

# Public Document Pack

## Kirklees Council



Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Dear Member

**The Council will meet on Wednesday 12 November 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:

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive</b>	
To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.	
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<b>2: Apologies for absence</b>	
Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.	
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<b>3: Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	1 - 14
To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2025.	
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#### **4: Declaration of Interests**

15 - 16

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 any discussion or vote on any of the items.

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

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

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#### **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.

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#### **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.

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#### **8: West Yorkshire Combined Authority Minutes**

17 - 34

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 18 September 2025.

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**9: 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.

One supplementary oral question will be permitted.

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**10: Key Discussion**

A Key Discussion will take place on Housing Provision in Kirklees.

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 5(5), the Key Discussion debate shall commence no later than 7pm.

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**11: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy**

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

“This Council notes:

- The UK Government and the UN have both recognised that human rights due diligence is a core part of responsible business and public sector conduct.
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) provide a framework for ethical sourcing and investment.
- Section 18 of the Procurement Act 2023 permits contracting authorities to consider a supplier’s track record and compliance with international standards, including human rights.
- Oxford, North Somerset, and other councils have taken steps to strengthen their procurement and investment policies to ensure public money is not used to support companies implicated in serious human rights violations.

This Council believes:

- Kirklees Council has a responsibility to ensure its financial decisions align with its stated values on equality, justice, and human rights.
- Taxpayers' money should not be used to support companies that are complicit in or benefit from breaches of international law — including the occupation of Palestinian territories, apartheid, or other recognised violations.
- Ethical procurement and investment is not only a moral imperative, but also a legal and reputational risk management tool.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Review and strengthen the Council's Investment and Procurement Strategies to ensure they:
    - Align with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
    - Incorporate the UN Principles for Responsible Investment;
    - Make clear that the Council may exclude suppliers who are directly involved in or benefit from serious violations of international humanitarian law or human rights;
    - Remain compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 and all applicable UK legislation.
  2. Request that the Cabinet bring forward an updated Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy for adoption, with clear criteria and governance arrangements for implementation and monitoring.
  3. Mandate that all Council contracts and investments be reviewed against the updated policy, with a report brought to Cabinet within six months.
  4. Affirm the Council's commitment to transparency and ethical stewardship of public resources."
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## **12: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Firework use, Enforcement and Community Safety**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Scott, Anwar, H Zaman, Ahmed, A Zaman, Darwan and Daji;

“Council notes that:

1. Fireworks are an important part of many celebrations and can be enjoyed safely when used responsibly.
2. However, councillors across Kirklees continue to receive reports of fireworks being used irresponsibly — late at night, in residential streets, and outside recognised celebration periods — causing significant distress to residents, pets, wildlife and people with sensory or health conditions.
3. The sale and use of fireworks for private use remains permitted nationally, though many safety and animal-welfare organisations, including the RSPCA, RoSPA and the National Fire Chiefs Council, have called for tighter controls.
4. Kirklees Council already has Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in place to restrict fireworks in certain public areas, but local powers over retail sales are limited without national legislation.

Council therefore believes that:

1. Fireworks should primarily be used at organised, licensed public displays and community events.
2. Restricting general retail sales for private use would help reduce nuisance, distress and risk, while allowing communities to continue celebrating safely.
3. Stronger local enforcement, clearer public information and national legislative reform are all necessary to improve public safety and wellbeing.

Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and the Secretary of State for the Home Department to request consideration of tighter national controls limiting the retail sale of fireworks to licensed organisers of approved public events.
2. Ask the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety to review local licensing and trading-standards arrangements to ensure all available powers are being used to regulate sales and prevent nuisance.
3. Work with West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, and local animal-welfare organisations to promote a public awareness campaign each autumn on the safe and considerate use of fireworks.
4. Encourage town and parish councils and community groups to host and promote organised displays as safer, inclusive

alternatives to private use.

5. Request that the relevant Scrutiny Panel consider the inclusion of a review on the local impact of fireworks misuse within its workplan, and report back to Council with recommendations within six months.”

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### **13: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Raising the Flag of Palestine on Town Halls Across Kirklees**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Anwar, Bramwell, Daji, Darwan, Scott, H Zaman, A Zaman, Hussain, Ahmed and Kahut;

“Council notes that:

- On 29 November 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant Palestine non-member observer State status, effectively recognising it as a state within the international community.
- 29 November is also observed annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, established by the UN in 1977.
- The people of Kirklees have a proud record of standing up for peace, justice, and human rights around the world. Our communities are deeply diverse, with many residents who have direct family and cultural ties to Palestine and the wider Middle East.
- Displaying flags in recognition of international days and events has been a longstanding way for Kirklees Council to express solidarity with oppressed peoples and affirm our commitment to universal human rights.

Council believes that:

- Raising the flag of Palestine is a peaceful and symbolic gesture of solidarity with those striving for freedom, equality, and self-determination.
- Such an act reflects our borough’s values of inclusivity, justice, and international cooperation, and aligns with the UK’s own stated support for a two-state solution based on international law.
- Public recognition on this day will send a clear message that Kirklees stands for peace and supports a future where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in safety and dignity.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. That in line with the Council's Flag Flying Policy, the Leader, Chief Executive and Mayor be requested to support the Raising of the flag of Palestine on all Kirklees Council town halls and civic buildings on 29 November each year, in line with the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
2. Issue a public statement reaffirming Kirklees Council's commitment to peace, justice, and the right of all peoples to self-determination under international law.
3. Encourage community engagement and education around international solidarity and human rights, including opportunities for residents to learn about the significance of this day."

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#### **14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposition to Disability Benefit Reforms**

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

"This Council notes with serious concern:

That the Government has passed the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill, implementing parts of the earlier Pathways to Work Green Paper published in March 2025.

That the original Green Paper proposed wide-ranging reforms to PIP and long-term sickness benefits, including (i) stricter eligibility thresholds (such as the "4 points in one activity" test) (ii) reductions in support for people with mental health conditions and (iii) a shift toward linking disability benefits more closely with work and health treatment.

That while some of these proposals were dropped following public and parliamentary opposition (notably the new PIP scoring rule), others remain in force or are being implemented in stages, particularly those related to Universal Credit, the Work Capability Assessment, and health-related conditionality.

That the Government has confirmed existing PIP claimants will not be immediately affected, but that new claimants from late 2026 onwards may face stricter rules depending on further guidance and secondary legislation.

That changes to Universal Credit include plans to remove or reduce the "limited capability for work-related activity" element for new claimants, especially under-22s, potentially leaving thousands of vulnerable people with significantly less support.

This Council further notes:

That campaigners and expert organisations including Citizens Advice, Health Equity North, and the Resolution Foundation have warned of substantial financial losses and increased hardship under the reforms.

That research by Health Equity North estimates Huddersfield constituency alone could lose £17 million annually under the original package of proposals, with lasting consequences for residents, the local economy, and essential services.

That many of the worst-affected areas are in the North, with longstanding structural inequalities, poorer health outcomes, and stretched public services, including Kirklees.

That local councils like Kirklees are likely to face additional pressures on:

Adult social care, Housing and homelessness services, Welfare support, advice, and crisis payments, Mental health and public health provision, without any clear guarantees of increased funding or capacity.

This Council believes:

That the reforms represent a regressive shift in disability and sickness support, undermining the rights, dignity and independence of people with long-term conditions.

That there is insufficient evidence that the reforms will lead to improved outcomes for disabled people, and growing concern they may increase poverty, reduce access to support, and worsen health inequalities.

That Kirklees has a duty to speak out against national policies that will directly harm its most vulnerable residents and shift costs onto already overstretched local services.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Formally oppose the changes to Universal Credit and disability benefits as enacted under the Universal Credit and PIP Bill, and any future secondary legislation that restricts access to PIP, particularly for people with mental health conditions or fluctuating needs.
- (2) Write to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Chancellor of the Exchequer to (i) express the Council's objection to the enacted reforms (ii) call for a halt to any further erosion of disability-related entitlements and (iii) request a cross-party review of the long-term adequacy of disability and sickness benefits.
- (3) Write to all Kirklees MPs urging them to (i) oppose any additional regressive measures in forthcoming legislation (ii) speak up for disabled and chronically ill constituents and (iii)

support amendments or repeal of the most damaging elements of the reforms.

- (4) Publish a public statement outlining the Council's position, and commit to working with local charities, advocacy groups, carers, and disabled residents to monitor and raise awareness of the changes.
- (5) Request that the Overview and Scrutiny function undertakes a full impact review of the reforms on (i) local service demand (ii) financial risk to the Council and (iii) lived experience of Kirklees residents, particularly in relation to care, health, and income security.
- (6) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions seeking formal assurances that (i) existing PIP claimants will not be reassessed under any new rules without full consultation and safeguarding (ii) all further benefit changes will be subject to published Equality Impact Assessments and (iii) that local authorities will receive sufficient funding to manage additional demand and hardship resulting from national reforms."

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## **15: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Proposed 20% VAT on taxi and Private Hire Fares**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors H Zaman, A Zaman, Ahmed, Scott, Hussain, Anwar, Daji, Darwan and Kahut;

"This Council notes that:

- (i) Reports suggest the Government is considering imposing the standard 20% rate of VAT on all taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) fares.
- (ii) HM Treasury's own consultation on this issue (April 2024) acknowledged that such a measure could increase passenger costs by up to 20%, with the greatest impact on disabled people, older residents, families without access to a car, and communities with poor public transport links.
- (iii) The Institute of Chartered Accountants (July 2024) warned that applying VAT in this way would "disproportionately affect those who rely on these services in areas with poor public transport."
- (iv) Transport for London, in its submission to HMRC (August 2024), raised serious concerns about affordability for passengers already struggling with the cost of living.

This Council believes that:

- (i) Taxis and private hire vehicles are not a luxury but a lifeline for many residents in Kirklees.
- (ii) This move would hit the lowest-paid hardest: shift workers, NHS staff, care workers, and those on zero-hours contracts who rely on taxis when buses and trains are not running. For them, taxis are the only way to reach work on time. A 20% price hike risks cutting off access to jobs and essential services, deepening inequality.
- (iii) Local taxi and private hire operators, already facing rising fuel, insurance and licence costs, would struggle to absorb this change, risking job losses and reduced availability of services.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (i) Formally oppose any government move to impose 20% VAT on taxi and private hire fares.
- (ii) Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Transport setting out this Council's concerns about the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, low-paid workers and the taxi/PHV industry.
- (iii) Ask the Leader of the Council to raise this issue with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Local Government
- (iv) Publicly reaffirm this Council's support for accessible, affordable and fair transport for all Kirklees residents.

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## **16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protect Our Pensioners - Say No to Taxing the State Pension**

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

“This Council notes:

- (i) That the UK State Pension is already one of the lowest in Europe, with more than one in ten pensioners living in poverty.
- (ii) That from April 2026 the full new State Pension is expected to exceed the income tax threshold, meaning many pensioners could face paying tax simply for receiving their pension entitlement.
- (iii) That after decades of working and paying in, people deserve to retire with dignity, not be penalised with an additional tax burden on their basic pension.

This Council believes:

- (i) The State Pension should be tax-free.
- (ii) It is unjust to penalise pensioners by bringing their basic pension into the scope of income tax.
- (iii) Government should prioritise protecting pensioners from financial hardship, not push more into poverty.

This Council resolves to:

- (i) Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging Government to exempt the State Pension from income tax.
  - (ii) Support national campaigns and petitions that seek to protect the State Pension from taxation.
  - (iii) Call on the Government to raise the personal allowance in line with increases to the state pension and to take urgent steps to tackle pensioner poverty.
  - (iv) Circulate this resolution to all MPs representing constituencies across Kirklees, urging them to raise this matter in Parliament.”
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## **17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Growing Epidemic of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Munro and Davies;

“This Council notes:

- 1) Violence against women and girls (VAWG) includes female homicide, rape, sexual assault, domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and controlling and coercive behaviour. Some of these are complex crimes which have a devastating and often life-changing impact on victims, their families and friends;
- 2) Between 2018/19 to 2022/23, police records of VAWG in England and Wales rose by 37%. In West Yorkshire, domestic abuse related crimes make up 21% of all recorded crimes in region. However, this is the tip of the iceberg, as often abuse is never reported;
- 3) It has been reported recently that approximately 2 million women a year in England and Wales are victims of male violence. It’s also estimated that at least 1 in 12 women are victims of violence perpetrated by men, which includes harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence;
- 4) According to the Home Office, the national average cost to the UK of violence against women and girls is estimated to be in the region of £37 billion annually (including cost of health, legal and social services). In Kirklees, the Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment (KJSA) has indicated that the

estimated cost of domestic violence/abuse to agencies locally is in the region of £43 million each year;

- 5) While victims of domestic abuse are not confined to a particular gender, the evidence shows that the majority of victims are women. Between November 2022 and November 2023, there were 59,681 total reported cases of domestic abuse across West Yorkshire, with 43,691 (73%) of the victims being female.

This Council believes that:

- 1) Violence against women and girls is a significant issue on a local, regional and national level. It is a national emergency, and the scale of violence is akin to a public health crisis;
- 2) There is a lot of good work being done at a local and regional level to tackle the issue of violence against women and girls and this Council commends the work already being done. For instance, Kirklees Council is a supporter of the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages men to challenge misogynistic behaviour. The Council also has a strategic focus on tackling VAWG through its *Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan* and focus on multi-agency collaboration and public safety initiatives. At a regional level, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is also taking a strategic approach through its *Safety of Women and Girls Strategy*, which includes a commitment to embed healthy relationships education in schools and communities, behavioural change through intervention programmes, improving safety in public spaces and strengthening services for victims and survivors;
- 3) While Kirklees Council is actively working to tackle VAWG, there is room to do more, especially in terms of leadership, visibility and long-term investment. The Council should publicly appoint an elected member VAWG Champion – to provide visible leadership, ensure accountability and champion the voices of survivors in policy-making. The Council should also improve public engagement, as there is limited public-facing communication about VAWG initiatives. Furthermore, public reporting on outcomes and progress is limited, while the Council should also take a whole council approach, embedding VAWG awareness and prevention across all council services (including housing, education and licensing).

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- 1) To conduct a review into Kirklees Council's procurement practices for commissioning VAWG services to ensure they align with statutory guidance and meet the needs of all survivors, including the most marginalised survivors;

- 2) To appoint a Kirklees councillor as a VAWG Champion, to hold the council to account on these pledges and amplify the voice of survivors. The VAWG Champion will be a designated individual within the council who will be responsible for leading efforts to address and reduce violence against women and girls, including advocating for survivors, implementing strategies to prevent VAWG and ensuring that appropriate support services are available;
  - 3) To improve public engagement and transparency by publishing regular updates on VAWG-related initiatives, outcomes and community impact;
  - 4) For the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary demanding an urgent Royal Commission into male violence against women. A Royal Commission is the highest form of public inquiry in the UK, and it would be set up to gather evidence and make binding recommendations. The Royal Commission could examine the root causes of male violence, investigate the failures of the criminal justice system, recommend long-term cross-government reforms (e.g. to education, health, policing and social care) and help to drive systemic change by focusing on the voices of survivors and marginalised communities.”
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## **18: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Abolition of the Council Committee System**

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors J C Lawson, Davies, J D Lawson, Cooper, Scottt and H Zaman;

“This Council notes:

- 1) The statement by the former Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon MP, on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 which outlined the Government’s plan to introduce legislation which will ‘simplify governance arrangements’ for local authorities in England and abolish the committee system, requiring all councils to adopt the leader and cabinet system;
- 2) Councils in the UK typically operate under one of three governance structures: leader and cabinet, committee or mayoral systems;
- 3) Most councils currently operate under a leader and cabinet model. The committee system was the way that councils were governed up until 2000. The Local Government Act

2000 changed the models of governance, introducing the leader and executive (cabinet) and elected mayor and executive models. The Local Government Act 2000 also resulted in the abolition of the committee system in England everywhere (except shire authorities with a population under 85,000). However, as part of the Localism Act 2011, the committee system was re-introduced as an option for all local authorities to adopt;

- 4) Typically, under the leader and cabinet model, the full council elects a leader, who then appoints a cabinet (executive), with cabinet members responsible for specific areas of service and the cabinet being the primary decision-making body. Under the committee system model, power is exercised, alongside full council, by a number of politically balanced committees, each with a specific area of responsibility. Under the executive mayor and cabinet model, a directly-elected mayor leads the executive and is accountable to the electorate;
- 5) Currently, councils in England can change their governance arrangements and local residents can have a say on the governance model adopted by their local authority via a referendum;
- 6) As part of the Government's plans, councils currently using the committee model, including councils which have recently transitioned to the committee model following a referendum, will be required to transition to the leader and cabinet model;
- 7) The Government has argued that the changes are needed in order to improve clarity and accountability in decision-making, enhance efficiency by streamlining governance structures and preventing unnecessary expenditure on governance transitions.

This Council believes that:

- 1) Councils across the country use various governance systems, with some favouring the committee system and others preferring executive systems. Councils should have the choice to choose which model of governance best suits the needs of its residents. The details of councils' internal arrangement should be a matter for local discretion. Although Kirklees Council currently operates a leader and cabinet model, it should be given the opportunity to transition to the committee system if Kirklees residents support this. Local people should be given the power to make the best choice for themselves;

- 2) The Government's plans are at odds with the devolved powers that the Labour party advocates. It should not be a one-size fits all approach. Fundamentally, the Government's plans to change the way that councils operate is top-down and heavy handed, ignores local choice and undermines local democracy. It is centralisation by stealth;
- 3) The committee system offers a number of benefits and abolishing it is a huge opportunity lost. As part of a committee system, councils are not run by a small group of councillors; instead, the committee system supports cross-party collaboration, and councils are often run in a more inclusive manner. Council committee systems can also increase accountability, reduce top-down decision making, provide a platform for diverse perspectives and provide greater opportunities for participation;

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, to express concern about the Government's plans to standardise local government structures and express concern that local authorities have not been consulted. The Government should abandon its plans for reform, since the measures will undermine local empowerment and local decision-making."

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## **19: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Need for SEND Profit Caps on Private Providers**

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

"This Council notes:

- 1) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) refers to young people who require extra help and support with their learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support;
- 2) Private providers play a key role in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities sector, including early years, alternative provision and specialised independent schools and are often commissioned by councils to provide support and education for children with SEND. In Kirklees, there are 10,098 pupils aged 4 to 16 years with SEND. Of these 9,407 pupils are educated in mainstream schools and settings and 691 in special schools (2022). SEND provision is a key issue

for many parents in Kirklees.

Across England, approximately 1.7 million pupils have been identified as having special educational needs, representing around 19.6% of pupils;

- 3) There has been a huge surge in the need for SEND provision and, as a result, demand for school places supporting SEND students across the UK. Many state schools are not adequately equipped to meet the increased demand or to support pupils with more complex and challenging needs. This has led to expert providers across the private and charitable school sectors stepping in;
- 4) According to House of Commons Library research, commissioned by the Liberal Democrat national party, the top private equity companies providing SEND schooling have seen their annual profits increase as the SEND crisis has worsened, with some making margins of over 20%. Some of the private providers of special needs education are backed by private equity companies based in tax havens or foreign sovereign wealth funds;
- 5) The SEND crisis has led to many councils facing exorbitant costs for private provision. This is at a time when local authority budgets are being pushed to the brink, with many facing effective bankruptcy or end service provision for vulnerable groups;
- 6) The Liberal Democrat national party has demanded that private providers of special education are subject to an operating profit cap of 8% in order to curb exorbitant profits. The party has called for the Government to cap the profits of these companies to ensure that money is channelled back into the SEND system and not into the pockets of shareholders.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson MP, to express concern that the profiteering from private equity firms is a major driver of the crisis in our SEND system and to cap the profits of these firms at 8%, ensuring that the priority is provision and not profits and helping to cut the excessive profiteering off the backs of disabled children. While the Government's commitment to reform the SEND system is welcome, profit-limiting controls are needed as a matter of urgency."

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## **20: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Labour's Welfare Cuts**

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

“This Council notes:

- 1) The Government has published a Green Paper, which includes proposals to change disability and long-term sickness benefits. This includes Personal Independence Payment (PIP);
- 2) PIP is claimed by nearly 3.7 million people in England and Wales, which includes residents in Kirklees. PIP is a benefit not linked to being in work or out of work but instead designed to help people with the additional unavoidable costs of having a disability. It is used by people who need daily help because of a long-term illness or disability or mental health condition. Many disabled people rely on PIP to cover the cost of getting to and from work, paying for essential equipment and for meeting their social care charges;
- 3) PIP is a non-means tested benefit, meaning that claims are not affected by an individual's income, capital or savings. It consists of 2 parts: a daily living component and a mobility component. Depending on their assessment, individuals may receive one or both components;
- 4) The Government's Green Paper proposes that PIP will be focused more on those with higher needs and reports suggest that eligibility criteria will be tightened. This may mean that individuals judged to have lower needs will no longer be eligible for the daily living component of PIP. In effect, it may mean that some individuals could lose entitlement to the daily living element of PIP and potentially other entitlements linked to this award. If an individual loses the daily living component, it will directly affect their caregiver, as the carer may become ineligible for Carer's Allowance or the carer element within Universal Credit. Furthermore, the Government's Spring Statement indicated that they wish to freeze the health element of Universal Credit for existing claimants until 2030 – meaning it will no longer increase with inflation, resulting in a real terms loss of income for over two million households;
- 5) Responding to the Chancellor's Spring Statement and the publication of the Government's impact assessment for their planned cuts to disability benefits, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation state that the cuts to health-related benefits risk pushing 250,000 people into poverty, including 50,000 children;
- 6) People who struggle to even wash their hair may have their payments reduced by an average of £1,720 per year. It is

estimated that 370,000 people with disabilities will no longer qualify for PIP under the Government's new assessment rules.

This Council believes that:

- Some of these changes will have a negative impact on the lives of Kirklees residents;
- These changes amount to nothing less than an attack on those living with disabilities and health conditions – who need PIP payments and health-related Universal Credit, to live independent, dignified lives;
- Freezing, reducing and removing these payments will have a catastrophic impact on million of households who, due to disability and ill-health, face some of the highest rates of material deprivation in the UK.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing the Council's grave concerns about the impact of these changes and urging them to reverse their decision to target those with disabilities and health conditions with cuts to their support payments;
- 2) Follow the example set by Stockport Council in developing a strategy to maximise the number of people claiming benefits they are entitled to in Kirklees, by using existing resources, including the Council website, the Council's newsletters, notices in local newspapers and council social media feeds;
- 3) Ask the Council's scrutiny function to convene a Task & Finish Group, to identify likely impacts on the local population and to assess the likely demand for support from the Council and its local partners."

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## **21: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments**

To consider the following Motion in the name of Councillors Marchington and Munro;

"This Council notes:

- 1) The two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 and is currently supported by the new Labour Government. The cap restricts Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit to the first two children in most

households;

2) The recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition, which has found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. This is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion. However, it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy over £39 billion a year. This includes increased public service expenditures and lost economic output, due to lower earnings potential among adults who grow up in impoverished conditions.

3) New data which reveals that the Yorkshire and Humber region, which includes Kirklees, is a hotspot for children hit by the two-child limit on benefits, with 13% of children in Yorkshire and Humber impacted. As a comparison, across the nations, the figure is 11% for both England and Wales. At the same time, the number of children living in poverty in Kirklees in 2021/22 was 34,969. That is 33.7% of all children living in the district;

4) The Liberal Democrat national party has consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017, 2019 and 2024 manifestos. Council notes with concern the stance of the Labour Government, who are committed to keeping the cap – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebel against this position.

This Council believes that:

The two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown that its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty and has been a key driver of child poverty in recent years. Furthermore, the policy has had a negative impact on many people's mental health, increasing stress and anxiety and harming their wellbeing, with knock-on effects on children's opportunities and

wellbeing.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating Kirklees Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help many children and households in Kirklees;
  - 2) Further, instruct the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering Kirklees Council's area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments;
  - 3) Ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.”
- 

## **22: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Disabled Bus Access**

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

“This Council notes:

- 1) The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) is a government-backed initiative that offers free local bus travel in England for people over the State Pension age and people with eligible disabilities. However, the scheme is typically only available to individuals with disabilities outside of peak hours, from 9.30am to 11pm on weekdays, and all day on weekends and bank holidays;
- 2) Local areas can offer discretionary concessions beyond the rules set by the ENCTS, including extending free bus travel on weekdays before 9.30am. Locally, the ENCTS scheme is administered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, but Kirklees and West Yorkshire currently does not offer free travel before 9.30am for most disabled bus pass holders;
- 3) The Kirklees Transport Strategy (2025) commits to improving accessibility and promoting inclusive, sustainable transport options for all residents;
- 4) Disabled bus pass holders make up about 10% of all concessionary users in England;
- 5) The Bus Services (No. 2) Bill is a major piece of legislation

which is currently progressing through Parliament, aiming to improve the performance, accessibility and quality of bus services across England. Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough, Tom Gordon, submitted an amendment to the Bill and called on the Government to give disabled people the freedom to travel at any time. The amendment received support from over 75 MPs, disability charities and campaign groups. However, the proposal to remove the 11pm – 09.30am exception to free travel for Disabled people was voted down.

This Council believes that:

- 1) These restrictions disproportionately affect disabled people who need to travel early for work, education, healthcare or caring responsibilities. Disabled people should have the freedom to travel at any time of day, just as non-disabled people do;
- 2) Time restrictions on concessionary travel create a postcode lottery and undermine efforts to promote equality, independence, and inclusion;
- 3) Removing these restrictions would support disabled residents in accessing employment, education, healthcare, and social opportunities.

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- 1) Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport to express disappointment at the Government's decision to turn their backs on disabled people as part of the Commons vote in September this year. This undermines their commitment to accessibility and equality. The Government needs to rethink their decision and remove the discriminatory restrictions to help create a system that allows everyone to make the journeys they want to. Removing the time restrictions could also open up work and training opportunities for disabled people, allowing them to travel with freedom, ease and confidence.
- 2) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Elected Mayor of West Yorkshire, to ask the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to extend the local ENCTS scheme to allow 24/7 free bus travel for all eligible disabled passholders across the region."

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By Order of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mawson', written in a cursive style.

Steve Mawson  
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

## COUNCIL

### KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at  
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 15 October 2025**

## PRESENT

**The Mayor (Councillor Elizabeth Smaje) in the Chair**

## COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Munir Ahmed	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell	Councillor Damian Brook
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Aziz Daji	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Caroline Holt	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	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 Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Adam Zaman	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Habiban Zaman

**61 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

There were no announcements.

**62 Apologies for absence**

## Council – 16 July 2025

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, Arshad, Kahut, Marchington, Moore, Munro, O'Donovan, A U Pinnock, Robinson and Vickers.

### 63 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 17 September 2025 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the following wording in respect of minute 47:

“It was moved by Councillor Bolt and seconded by Councillor Arshad to suspend standing orders in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 47(1) to allow for public questions, which had been ruled out in advance of the meeting, to be put. Following advice from the Council Solicitor, the Mayor deemed that the matter not be put to the vote.”

### 64 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs Hussain, H Zaman and A Zaman declared an “other interest” in respect of Agenda item 22, Motion as to Proposed 20% VAT on Taxi and Private Hire Fares. Cllrs H Zaman and A Zaman further declared an “other interest” in respect of Agenda item 21, Motion as to Disability Benefit Reforms.

### 65 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

No petitions were received.

### 66 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received a deputation from Alison Morgan regarding the use of glyphosate to control weeds

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing (Cllr Crook)

Claire Walters submitted a petition regarding the use of glyphosate to control weeds.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the Mayor directed that the petition be referred to the relevant Executive Director.

### 67 **Public Question Time**

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11;

#### **Question from Tracey Ibberson**

“How does the council keep track of sites where asbestos has been a significant contaminant for decades?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing - Cllr Crook.

#### **Question from Tracey Ibberson**

“Does Kirklees council have an asbestos register and if so, where can it be found?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing - Cllr Crook.

**Question from Rachel Batty**

“Can the relevant Cabinet Member please outline the council’s process and responsibilities if asbestos dust from an unknown source (I.e. it has not come from the fabric of that building itself) is found within a property in the district?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing- Cllr Crook.

**Question from Rachel Batty**

“Can the Council explain what procedures are in place for when a planning application proceeds, and subsequently some important historic information about contaminants on the site is discovered to have been omitted from the site history?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration - Councillor Turner.

**Question from Janine Gray**

“If there are public rights of way through land, how can these be removed and what is the process?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste - Councillor Hawkins.

**Question from Janine Gray**

“What is the chance of getting public rights of way removed?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins.

**Question from Karen McKenna**

“How many RIDDOR reports have been received by the Council, in relation to any brownfield sites, in respect of accidental fibre release into the air?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner.

**Question from Karen McKenna**

## Council – 16 July 2025

“What is the Brick Street Regeneration Scheme, which it appears Kirklees have received £1,000,000 (one million pounds) from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in 2021?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner.

### **Question from Akooji Badat to**

“Why is Kirklees proposing that in future, white cars will not be allowed for private hire use?”

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

### **Question from Alison Morgan**

“Would the council commit to using alternatives to pesticides by using the Guide to Alternatives to Herbicides which plays out options, cost breakdowns and case studies?”

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

### **Question from Alison Morgan**

“If the Council commits to using alternatives to pesticides, could the council make public their commitment to this step change?”

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

### **68 West Yorkshire Combined Authority Minutes**

The Minutes of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 24 July 2025 were received and noted.

### **69 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/2025**

It was moved by Councillor Burke seconded by Councillor Cooper and

**RESOLVED** – That the Annual Report be noted.

### **70 Re-appointment of the Independent Person**

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

**RESOLVED** – That Council approves the re-appointment of the existing Independent Person, Mike Stow, for a further two years.

### **71 Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

## **Council – 16 July 2025**

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

### **Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor Crook**

“How many households are currently in homeless accommodation, what is the total weekly cost for homeless accommodation and how much of this do ratepayers fund?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Education – Councillor Rylah**

“Of the 3,400 children who receive free school transport only 55% travel by bus despite this being the cheapest, most effective and most environmentally and socially sound means of transport available. What are the essential reasons by category of need / support that result in provision of a taxi?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“After years of battling against the Labour Cabinet and trying to make them release the millions held by them in s106 monies to our schools, in May of this year senior officers from across the Council drafted a new policy that would finally enable that to happen. Why haven't this Labour Cabinet approved that policy and removed the block on getting this money out to our schools?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison (Referred to Councillor Turner)**

“We have just received a damning verdict from the high court relating to the lack of a section 106 agreement in a Dewsbury planning application. What urgent steps have we put in place to stop anymore damning verdicts from the high court?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Now that Huddersfield Football Club now is in full control of the stadium where does that leave the Huddersfield Giants search for a new home?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

## **Council – 16 July 2025**

### **Question from Councillor Taylor to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison (Referred to Councillor Dad)**

“Do you think Scrutiny is working at the moment?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Burke to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Now that the Council has taken control of the former Gasworks site, will it actively support the Huddersfield Giants in their ambition to secure this location as their preferred long-term home?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Why won’t the Council release section 106 monies to make the road safety improvements that are desperately needed on Rowley Lane just below the school, as wagons are travelling up Rowley Lane using the pavement to get round the bend to continue up the hill, when this is the pedestrian walkway for school pupils and families walking to school?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Has the Heras security fencing placed around the Cloth Hall Clock Tower and the Toll House at Ravensknowle Park been hired or is it owned by the Council?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“What is the Council’s plan of action for the Cloth Hall Clock Tower and the Toll House in Ravensknowle Park?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Safdar to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor Pinnock**

“Between June and September 2025, there have been 17 cases reported to ‘Tell MAMA’ (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) involving attacks on mosques and similar buildings. In addition, during the same period, Tell MAMA recorded 913 reported cases across the UK involving targeted anti-Muslim hate — which is deeply

## **Council – 16 July 2025**

alarming. What joint work are the Council and Prevent teams currently doing with local police to address threats against Muslim and other South Asian communities?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor H Zaman to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing – Councillor Crook**

“How many Batley East households have been placed in temporary accommodation over the past 12 months and what was their length of stay?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor H Zaman to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing – Councillor Crook**

“What support is available locally to help families moving from temporary into permanent housing?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor H Zaman to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Corporate – Councillor Dad**

“What steps are being taken to ensure that attorneys holding a Lasting Power of Attorney for residents of Kirklees care homes can fully support those they represent, even if they live outside the borough?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Ali to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Corporate – Councillor Dad**

“I am sure you and all members of the council are in agreement that scrutiny plays a vital role in local government, and that the scrutiny process is a valuable means for elected members to work cross party and ‘A Politically’ to ensure the decisions affecting our residents and local services are scrutinised and delivered effectively. It is apparent that there is an increasing lack of engagement and attendance at panels resulting in the decreased cross-party participation which puts into question the value of the process in its current format.

What measures will you take to ensure the process is fit for purpose, fair and a valuable and effective use of resource?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Scott to the Leader of the Council – Cllr Pattison**

“Leader, you have repeatedly told the media your administration has brought stability to Kirklees Council. Can you explain how the closure of Dewsbury Sports

## **Council – 16 July 2025**

Centre, which has left residents without access to health and leisure facilities, aligns with that claim of stability, particularly in light of the Council's decision to write off £4.3 million in loans as reported by the Dewsbury Reporter?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

### **Question from Councillor Scott to the Leader of the Council – Cllr Pattison**

"Leader, you often speak about regeneration and stability, yet Dewsbury Town Centre continues to face stalled projects, empty shopfronts, and growing public frustration. How does this situation demonstrate stability when significant sums are being written off elsewhere in Kirklees?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

### **Question from Councillor Scott to the Leader of the Council – Cllr Pattison**

"The continued closure of Batley Baths and absence of a replacement plan remain of deep concern to local residents. How does this reflect the stability your administration claims to have achieved, given the Council's willingness to absorb multi-million-pound write-offs in other areas?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

### **Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration**

"How does the Council ensure that detailed remediation plans are fulfilled when the developer has appointed its own building inspector?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Public Health – Councillor Addy**

"What steps are taken by Public Health to ensure the safety of residents air quality when contaminants are being removed from brownfield sites?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor J C Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor A U Pinnock**

"What powers does the Council's Environmental Service have regarding the safety of residents and businesses near to a brownfield site where contaminants, that are potentially dangerous to both residents nearby and those working on the site, are being removed?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment – Councillor A U Pinnock**

“Back in December last year, I asked if the Council was trying to kill the spirit of Christmas, highlighting the new policy of barricading Christmas Trees. We are now in October and still I have no answer as to why this is done, despite discussing this with a range of Service Directors and Heads of Service. Can you please clarify for me what the Council’s intention is here and what the rationale for the barricades are and why they have been unable to provide me with the relevant risk assessments?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Corporate – Councillor Dad**

“Since April what action has the administration taken to attempt to fill the hard to fill vacancies such as in debt recovery, planning enforcement, internal audit, planning and flood management, to name a few and what successes have they had?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins**

“Parking on pavements is an ongoing issue in my ward of Kirkburton, especially where the parked vehicle makes passage impossible for pushchair, wheelchair or mobility scooter users. Would the cabinet member please clarify which body has responsibility for enforcing legislation about this?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Are planning applications considered to be lawful where the address provided for the project is inaccurate?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor J C Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“The capital plan includes a £7.5 million investment allocated for the Town Hall in Cleckheaton. What progress has been made in developing a programme of work and when is it anticipated the repairs and refurbishment will begin?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

## **Council – 16 July 2025**

"Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how the Council ensures timely and effective enforcement of planning regulations, and what measures are in place to address any delays or gaps in the system?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing – Councillor Crook**

"Can the Cabinet Member explain what procedures are in place for responding to reports of damp and mould in council and housing association properties, and how the Council ensures timely action to protect residents' health?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins**

"What is the Council doing to ensure effective maintenance of drainage systems, including gullies, to prevent flooding and related issues on our local roads?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Hall to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

"How many pre-applications has the council received in the last six months for development on land currently designated as green belt?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Hall to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

"What is the planning department's understanding of the term "grey belt"?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor McGrath to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor McGrath**

Can we confirm as part of the agreement in which Kirklees Council handed over its 40% stake in the Accu Stadium to Huddersfield Town Football Club, a move that I was of course fully in favour of for all parties involved, that the Council has now taken control of the Gas Works site and when can we expect to see spades in the ground along with the estimated cost and timescale for the necessary decontamination work to prepare the site for its future use as a key component of the Station to Stadium Corridor plan?

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor McGrath to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration**

“Do we have an estimate of how many jobs the Gas Works site could create for our town, and an anticipated timescale for when these opportunities might be realised?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor McGrath to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration**

“In relation to the George Hotel, are Raddison Red contractually bound to operate the hotel when it opens and has there been any delays due to the change from 91 rooms to 108 rooms?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor J D Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins**

“On how many occasions in the last 6 months have the parking enforcement team attended Bulaly Road/Springdale Ave/Thornton Lodge Road, Blackmoorfoot Road around the post office and shops and on the part above Balmoral Avenue on Blackmoorfoot road, and on each occasion how many penalty notices were given?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor J D Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste – Councillor Hawkins**

Deep Lane – a road predominately in the Golcar ward but used by Crosland Moor residents in significant numbers due to the fact it links Blackmoorfoot Road with the Manchester Road is in a poor state of repair towards the Manchester Road end. Could you please inform me if it is scheduled for patching works and if so when would these be undertaken?

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Bamford to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“I have looked online for An Ancient woodland policy statement and have not found one – so can the Elected member responsible for planning set out the approach to Ancient Woodland and adjacent development, including buffer zones that align with Woodland Trust policy, mitigation strategies and ecology, given these are irreplaceable habitats?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

**Question from Councillor Bamford to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

## Council – 16 July 2025

“Given the recent CPRE report that suggests there is enough land for 1.5 million homes and that 54% of that is ready for ‘spades in the ground’, can the Elected member outline the positive action Kirklees Council is taking to engage developers in developing Brownfield sites from the Brownfield Land Register as a priority, rather than using Greenbelt?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

### **Question from Councillor Bamford to the Cabinet member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“Can the lead member for planning set out the council's response to speculative and opportunistic applications made for development outside of the local plan and outside of policy?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

#### **72 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues**

Council received the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 8 July and 9 September 2025 and Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 11 June and 23 July 2025.

#### **73 Holding the Executive to Account**

Council received a portfolio update from the Deputy Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook), prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

#### **74 Minutes of Other Committees**

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

#### **75 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**

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

#### **76 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy**

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

#### **77 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Growing Epidemic of Violence Against Women and Girls**

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

#### **78 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Abolition of the Committee System**

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

**Council – 16 July 2025**

- 79      **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the need for SEND profit caps on private providers**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 80      **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Labour’s Welfare Cuts**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 81      **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposition to Disability Benefit Reforms**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 82      **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Proposed 20% VAT on Taxi and Private Hire Fares**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 83      **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protect Our Pensioners – Say no to taxing the state pension**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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<b>KIRKLEES COUNCIL</b>			
<b>COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC</b>			
<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>			
Council			
Name of Councillor			
<b>Item in which you have an interest</b>	<b>Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")</b>	<b>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]</b>	<b>Brief description of your interest</b>

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 18 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,  
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

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**Present:**

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Council
Councillor Peter Kilbane (Substitute)	City of York Council
Mandy Ridyard	West Yorkshire Business Board
Councillor Martin Love	Bradford Council
Councillor Stewart Golton (Substitute)	Leeds City Council
Councillor Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council

**In attendance:**

Councillor Barry Anderson	Chair of Scrutiny Committee
Ben Still (Chief Executive)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Warburton (Executive Director for Transport)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Felix Kumi-Ampofo (Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Sarah Eaton (Director of Strategy, Communications & Intelligence)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Mike Birch (Director of Mass Transit)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter (Director of Policing, Environment & Place)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Paul Matthews (Director of Bus Franchising)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Pope (Transport Capital Programme Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kate Taylor (Director of Finance & Commercial Services)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Jo Dent (Assistant Director, People & Transformation)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Satinder Sahota (Assistant Director Legal, Governance & Compliance)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alexander Clarke (Strategic Head of Bus Franchising Transition/Mobilisation)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

## 1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting of the Combined Authority and thanked members for their participation.

She noted that John Roberts, Chief Fire Officer for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services, was in attendance and would be joining the discussion on the Local Remediation Action Plan. The Chair extended her thanks to Mr Roberts for attending and expressed her anticipation for the forthcoming conversation.

Acknowledging the breadth of the agenda, the Chair requested that members focus on asking questions rather than making statements, in order to ensure the meeting could progress efficiently. She advised that, due to time constraints, it might be necessary to move swiftly through the agenda items.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Holdsworth (Calderdale Council) and Claire Douglas (York Council). Councillors Stewart Golton (Leeds Council) and Peter Kilbane (York Council) attended as their respective substitutes.

## 3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interests given at the meeting.

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

The Chair advised members that **Agenda Item 6 – Bus Franchising Update (Appendix 1)** contained exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Officers had assessed that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure, as outlined in the report. Members unanimously agreed to proceed accordingly.

### **RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of **Agenda Item 6 – Bus Franchising Update (Appendix 1)**, on the grounds that it was likely that exempt information would be disclosed, and that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

## 5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 24 July 2025

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 24 July 2025 were approved as a correct record.

## **6. Mayor's Update**

The Chair provided a brief update on recent developments, noting changes in key Ministerial roles. She had spoken that morning with Steve Reed, the new Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and Miatta Fahnbulleh, the new Minister for Devolution and Local Growth, who confirmed continued support for the English Devolution Bill.

She reported on discussions at the recent Mayor's Council, covering health, transport, and fiscal devolution. She welcomed the introduction of the 'Right to Request' process within the Bill, which would enable Mayors and Strategic Authorities to formally request new powers from Government ahead of fiscal events. Under the proposed legislation, Government would be required to either accept the request or provide clear justification for refusal—marking a shift towards greater transparency and accountability.

The Chair also noted that she had given oral evidence to the Public Bill Committee earlier in the week in her capacity as Chair of UK Mayors. Her evidence focused on the importance of embedding devolution across Government and Whitehall, the need for clarity and consistency in the powers available to Mayors, and the opportunity the Bill presents to strengthen local leadership and delivery. She appeared alongside fellow Metro Mayors and other stakeholders to support the Bill's ambitions and advocate for further reforms.

## **7. Bus Franchising Update**

The Combined Authority considered a report updating progress on franchising plans and service permit consultation. Officers introduced the report outlining network specifications, transition arrangements, and delegated authority for statutory consultation.

Prior to consideration of Appendix 1 to Agenda Item 6, the Chair, referring to the resolution at Agenda Item 3 and citing paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, advised that due to the confidential nature of the item, any discussion would require the exclusion of the press and public and the suspension of the livestream.

Members confirmed they were satisfied to proceed without discussion of Appendix 1, allowing the meeting to remain in public session.

Members discussed the transition to the new franchised bus system, welcoming the due diligence undertaken and the ambition to improve performance while maintaining continuity on day one of operation. Members raised the importance of engaging communities on future service development, including circular routes and access to park and ride facilities from places such as the Five Towns (Castleford, Pontefract, Featherstone, Normanton, and Knottingley).

The Executive Director for Transport confirmed that while initial operations would closely reflect the current network, the Weaver Network principles and consistent customer service standards would bring early benefits. He

emphasised that future network development would be evidence-led, with local engagement channels used to gather input and inform decision-making.

Members queried the financial model and budget implications, particularly in light of declining patronage. The Executive Director clarified that the franchising assessment had been based on a conservative decline scenario, audited by Grant Thornton, and that a phased 18-month process was underway to monitor financial viability and market response.

Cross-boundary services and permit arrangements were also discussed, with members highlighting the need for coordination between West Yorkshire and neighbouring authorities. The Executive Director confirmed that services operating beyond the region, such as into Manchester, would be aligned with local transport outcomes.

The Chair welcomed the collaborative approach and noted the progress being made, including the development of the first fully branded Weaver bus stations at Heckmondwike, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted and endorsed the strategic approach to developing network service specifications for Round 1 of bus franchising, as set out in the submitted report and accompanying appendix.
2. Noted progress on the development of a service permit scheme and the proposed conditions to be attached to permits ahead of the planned start date of the Franchising Scheme.
3. Approved the authority for the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to undertake statutory consultation on the service permit scheme and associated conditions, in line with relevant legislation.
4. Noted the requirement to develop an approach to future network changes and the progress made to date, including measures to protect service continuity during the transition to franchising.
5. Endorsed the network service specification output to inform Round 1 of bus franchising, as detailed in Appendix 1.

**8. Mass Transit Programme**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining progress and funding needs for the Mass Transit programme. Officers introduced the report detailing schedule changes, consultation plans, and delegated decisions to maintain delivery momentum.

Members expressed strong support for the scale and ambition of the programme and raised queries around risk management, financial assurance, and legislative certainty. The Director of Mass Transit confirmed that a comprehensive risk tracker was in place and could be shared with the Combined Authority. He explained that the Transport and Works Act

application was scheduled for 2027, with consent expected in 2028, aligning with the target for construction to begin. He noted that while legislative processes could not guarantee immunity from future political decisions, the programme had been designed with financial resilience in mind.

The Chair emphasised the importance of building a compelling case for the programme, highlighting its significance for communities across West Yorkshire and the strong political will to deliver it. She also noted the importance of developing in-house expertise to reduce reliance on external contractors.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted progress and the current position of the West Yorkshire Mass Transit programme.
2. Approved a revised timeline for submission of the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) by March 2026, and noted updates to the Integrated Master Schedule, with continued commitment to key milestones including spades in the ground by 2028.
3. Noted the future Key Decisions to be brought forward, as outlined in paragraph 6.1 of the submitted report.
4. Approved that, outside of those Key Decisions, officers exercise delegated authority on all other matters, including non-material schedule changes, to be assessed and accepted by the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor of West Yorkshire.
5. Approved a change request to allocate up to £40,487,682 in Combined Authority funding for development activity through to SOC submission, taking total programme approval to £121,377,839, enabling continued progress on the Outline Business Case and Transport and Works Act Order application.
6. Noted that future approvals would follow the assurance pathway and approval route set out in the report, subject to the scheme remaining within agreed tolerances.

**9. West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining nature recovery strategy and pre-consultation draft approval. Officers introduced the report summarising engagement work and biodiversity threats across West Yorkshire and England.

Members endorsed the strategy and highlighted the scale of ecological decline in the region, particularly in wetlands and river health. The importance of water management was emphasised as central to successful nature recovery, with benefits for flood resilience, urban cooling, and carbon storage.

Discussion acknowledged the need to balance environmental priorities with housing and planning pressures, particularly the challenge of protecting green

spaces while delivering new homes. Members stressed the value of investing in biodiversity as a driver for tourism, public wellbeing, and economic regeneration—citing the Aire Valley and post-industrial landscapes as key opportunities.

The potential for business engagement was also raised, with interest in exploring how the private sector could support biodiversity through initiatives such as habitat boxes and sustainable development practices.

The Chair welcomed recent changes to housing appraisal frameworks and noted the opportunity devolution presents to align housing and environmental objectives more effectively.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the engagement and strategy development work undertaken in collaboration with partners.
2. Approved the pre-consultation draft of the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy for public consultation, subject to editorial amendments and feedback from supporting authorities.

**10. West Yorkshire Local Remediation Acceleration Plan**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining the Local Remediation Acceleration Plan and its approval. Officers introduced the report detailing safety risks, remediation targets, and future roles under devolution.

Members endorsed the strategy, emphasising the importance of ensuring all residents feel safe in their homes. The plan had been developed in partnership with the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, whose continued involvement was welcomed.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed the joint commitment to accelerating remediation and maintaining strong partnerships with local authorities. Members noted visible progress, including works at Leeds Dock, and welcomed the Combined Authority's proactive role.

The Chair acknowledged the future responsibilities for fire under the Devolution Bill and thanked the Fire Service for its ongoing contribution to public safety.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Adopted the West Yorkshire Local Remediation Acceleration Plan as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report and delegated any final amendments to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor.
2. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to approve future minor amendments to the Plan.

**11. Cluster Action Plans**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining strategic plans to accelerate growth across six key sectors. Officers introduced the report detailing cluster priorities, delivery frameworks, and long-term ambitions for regional resilience.

Members welcomed the plans and acknowledged their alignment with the work of the Economy Committee and Business Board. The importance of supporting both growth sectors and the foundational economy was noted, alongside the need for clear accountability and private sector involvement in delivery.

The Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture confirmed that work was underway to develop metrics and KPIs, and that future papers would address support for struggling sectors. He outlined how sub-clusters and cross-cutting themes—such as trade, skills, and premises—would be integrated into the approach to ensure depth, inclusivity, and targeted impact.

Members stressed the need for balanced growth, regional collaboration, and recognition of talent beyond university settings. The Chair concluded by noting the opportunity to align cluster ambitions with international trade missions and wider economic strategies.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Approved the six Cluster Action Plans developed to accelerate growth across West Yorkshire's priority sectors and clusters, as set out in Appendices 1–6 of the submitted report.
2. Delegated authority to the Economy Committee to oversee the ongoing evolution of the Cluster Action Plans.

**12. Healthy Working Life**

The Combined Authority considered a report updating Healthy Working Life plans and Trailblazer funding arrangements. Officers introduced the report outlining programme progress, partnership roles, and delivery plans for year two.

Members endorsed the programme and emphasised the importance of measuring both inputs and outcomes. The Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture confirmed that while it was too early to report definitive results from year one, the programme aimed to slow the rate of economic inactivity by at least 1,300 people. He acknowledged challenges with national data reliability and noted that local structures and partnerships had enabled rapid deployment and delivery.

The Chair provided further context, referencing a community jobs hub that had successfully supported individuals with complex needs into employment. She reiterated the scale of the challenge and the importance of sustained collaboration to deliver meaningful change.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Discussed and commented on the proposed approach to developing the delivery plan for the second year of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, as outlined in the submitted report.
2. Approved the acceptance of funding for the second year of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer.
3. Endorsed the delegation of delivery plan development to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Economy Board, to enable consideration by the Healthy Working Life Board.

**13. Wakefield Futures and Early Years Workforce**

The Combined Authority considered a report on skills development in Wakefield and the Early Years sector. Officers introduced the report highlighting strategic priorities, local collaboration, and workforce planning to support growth.

Members endorsed both strands of work, recognising the importance of aligning strategic objectives with local delivery. The Wakefield Futures proposals had been submitted to the new Secretary of State for Skills, with the aim of securing improved opportunities for residents.

Members also welcomed the focus on quality education and childcare as part of a more productive economy and expressed support for the benefits these initiatives could bring to Wakefield and the wider region.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Considered and endorsed the recommendations set out in the Wakefield Futures Commission Final Report.
2. Considered and endorsed the recommendations contained within the Early Years Workforce Plan.

**14. Driving Innovation Across the Region**

The Combined Authority considered a report on boosting regional productivity through innovation and strategic investment. Officers introduced the report outlining sector strengths, partnership opportunities, and plans for innovation-led growth.

Members supported the approach and noted the potential of devolution and partnership working to deliver tangible outcomes. The need to maintain a clear link between innovation activity and business growth was also raised.

The Chair reiterated the case for greater delegation of innovation funding to Mayors, ensuring local leadership could drive forward inclusive and place-based innovation.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Approved the approach set out in the submitted report.
2. Approved the establishment of an Innovation Board and its draft terms of reference, as detailed in Appendix 1, to provide independent oversight and expertise for regional innovation activity, reporting to the Economy Committee and supporting readiness checks for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.

**15. Project Approvals**

**Bradford City Village – Phase 2 Development Funding**

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Approved the change request to the Bradford City Village scheme to release development funding of up to £1,231,107 to progress Phase 2 to decision point 4 (full business case).
2. Approved that the Combined Authority enter into a funding agreement with English Cities Fund for expenditure of up to £1,231,107.
3. Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

**Huddersfield Bus Station**

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Approved the change request for the Huddersfield Bus Station scheme to release further development funding of £993,160 for the Kirklees Bus Station Canopy element, increasing the allocation from £1,070,000 to £2,063,160. This brought the total scheme development costs to £5,044,987.
2. Approved that the Combined Authority enter into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £2,063,160 from the Transforming Cities Fund.
3. Approved that future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route, and tolerances outlined in the submitted report.

**16. Portfolio Summary**

The Combined Authority considered a report summarising funding impacts from recent and delegated project approvals. Officers introduced the report detailing transport programme updates and financial implications across major funding streams.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the portfolio summary information outlined in the submitted report.

## **17. Future Organisation State**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining organisational changes in response to future devolution legislation. Officers introduced the report detailing structural reforms, benchmarking insights, and evolving roles under new governance models.

The Chief Executive was invited to introduce the accompanying report. He began by issuing an apology regarding a formatting error in the recommendations section of the paper. Specifically, he noted that Recommendation 2.2 referred to paragraph numbers which did not correspond correctly with the content of the report. He therefore suggested a minor amendment to Recommendation 2.2, suggesting that it be revised to more generically endorse the proposals “set out in the report itself,” rather than referencing incorrect paragraph numbers.

The Chair moved the proposed amendment and sought the agreement of members to revise Recommendation 2.2 accordingly. She confirmed that the updated recommendation would read:

“To endorse the proposals set out in the report not to implement arm’s length bodies at this time.”

Members indicated their agreement with the change, and the revised recommendation was duly adopted.

### **RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the work undertaken on the future direction of the organisation.
2. Endorsed the proposals set out in the report not to implement arm’s length bodies at this time.
3. Endorsed the proposals relating to the operating model and structure of the Combined Authority, with a decision paper on structure to be presented later in the year.

## **18. Future Resourcing Readiness**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining future workforce strategy to support organisational transformation. Officers introduced the report detailing resourcing principles, talent planning, and readiness for expanded regional responsibilities.

### **RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted progress on the approach to the Resourcing and Talent strategic priorities.

2. Noted the alignment of this approach with the Combined Authority's transition to an outcome-focused operating model.

## **19. Integrated Business, Budget and Resource Planning**

The Combined Authority considered a report outlining future planning cycles and budget consultation for 2026/27. Officers introduced the report detailing strategic alignment, devolution impacts, and multi-year resource planning priorities.

### **RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the multi-year planning approach (2024–2028) being undertaken for the 2026/27 planning cycle.

2. Noted the implications of Devolution and the forthcoming Integrated Settlement on business, budget, and resource planning over the coming years.

3. Received an update on the proposed approach to budget consultation for the 2026/27 financial year.

## **20. Scrutiny Update: "School Travel" policy Call In and "Mayoral Soft Power" Recommendations**

The Combined Authority considered a report on school travel policy and mayoral soft power recommendations.

The Chair introduced the item, thanking the Scrutiny Committee for their constructive engagement on both the School Travel Policy decision and the wider discussion around Mayoral Soft Power. She confirmed that the Committee had resolved to release the School Travel Policy decision for implementation.

Councillor Barry Anderson, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the Mayor's response and noted that further recommendations would be considered at the upcoming Scrutiny meeting. He reflected on the lessons learned from the call-in procedure and thanked all those who participated.

### **RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the outcome of the Call In meeting held on 22 August and the Mayor's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on "Mayoral Soft Power".

## **21. Governance Arrangements**

The Combined Authority considered a report on committee appointments and strengthening financial governance arrangements.

The Chair introduced the item, noting that it had been omitted from the online pack due to a technical error but was now circulated in hard copy for

members' information. She proposed the items in the report as a motion.

The report was then discussed by Satinder Sahota, Assistant Director, Legal, Governance & Compliance. Members confirmed receipt of the hard copy and agreed to accept the motion as proposed.

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Appointed Karl Oxford as Deputy Chair of the Place, Regeneration & Housing Committee.
2. Appointed Mandy Ridyard as Deputy Chair of the Economy Committee.
3. Approved the appointment of Jayne Close as Deputy Section 73 Officer, effective from 19 September 2025.

**22. Minutes for Information and Summaries of Committee Meetings**

**RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:**

1. Noted the minutes, notes, and agendas of committee meetings published on its website, along with the matters deliberated within the committees, as summarised in the submitted report since the previous Combined Authority meeting.

**23. Chair's Closing Remarks**

The Chair concluded the meeting by formally recognising Satinder Sahota, Assistant Director, Legal, Governance & Compliance, on the occasion of his final meeting. She thanked him for his significant contribution to the organisation, describing him as a trusted and steady presence who had guided the Combined Authority through change and challenge. The Chair extended her best wishes for his next steps and remarked that any future organisation would be fortunate to have him. Members joined the Chair in expressing their appreciation.

**24. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Combined Authority was scheduled to take place on Thursday 16 October 2025.

**25. Decision Log**

The Decision Log is appended below.

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Decision Log</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>18 September 2025</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Report Recommendations</b>	<b>Action</b>
6.	<b>Bus Franchising Update</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>That the Combined Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Notes the approach to the development of the network service specifications to be adopted for the franchise contracts for Round 1 of bus franchising set out in this report.</li> <li>(ii) Endorses the network service specification output to inform Round 1 of bus franchising set out in Appendix 1.</li> <li>(iii) Notes progress with the development of a service permit scheme, and an associated notice of the conditions, or descriptions of conditions that may be attached to a service permit, to be put in place before the planned start date of the Franchising Scheme</li> <li>(iv) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to undertake the consultation on a service permit scheme pursuant to the Franchising Scheme (Service Permits) (England) Regulations 2018 and a consultation on the conditions, or descriptions of conditions, that may be attached to a service permit pursuant to section 123R Transport Act 2000.</li> <li>(v) Notes the requirement to develop an approach, and progress to date, for an approach to future network change, including protecting continuity of service during the transition to franchising.</li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b>
7.	<b>Mass Transit Programme</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>That in relation to Mass Transit, the Combined Authority is requested to:</p>	<b>Approved</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note progress and the current position in relation to the West Yorkshire Mass Transit programme.</li> <li>ii. Approve near-term revision to the submission of SOC, forecast to be March 2026 and notes that the Integrated Master Schedule is currently being updated to take account of the challenges set out in this report, but that the team continue to work towards spades in the ground by 2028, submission of the TWAO in 2027 and operational Trams on Phase 1 by mid-2030s.</li> <li>iii. Note the future Key Decisions that will be brought forward to the Combined Authority (as set out at paragraph 6.1 of this report).</li> <li>iv. Approves that, outside the Key Decision points highlighted in 6.1, officers will exercise their delegations to reach decisions on all other matters. This will include future schedule changes that do not materially impact the overall programme timescales, which will be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of WYCA and the Mayor of West Yorkshire to assess and accept.</li> <li>v. Approve the change request to the Mass Transit Programme to provide up to £40,487,682 of Combined Authority funding for development of activity 2 (strategic outline business case) until SOC submission, aligned with the current forecast submission date of the updated SOC to the Department for Transport (DfT). This takes the total approval to £121,377,839. This funding will enable completion of the updated SOC and, importantly, continued progress on key parallel workstreams, including the development of the OBC and the TWAO application through to SOC submission, to continue to progress the longer-term programme at pace and to meet the Mayoral commitment of spades in the ground by 2028. The proposed drawdown remains within the overall funding envelope previously approved by the DfT.</li> <li>vi. Notes that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.</li> </ul>	
8.	<b>West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That the Combined Authority notes the engagement and Strategy development work undertaken with partners.</li> <li>(ii) That the Combined Authority approves the pre-consultation draft West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy for consultation (subject to editorial changes and comments received from supporting authorities).</li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b>
9.	<b>West Yorkshire Local Remediation Acceleration Plan</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That the Combined Authority adopts the West Yorkshire Local Remediation Acceleration Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to this report and delegates any final amends to the Chief Executive in consultation</li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b>

		<p>with the Mayor.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority delegates approval of future minor amendments to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor.</p>	
10.	<b>Cluster Action Plans</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority Approve the six Cluster Action Plans (CAP) that have been developed to accelerate the growth of West Yorkshire's priority sectors and clusters. (Members are referred to the CAP's appended to this report 1-6).</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority delegates further evolution of the Cluster Action Plans over time to the Economy Committee.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
11.	<b>Healthy Working Life</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority Members comment on and discuss the proposed approach to developing and the delivery plan for the second year of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer as set out in section 3.2.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority Members approve that the Combined Authority accepts the funding for the second year of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer.</p> <p>(iii) That the Combined Authority Members endorse that the development of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer delivery plan is delegated to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Economy Board, to enable the Healthy Working Life Board to consider the proposals.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
12.	<b>Wakefield Futures and Early Years Workforce</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority considers and endorses the recommendations in the Wakefield Futures Commission Final Report.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority considers and endorses the recommendations in the Early Years Workforce plan.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
13.	<b>Driving Innovation Across the Region</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p>	<b>Approved</b>

		<p>(i) That the Combined Authority Approves the approach set out in the report.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority approves the establishment of an Innovation Board and draft terms of reference (Appendix 1) to provide independent oversight and expertise to innovation activity in the region, with the Board reporting into the Economy Committee and supporting readiness checks for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.</p>	
14a.	<b>Project Approvals – Investment Priority 3: Bradford City Village</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>The Combined Authority:</p> <p>(i) Approves the change request to the BHF Bradford City Village scheme to release development funding of up to £1,231,107 to progress Phase 2 to decision point 4 (full business case)</p> <p>(ii) Approves that the Combined Authority enters into a funding agreement with English Cities Fund for expenditure of up to £1,231,107.</p> <p>Approves that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
14b.	<b>Project Approvals – Investment Priority 5: Huddersfield Bus Station</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>The Combined Authority:</p> <p>(iii) Approves the change request for the Huddersfield Bus Station scheme to release further development costs for the Kirklees Bus Station Canopy element by £993,160 from £1,070,000 to £2,063,160. This takes the overall scheme development costs to £5,044,987.</p> <p>(iv) Approves entering into addendum to an existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £2,063,160 from the Transforming Cities Fund.</p> <p>Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
15.	<b>Portfolio Summary</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority notes the portfolio summary information outlined in this report.</p>	<b>Approved</b>

16.	<b>Future Organisation State</b>	<p>(i) To note the work being done on the future direction of the Combined Authority.</p> <p>(ii) To endorse the proposals set out in the report not to implement arm's length bodies at this time.</p> <p>(iii) Endorse the proposals relating to the operating model and structure of the Combined Authority – a decision paper to be brought to the Combined Authority on structure later this year.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
17.	<b>Future Resourcing Readiness</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) Note progress on the approach to the Resourcing and Talent Strategic priorities.</p> <p>(ii) Note the alignment of this approach with the Combined Authority's transition to an outcome focused operating model.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
18.	<b>Integrated Business, Budget and Resource Planning</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority Notes the multi-year planning approach (2024-2028) being undertaken for the 2026/27 planning cycle.</p> <p>(ii) To Note the implications of Devolution and the upcoming Integrated Settlement on business, budget and resource planning for the Combined Authority over forthcoming years.</p> <p>(iii) To receive an update on the approach to Budget consultation for the 2026/27 budget.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
19.	<b>Scrutiny Update: "School Travel" policy Call In and "Mayoral Soft Power" Recommendations</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) To note the outcome of the Call In meeting on 22 August and the Mayor's response to Scrutiny's recommendations on "Mayoral Soft Power".</p>	<b>Approved</b>
20.	<b>Governance Arrangements</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED: -</b></p> <p>(i) That the Combined Authority appoints Karl Oxford as Deputy Chair of the Place, Regeneration &amp; Housing Committee.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority appoints Mandy Ridyard as Deputy Chair of the Economy Committee.</p> <p>(ii) That the Combined Authority approve the appointment of Jayne Close as Deputy Section 73 Officer with effect from 19 September 2025.</p>	<b>Approved</b>

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