

2. That the comments made by the Committee, including those set out below, be considered in taking the budget forward and be reported to Cabinet and Council at the meetings where the final decisions are taken:

- The improvements made in terms of the approach to pre-decision scrutiny in the last few years be welcomed and that it be recommended that engagement with scrutiny be undertaken at the earliest possible stage of decision-making or policy formulation.
- The proposals to support and assist communities to undertake activities and minimise barriers be welcomed.
- The importance of ward budgets, and, whilst recognising the need for monitoring, a review of the complexity of the governance arrangements would be welcomed.
- The importance of the principle of developing resilience in the approach to budget development.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

- Consideration be given to how the budget is presented, with the recommendation that additional detail should be provided for context and to help understanding of the impacts and risks associated with the key pressures and savings, and how they would be addressed.
- The improvements in children's services over the last ten years and the recent 'Good' Ofsted outcome are welcomed and that all those involved be thanked for their dedication and hard work in contributing to this.
- The important investment into early years and support and the efforts being made to reduce the numbers of out of area placements for children looked after be welcomed.

46 Council Plan 2025/26 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The Leader of the Council and the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning gave a presentation in respect of the 2025/26 Council Plan, highlighting the following:

- The plan set out the priorities of the administration in the short term.
- The 2025/26 document represented a revision of the previous council plan and the intention was to undertake a more in-depth review in 2025.
- The longer-term elements such as the vision, shared outcomes and key partnership strategies had been in place for a significant period of time and remained in place, at this point,
- The plan set out the priorities and the areas of focus for the Council and the budget outlined the resourcing to align with those.
- The vision;
'For Kirklees to be a district that combines 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 eight shared outcomes:
 - Shaped by People
 - Best Start
 - Well
 - Independent
 - Aspire and Achieve
 - Sustainable Economy
 - Safe and Cohesive
 - Clean and Green,and the Council's additional outcome; Efficient and Effective
- The importance of working in partnership to deliver the vision and the four key partnership strategies:
 - Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Environment Strategy
 - Inclusive Communities Framework
 - Inclusive Economy Strategy
- The principles and approach including place-based working and the supporting behaviours and values set out in the People Strategy.
- The four Council Plan priorities:
 1. Getting the basics right – a balanced budget and a modern organisation

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

2. Protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion
 3. Thriving people and communities – now and over the longer-term
 4. Local economic growth – working with regional and national partners
- The areas of focus under each priority.

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

- In terms of the approach, and whilst noting that it had been stated that the vision and outcomes spanned a number of years, the view was expressed the plan should cover a longer period than a year. In response, it was explained that this was considered to be a long-term plan which had been revised on an annual basis. A more in-depth review was planned and would take account of the peer review, devolution and the revised national funding approach.
- Whilst there were references to a greener economy it was questioned whether climate change should be placed more prominently on the agenda as a theme; it was considered that this would be beneficial to the Council, it would help to focus attention on climate change and link that into activities in communities; there were also economic benefits. The Council Plan could not include everything that the Council did and there was a wide range of things that were important both to the Cabinet and the residents of Kirklees. The Environment Strategy was referenced within the plan, to reinforce the partnership commitments that had been made, and the term 'greener Kirklees' encompassed climate change.
- It was possible for some partners/community organisations to access external funding that was not available to the Council, use of which would help achieve Council objectives. However, they may not have the resources or skills to facilitate access; a dual approach as an enabler would therefore have a positive impact.
- Assurance was given that potential regional and national funding opportunities were shared with third sector groups and, although bids were not written for them, support was provided to try and assist in accessing funding. The Council also worked alongside partners, such as the university, and would continue to do so.
- It was acknowledged that there was positive work taking place, for example using crowdfunding platforms such as 'Spacehive' with Council match funding for community projects and, whilst on a small scale, these sums could have a significant, disproportionate impact. However, it was noted that the fees for that platform were relatively high.
- There was awareness that some long-running community events had ceased due to lack of funding. In many cases these events had contributed to the Council's outcomes and may have been supported by ward budgets in the past prior to them being reduced. There were alternative sources of funding that might be able to be used, such as the Community Plus Fund, but ward councillors input to how they were spent, or ability to access them, was more limited than had been the case in the past, an example being the 'New Homes Bonus' fund.
- The Committee was advised that a piece of 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 improve working practices. The issue in respect of engagement with ward councillors and a recognition of their knowledge of their communities, local groups and their particular needs for support was recognised and could be fed into this.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 17 January 2025

- There was also concern that such difficulties might contribute to a reduction in the numbers of people willing to volunteer. There was an awareness of diminishing numbers of volunteers and available funding, which was a national issue, and measures to help address this would be considered.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning be thanked for attending the meeting to present the Council Plan for 2025/26 and the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny be welcomed.

2. The comments made by the Committee, as set out below, be considered in taking the Council Plan forward and be reported to Cabinet and Council at the appropriate meetings:

- That the intention to undertake an in-depth review of the Council Plan be noted and that it be recommended that it should more explicitly cover a longer timeframe than one year.
- That, in light of third sector partners and local community organisations being able to access external funding that is not available to the Council but could be used to help achieve Council objectives, it be recommended that the enablement approach be further strengthened to support them to take advantage of such funding opportunities.

47 Work Programme 2024/25

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024-2025 was submitted. It was noted that a briefing note in respect of relevant Government legislative and policy changes would be provided for Members in advance of the next meeting of the Committee.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Present: Councillor Bill Armer (Chair)
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

In attendance: Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person)

Apologies: Councillor Martyn Bolt

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Bolt and Mike Stow (Independent Person).

2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 20 March and 22 May 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 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Code of Conduct Complaints Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on complaints that had been received since the previous meeting of the Committee in March 2024.

The Committee noted that the report reviewed complaints from the period 1 March to end August 2024, during which there were a total of 38 complaints, 29 of which related to Kirklees Councillors and 5 related to Town or Parish Councillors, with 4 relating to Councillors appointed to both roles. The report advised that, of these complaints, 11 had progressed to investigation and were currently being considered under the initial assessment process.

The Committee were advised that, of the 11 complaints that had been carried forward from the report submitted to the previous meeting, 1 was progressed to the formal standards process and was dismissed at that stage. Paragraph 2.3 of the report set out a comparison of data with that set out in the previous report.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report provided a summary of the published decisions, in cases where complaints had been upheld and published on the Council's website. Appendix A provided a summary of the complaints including total numbers and the source of complaints.

The Committee noted the report and discussion took place with regard to current practices for the retention period for complaint information. It was suggested that consideration be given to an appropriate timeframe for the retention of information and the presentation of information on the Council website.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

8 Cases and News Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on matters relating to developments and news on Local Government ethics, including decisions of other local authorities, or any existing standards boards.

The report also provided an update on the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, in particular that which followed on from the report on 'Ethical Standards in Local Government.' It was noted that the Committee on Standards in Public Life would be carrying out a review of accountability within public bodies and the terms of reference were attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 30th January 2025

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Mark Thompson

- 1 **Membership of the Committee**
Councillor Ali Arshad substituted for Councillor Jo Lawson.
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 December 2024 be approved as a correct record.
- 3 **Declaration of Interests and Lobbying**
Councillors Armer, Homewood, Pinnock and Sokhal advised that they had been lobbied in respect of Application 2023/91405.
- 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 2023/91405**
Site visit undertaken.
- 8 **Planning Application - Application No: 2023/91405**
The Committee considered Planning Application 2023/91405 in respect of the erection of a foodstore (class E) with associated access, parking, servicing area and landscaping on part of former St Luke's Hospital site, Blackmoorfoot Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield.

Strategic Planning Committee - 30 January 2025

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

The Head of Development and Planning also reported on a representation from an objector, which had been received after the publication of the planning update.

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 update, 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. Limit on floorspace (sales and other), convenience and comparison good ratio, and no subdivision of the unit.
 4. Details of Alternative Low or Zero Carbon (LZC) technologies to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 5. Landscaping to be done in accordance with plans, with management strategy to be approved.
 6. Facing materials to be in accordance with plans, with samples to be provided and approved.
 7. Full details, including typical elevations, of all boundary treatment to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 8. Full details, including typical elevations, of all retaining wall materials to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 9. Existing points of access onto Blackmoorfoot Road to be closed and made good.
 10. Proposal to operate in accordance with the submitted ventilation details.
 11. Lighting strategy to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 12. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 13. Delivery Management Plan to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 14. Plant noise levels not to exceed given level.
 15. Updates noise impact assessment to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 16. Customer bicycle storage to be provided.
 17. Staff bicycle storage details to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 18. Details of improvements to Blackmoorfoot Road and Turnstone Way junction to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 19. Details of point of access from Turnstone Way to be submitted, approved and implemented.
 20. Car parking to be provided in accordance with plans.

Strategic Planning Committee - 30 January 2025

21. Full drainage strategy to be submitted, approved and implemented (with note regarding discharge rate), including management and maintenance details.
22. Flood routing strategy to be submitted, approved and implemented.
23. Temporary construction drainage strategy to be submitted, approved and implemented.
24. No clearance in bird breeding season to take place, without survey.
25. Lighting strategy for ecology to be submitted, approved and implemented.
26. Trees to be felled in accordance with ecological recommendations.
27. Air Quality Impact Assessment Condition.
(Authority delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to determine wording, pending receipt of Environmental Health's comments in respect of the addendum provided by the applicant. If the addendum is accepted, the condition shall be worded 'Development to be implemented in accordance with the approved Air Quality Impact Assessment'. Should the addendum not be accepted, the condition be retained as 'Updated Air Quality Impact Assessment to be submitted, approved and implemented'.)
28. Updated Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) to be submitted, approved and implemented.
29. Contaminated land investigations, remediation, and validation to be submitted, approved and implemented.
30. Crime mitigation measures to be submitted, approved and implemented.
31. Hours of operation limited to:
Monday to Saturday: 0800 to 2200
Sunday: 1000 to 1800.

- (b) secure a Section 106 agreement to cover the following matter:
Biodiversity Net Gain (to secure 10% net gain off-site): £37,030 towards off-site ecological habitat enhancement.

- (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, Arshad, Homewood, Pinnock and Sokhal (5 votes)

Against: No votes

This page is intentionally left blank