

Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council



Huddersfield Town Hall

Tuesday 2 December 2025

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 5.30 pm in Huddersfield Town Hall.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

The following matters will be debated:

Pages

1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 12 November 2025.

1 - 16

4: Declaration of Interests

17 - 18

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

5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)

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

6: Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

7: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

8: West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

19 - 28

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 16 October 2025.

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.

10: Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

29 - 34

To receive the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 21 October 2025 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 10 September 2025.

11: Holding the Executive to Account

- (i) To receive portfolio updates from (i) the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner) (ii) the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock) and (iii) the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste (Councillor Hawkins).
 - (ii) To receive oral questions/comments to Cabinet Members on their Portfolios and relevant Cabinet Minutes;
 - The Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison)
 - The Deputy Leader of the Council / Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook)
 - Adult Social Care and Corporate (Councillor Dad)
 - Children's Services (Councillor Kendrick)
 - Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock)
 - Education (Councillor Rylah)
 - Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner)
 - Highways and Waste (Councillor Hawkins)
 - Public Health (Councillor Addy)
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12: Minutes of Other Committees

35 - 70

- (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
- (ii) District Wide Planning Committee

- (iii) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
 - (iv) Personnel Committee
 - (v) Strategic Planning Committee
-

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

- Appeals Panel (Councillor Longstaff)
 - Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (Councillor Taylor)
 - District Wide Planning Committee (Councillor Ullah)
 - Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Addy)
 - Licensing and Safety Committee - including Licensing and Regulatory Panel (Councillor Firth)
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Councillor Burke)
 - Personnel Committee (Councillor Pattison)
 - Scrutiny Panel – Children’s (Councillor Ali)
 - Scrutiny Panel – Environment and Climate Change (Councillor Cooper)
 - Scrutiny Panel – Growth and Regeneration (Councillor Amin)
 - Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care (Councillor J D Lawson)
 - Standards Committee (Councillor Armer)
 - Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor Homewood)
 - Kirklees Active Leisure (Councillor Sokhal)
 - One Adoption Joint Committee (Councillor Sewell)
 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Councillor Pattison)
 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee (Councillor McLoughlin)
 - West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor O’Donovan)
 - West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee (Councillor Munir Ahmed)
 - West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Lowe)
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14: 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:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered updates to the Council's Procurement Strategy, including elements relating to ethical procurement, on 14 November 2025 (Agenda Item 9), and that these proposals are now scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in December 2025.
- 2) That the UK Government and the United Nations have both recognised that human rights due diligence is a core component of responsible business conduct and public sector accountability.
- 3) That the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) provide internationally recognised frameworks for governments for ethical sourcing, investment, and supply-chain due diligence.
- 4) That Section 26 and 27 of the Procurement Act 2023 sets out discretionary exclusion grounds.
- 5) That several UK local authorities, including Oxford City Council, North Somerset Council and others have strengthened their investment frameworks to ensure that public funds are not used to support companies implicated in serious human rights violations or breaches of international law.

This Council believes:

- 1) That Kirklees Council has a responsibility to ensure that all procurement, commissioning, and investment decisions reflect its stated values on equality, justice and human rights.
- 2) That taxpayers' money must not support organisations or companies that are complicit in, or benefit from, breaches of international humanitarian law or international human rights standards, including (but not limited to) violations occurring in occupied territories, apartheid systems, forced labour contexts, or other internationally recognised abuses.
- 3) 3. That ethical procurement and ethical investment are not only moral imperatives but also form part of robust risk management, reducing exposure to reputational harm, financial instability, and supply-chain vulnerabilities.
- 4) That while Scrutiny has reviewed proposals related to ethical procurement, these do not yet fully align with (i) the UNGPs (ii) the UN PRI (iii) the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 (iv) modern social value standards (v) net-zero and environmental duties or (vi) contemporary expectations around transparency, due diligence, and supply-chain

accountability.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- a. Request that Cabinet review and strengthen the Council's Investment and Procurement Strategies so that they (i) remain fully compliant with the Procurement Act 2023, including the statutory objectives on integrity, transparency, maximising public benefit, and removing barriers for SMEs and VCSEs and (ii) integrate modern requirements on social value, net-zero commitments, climate impact, and supply-chain transparency.
 - b. Request that Cabinet bring forward a fully updated and comprehensive Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy for adoption, to include clear governance arrangements for (i) implementation (ii) monitoring (iii) reporting (iv) supplier conduct checks (v) ethical investment screening and (vi) risk management and escalation processes.
 - c. Mandate that all Council contracts, commissioned services and financial investments be reviewed against the updated Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy, with a full progress report brought to Cabinet within six months of its adoption.
 - d. Reaffirm this Council's commitment to transparency, ethical stewardship and responsible use of public resources, ensuring that public money is managed in a way that strengthens human rights, promotes social and economic justice, and upholds the values of this Council and the communities it serves.
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15: 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, Masood 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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16: 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, Hussain, Masood Ahmed

and Kahut;

“Council notes that:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 29 November is also observed annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, established by the UN in 1977.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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:

- 1) Raising the flag of Palestine is a peaceful and symbolic gesture of solidarity with those striving for freedom, equality, and self-determination.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.”

17: 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.”

18: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Abolition of the Council Committee System

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors J C Lawson, Davies, J D Lawson, Cooper, Scott 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 24th 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."

19: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protecting the Green Boundaries Between Kirklees Towns and Villages

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Arshad, Hall and Bolt;

"This Council recognises the vital role that green spaces and natural buffer zones play in shaping the character, setting, and distinct identity of towns and villages across Kirklees. These green boundaries safeguard biodiversity, contribute to climate resilience, enhance residents' wellbeing, and preserve the historic pattern of our settlements.

Council further notes the increasing identification and use of so-called "grey belt land" for future development and expresses concern that, without clear and enforceable safeguards, such designations risk enabling incremental encroachment into the green boundaries that separate our communities. Council believes such encroachment would undermine the individuality of our towns and villages, increase pressure on local infrastructure, and contribute to unsustainable urban sprawl.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to protecting the green spaces, strategic gaps, and natural buffer zones that maintain the physical, visual, and environmental separation between Kirklees towns and villages.
2. Ensure that the emerging Local Plan prioritises brownfield regeneration, vacant buildings, town centres and underutilised land within existing settlements for development.
3. Require that officers incorporate, within the current and subsequent Local Plan reviews, explicit and measurable safeguards to prevent development that would reduce or erode

the separation between settlements, including strengthened criteria for assessing applications within strategic gaps.

4. Request that Cabinet brings forward a detailed report setting out:

The policy mechanisms available to reinforce permanent green boundaries between settlements;

How these protections will be applied consistently across Kirklees;
and

Recommendations for preventing settlement-coalescence, ensuring each community retains its unique identity and sense of place.”

20: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Review of the Communal Grounds Maintenance Charge

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

“This Council notes that:

1. Kirklees Council has approved a new communal grounds-maintenance service charge for council-housing estates, set at “up to £1 per week” for tenants.
2. This charge applies only to certain households depending on estate layout and tenure, creating a real risk of a two-tier system where some residents pay extra for communal areas while neighbours on the same estate pay nothing.
3. The introduction of this charge marks a major shift in principle, moving long-standing estate maintenance away from the Housing Revenue Account and onto a direct weekly tenant levy for impacted tenants.
4. There is no safeguard stopping future administrations from increasing the charge beyond £1 per week.
5. The garden waste removal service charge rising from £37.50 in 2019 to £56.65 in 2026 (a 51% increase) shows how quickly and quietly new charges can escalate once introduced.

This Council believes that:

- 1) Any new tenant levy must be fair, transparent and justified, and must not create inequality between residents who share the

- same estate.
- 2) Tenants are entitled to full clarity about why a new charge is being introduced, how it is calculated, and what protections exist against future increases.
 - 3) Before the charge is allowed to progress further, the council must be satisfied it does not disproportionately or unfairly impact council tenants.

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that Cabinet initiate an immediate review of the communal grounds-maintenance charge, examining:
 - The fairness of applying the charge selectively to tenants
 - The rationale for removing these services from the HRA
 - Whether the charge should be paused, amended, or withdrawn
 - What protections could be introduced to prevent future increases
2. Request that Cabinet submit the findings of the review to the most appropriate Scrutiny Panel for examination at the earliest available meeting.
3. Ensure that, as part of the review process, tenants are fully consulted, and that their experiences, concerns and preferences directly inform the review and its outcomes.

21: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Further Support for Armed Forces Veterans

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors A Smith and Burke;

“This Council notes:

- 1) In the 2021 Census, Kirklees was home to 8,942 people who reported that they had previously served in the regular UK Armed Forces;
- 2) The obligations it owes to the armed forces community within Kirklees, as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the armed forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services;
- 3) That a number of military compensation schemes exist to recognise and compensate service personnel and their families, for the hardship, inconvenience or ongoing impact conditions, such as PTSD, limb or hearing loss;
- 4) Whilst some benefits, such as Universal Credit, rightly disregard military compensation as income, others

administered by or subject to the discretion of local authorities do not always do so. This means that some veterans must give up part of their compensation in order to access essential support. A 2022 Freedom of Information request by the Royal British Legion showed that nationally, only one in five (19%) of local authorities rightly disregarded all military compensation when assessing local benefit claims for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants. In Kirklees, Discretionary Housing Payments are currently not disregarded; The Kirklees Armed Forces Covenant focuses on general support, housing, healthcare and integration, rather than explicitly referencing military compensation or its treatment in welfare means tests;

- 5) There are over 1 million veterans nationally over the State Pension age with 146,000 estimated to be eligible for Pension Credit. However, current rules may deny them support if their military compensation is counted as income;
- 6) Under the Armed Forces Covenant principles and statutory duty (Armed Forces Act 2021), councils must have due regard to these principles in housing, healthcare and education decisions. However, welfare benefit means tests are not covered by the legal duty and currently remain discretionary;
- 7) The Royal British Legion 'Credit their Service' campaign exists to address the issue in the previous point, demanding an end to the treatment of military compensation as income by welfare benefit means test, as it results in many veterans and their families missing out on thousands of pounds each year. The Royal British Legion argue that it breaches the Armed Forces Covenant principle that veterans should face no disadvantage compared to civilians;

This Council believes that:

- 1) No member of the armed forces community should be forced to give up their military compensation to access the same welfare support as their civilian counterparts;
- 2) All compensation paid under any of the relevant military compensation schemes should be treated as such and not regarded as income when the local authority assesses applications for benefits over which they exercise discretion: Council Tax Support scheme, Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants. Rather it should be treated as intended, as a compensatory payment made in recognition of the often significant and life-changing service or sacrifice an individual has made in the course of their service in our nation's Armed Forces.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Support the Royal British Legion's call for all forms of military compensation to be disregarded as income in the assessment and administration of locally administered benefits over which the Council exercises discretion;
- 2) Write to the Minister for Veterans urging a change in national regulations so that military compensation is universally not treated as income in benefit assessments. This should be Government mandated and a requirement of the Armed Forces Covenant. Furthermore, Government should provide financial support to councils to deliver on the regulatory changes."

22: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Growing Epidemic of Violence towards Women and Girls

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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23: 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."

24: 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:

- 1) Some of these changes will have a negative impact on the lives of Kirklees residents;
- 2) 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;

- 3) 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."

25: 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.”

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: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 12 November 2025**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Elizabeth Smaje) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Munir Ahmed	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Damian Brook	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Hanifa Darwan	Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor David Hall	Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson	Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Anthony Smith	Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Alex Vickers
Councillor Adam Zaman	Councillor Habiban Zaman

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

There were no announcements.

85 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bamford, Daji, Hawkins, Holmes, Homewood, Moore, K Pinnock and Simpson.

86 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

87 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Ahmed, Hussain, A Zaman and H Zaman declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 15 on the grounds that they have a family member who is a taxi driver licensed by Kirklees Council.

Councillor Anwar declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 15 on the grounds that he has a taxi driver license, licensed by Kirklees Council.

The following Councillors declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 16 on the grounds that they are in receipt of a state pension; Councillors Armer, Bolt, Firth, Kendrick, Longstaff, Lowe, Munro, Pattison, Sewell, Sokhal and Turner.

Councillors Bellamy, Sheard, A Zaman and H Zaman declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Items 14 and 20, on the grounds that they have family members in receipt of a relevant benefit payment.

Councillor Ahmed declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 14 on the grounds that he is in receipt of a relevant benefit payment.

88 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were received.

89 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council received the following deputations under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 10;

- (i) Deputation from Khalid Patel in relation to Firework Use and Community Safety.

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

- (ii) Deputation from Julia Roebuck in relation to the creation of a Creative Industries Hub on the Queen Street Plot, Huddersfield.

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

90 Public Question Time

(It was moved by Councillor Bolt, and seconded by Councillor J C Lawson, that under the provision of CPR 47, Council suspend CPR 11(6) to enable a nominated member of the public to ask a supplementary question to a submitted question, in

the absence of the person that submitted the question. The proposal, upon being put to the vote, was carried).

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

Question from Avalon Rawling

“What information, criteria, or policy guidance does the Council use when deciding whether to manage contamination risks on redevelopment sites through planning conditions instead of determining the land as ‘Contaminated Land’ under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act?”

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

Question from Avalon Rawling

“Could the Council provide one documented example from the last five years of a planning application in which conditions were enforced specifically to prevent harm to the surrounding community during development? This is asking for a planning reference number, and not for an ongoing matter or open investigation.”

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

Question from Tracy Ibberson

“When the Council commissions or reviews air monitoring on brownfield redevelopment sites, which specific standards or technical guidance documents does it require the monitoring to comply with?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor Addy).

Question from Tracy Ibberson

“For each monitoring event, is the full data set — including dates, sampling location, duration, meteorological conditions, equipment type, and laboratory accreditation — published for public transparency? If not, why not?”

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

Question from Janine Gray

“In what scenario’s as examples would the Council override Building Control?”

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

Question from Janine Gray

“Where can pre demolition surveys be viewed, is there a data base or are these available through the Council upon request?”

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

Question from Owyn Ibberson

“Could the Council tell me how many cases of Asbestosis and Mesothelioma have been reported, within Kirklees, relating to Kirklees workplaces?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor Addy).

Question from Owyn Ibberson

“Are the Council aware of an increase in respiratory issues across the area of North Kirklees, in particular Spen Valley?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor Addy).

(It was moved by Councillor Scott, and seconded by Councillor J C Lawson, that under the provision of CPR 15(3) Agenda Items 11-22 (submitted motions) be brought forward for consideration as the next agenda item/s. The proposal, upon being put to the vote, was not carried.)

91 West Yorkshire Combined Authority Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 18 September 2025 were received and noted.

Comments and questions arising from the Minutes were responded to by the Leader of the Council.

92 Key Discussion

Council received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook) prior to holding a key discussion on Housing Provision in Kirklees.

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

(It was moved by Councillor Hall, and seconded by Councillor Taylor, that Council suspend CPR 12(4) to enable as many written questions as possible to be put prior to the conclusion of the meeting).

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

Question from Councillor H Zaman

“Can the Cabinet Member outline how the Council applies its homelessness duties under the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to individuals leaving prison or with previous convictions, and whether any specific guidance or assessment criteria are used in such cases?”

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

Question from Councillor H Zaman

Under the recently approved variation to the Tenancy Agreement, the Council is introducing a grounds maintenance service charge for council tenants living on estates with communal areas. Given that the Council has no legal power to levy equivalent charges on private homeowners or private tenants living on the same estates, and has historically funded estate maintenance through the Housing Revenue Account or general funds, can the Cabinet Member explain why the Council has chosen to recover these costs only from council tenants, and whether the administration considers this approach to be fair and equitable across mixed-tenure communities?”

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

Question from Councillor Scott

“A Labour MP in Lancashire, Andy MacNae, has written publicly to his Council making it clear that the Best Start Family Hubs funding is development funding, not the return of Sure Start, and that councils must still apply, select locations and prioritise deprived areas.

You have instead stated that “Sure Start is returning to Kirklees”, despite the fact that the funding awarded is £190,729 — an amount which would not run a Sure Start centre for a year, is part of the existing Family Hub programme first introduced under the Conservative Government, and with no capital budget, site or staffing plan announced for any Kirklees town. Why was this presented to the public as the return of Sure Start, rather than explained in the more accurate and transparent terms used by your Labour colleague in Lancashire?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Councillor Kendrick).

Question from Councillor Scott

The Dewsbury Arcade Group was originally established to support the restoration and operation of the Dewsbury Arcade. However, public materials now suggest the Group is engaging in wider town centre regeneration activity, including partnerships beyond the Arcade itself. Given that this is a publicly funded regeneration project under the oversight of the Dewsbury Town Board and that Kirklees Cabinet ratifies

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key decisions can the Cabinet Member clarify what formal governance structures define the role and remit of the Dewsbury Arcade Group, particularly where their activities extend beyond the Arcade building, and how the Council will ensure democratic oversight, transparency, and political neutrality when public funding is involved and the Group's Chair is a former Labour councillor seeking re-election?"

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

Question from Councillor Scott

Given the significant public concern and media attention surrounding certain development sites, and recognising that some aspects may be subject to enforcement and therefore cannot be discussed in detail, can the Cabinet Member outline how councillors are to be supported and briefed so they can lawfully discharge their safeguarding, corporate parenting and public accountability duties while maintaining public confidence in the Council's leadership and communication?

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

Please could the Leader update Council on what meetings she has held with the Farming Community in the last 6 months?"

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

How long should it take for the Council to repair a collapsed wall which it is responsible for?"

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

"Many of our schools have warning signs which should flash at the beginning and the end of the school day, why are so many of them not working and why can I not get an answer or response to my query about them?"

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

Question from Councillor Armer

Last week, whilst making enquiries about missed grey bin collections in my ward, I was informed that a particular round had been allocated to an outside contractor. How many times have such contractors been used in the last twelve months?"

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

Question from Councillor Armer

I was informed last week that no less than five bin wagons were out of service at the same time. This is despite the council having recently invested in a new fleet of cleansing vehicles at considerable expense. How reliable is this new fleet?"

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

Question from Councillor Armer

Does the Council carry out the repair and maintenance of bin wagons in-house?"

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

Question from Councillor Munro

How is the order of agenda items decided for planning committees?"

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

Question from Councillor R Smith

What is the Council proposing to do to address speeding motorists which is a constant source of worry to residents in my Ward?"

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

Question from Councillor R Smith

"What action is the council taking to work with Yorkshire Water in the Kirkburton area to ensure that repairs are made in a timely fashion and roads reopened as soon as possible after a leak has been identified?"

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

Residents in the Holme Valley North Ward have reported repeated difficulties when submitting planning enforcement complaints, with some being told that no record exists of their reports — even when screenshots or email confirmations have been provided.

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Can the Cabinet Member confirm what quality assurance measures are in place to ensure that all online and email-based planning enforcement complaints are properly logged, acknowledged, and tracked to resolution?"

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

I have recently been supporting a constituent — a single parent with a young child — who is living in severely overcrowded and unsuitable conditions in social housing. Despite the presence of damp, inadequate space, and significant impacts on both mental health and family wellbeing, their banding remains low, and there appears to be limited flexibility in the system to respond to exceptional family circumstances.

Could the Cabinet Member outline what processes are in place to ensure that single parents and families with children living in overcrowded or unsuitable council housing are prioritised appropriately, particularly where there are health, safety, or wellbeing concerns, and whether there are any plans to review how such cases are assessed and supported through the allocations and banding process?"

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

I understand that Kirklees Council has introduced a service charge for communal grounds maintenance (grass cutting, hedge trimming, weed control etc) for council tenants, effective April 2025.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how the charge will be applied across different estates, how the amount is calculated, and what measures are in place to ensure transparency, fairness, and value for tenants paying this additional cost?"

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

Question from Councillor Hall

The Yew Tree junction of Norristhorpe Lane, Huddersfield Road and Lumb Lane in Liversedge is very congested, largely due to the position of vehicles turning right out of Lumb Lane and traffic build-up on Huddersfield Road. Will the Cabinet Member please direct highways officers to investigate the traffic movements at this junction?"

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

Question from Councillor Hall

Can we please have an update on the sale of council land at the former R M Grylls school and the former Gomersal First School?"

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

Question from Councillor Hall

Can we please have an update on the development of the Council's Culture Strategy?"

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

Question from Councillor Sheard

The Nab Lane household waste site in Birstall was closed on 10 November 2024. This closure has caused considerable frustration for residents who have lost local access to a key waste and recycling facility, and this cabinet doesn't seem interested in the needs of Birstall and the surrounding towns.

Can the Leader outline what the Council's plans are for the Nab Lane site, and whether there is any intention to reopen or repurpose the site in the near future?"

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

Question from Councillor Sheard

Reports from international and national media have exposed the horrific persecution and genocide of Christians in Nigeria, where whole communities have been attacked and families burnt alive for following their faith.

Given Kirklees Council's record of taking stands on global humanitarian issues, will the Council issue a statement condemning the persecution of Christians in Nigeria and across the wider region, and write to the UK Government urging the Prime Minister to strengthen diplomatic and humanitarian efforts to protect Christians subjected to such horrific crimes?"

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

Question from Councillor Brook

The new Communication Strategy, introduced in August 2025 following a project rollout beginning on 1 July 2024, was intended to improve engagement with residents and businesses during major works and local initiatives. However, there have been repeated failures to meet its stated objectives. Businesses and residents

have reported being unaware of project phases and unable to plan for business interruptions.

Most recently, inadequate notice to affected businesses resulted in significant disruption, including a protest and the barricading of a lay-by with hay bales.

Can the Council please explain how it intends to ensure that this Communication Strategy will be effectively implemented going forward, to guarantee timely, clear, and transparent communication with Councillors residents and businesses alike?”

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

Question from Councillor Brook

Whilst I welcome the imminent completion of the northern aspect of the Holmfirth project, I must highlight the ongoing and severe impact on the businesses located near the car park area, who have been among the most and longest affected and who will suffer long after the publicised completion date.

Several of these businesses are now in serious financial difficulty, whilst also facing amenity issues including persistent foul odours, dirt and dust entering their premises, constant daytime noise pollution, and the general unsightly condition of the area surrounding their businesses.

What measures has Kirklees Council put in place to support these affected businesses, both financially and practically, in recognition of the sustained disruption they have endured?”

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

Question from Councillor Brook

“Holmfirth has experienced a growing rat problem in recent years, particularly around the poorly named “duck feeding area” near the Crown Bottom Car Park, where rats can now be seen in broad daylight.

This problem has been compounded by individuals continuing to feed both ducks and rats, and by some individuals dumping foodstuffs—including eggs, pasta, and other household waste—directly into the river at this location.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is already in place in Holmfirth, and feeding of wildlife is explicitly not permitted under its terms.

Can the Council please outline what enforcement action is being, or will be, taken to prevent this situation from continuing/worsening and to ensure that the existing PSPO is properly upheld and respected?”

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

Question from Councillor Thompson

“Has there been a survey or review as to the ongoing additional waiting times at Dewsbury tip, and of the added costs to the council and residents?”

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

Question from Councillor Thompson

When Nab Lane tip was proposed to be closed, was there any consultation with Leeds Council?”

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

Question from Councillor Thompson

What progress has been made with the borough clean-up which was included in the Conservative budget amendment?”

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

Question from Councillor Holt

Who is responsible for cutting the grass at North Kirklees bowling greens?”

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

Question from Councillor Holt

Council House residents are to be charged for grass cutting. Will this service be monitored and quality controlled, and will grass cuttings be removed?”

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

Question from Councillor Holt

When will the vacant posts of estate housing officers in my ward be filled?”

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

Question from Councillor McGrath

On the proposed flexible 2,000 capacity venue in the final phase of the Huddersfield Blueprint on the site of the old multi storey car park, could you tell me who has been consulted among existing venues such as the Lawrence Batley Theatre, The Parish and Smile Bar, and whether a larger 5,000 plus option has been considered so it works as a mid size arena that complements rather than competes with established local businesses?"

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

Question from Councillor McGrath

Could you confirm what the capacity is of all town centre car parks and do you have stats showing the busiest times for all the car parks and how often these car parks are extremely full?"

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

Question from Councillor McGrath

Could you give us a timescale for when we are likely to be delivering 2 trains per hour running in the same direction as part of the Penistone line upgrade?"

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

A few nights ago, a number of concerned locals and I witnessed some awful firework related criminal behaviour in various parts of my ward. Some of these crimes may not have been recorded however pending the publication of this year's data, the most recent verified figures from 2024 highlight continuing concern about the misuse of fireworks across the Kirklees district.

During the 2024 Bonfire period 1st to the 6th November, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service attended around 100 fire related incidents in Kirklees. The second highest total in West Yorkshire. West Yorkshire Police recorded over 150 reports of firework-related anti social behaviour, made 11 arrests, and local services treated nine individuals, mostly under 21 years of age, for burns and eye injuries. The Kirklees Community Safety Partnership reported a 7% increase in anti social behaviour compared with 2023, with firework misuse identified as a persistent seasonal hotspot.

In light of these figures, and the increasing number of representations received from parents, pensioners, pet owners, and carers of individuals with additional needs across Huddersfield and the wider district, will the Cabinet Member write to the Home Office to lobby for an increase in the minimum legal age for the sale of

fireworks, in recognition of the growing community concern and the need to protect the safety and wellbeing of residents and animals across Kirklees?”

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

Question from Councillor R Smith

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the recently adopted policy of fencing on Christmas trees is to be scrapped?”

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

Question from Councillor Firth

I was really pleased to hear the announcement you made about the provision of a new sports facility for Dewsbury, can you outline the next steps and will this include a swimming pool?”

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

Question from Councillor Davies

Please can you confirm the latest plans and the current timelines for the opening of the New Museum being built in our Cultural Heart?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

Please can the Leader explain, for the public, what capital borrowing is, and give examples of its use in Kirklees?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

The planning process in Kirklees seems at the moment to have lost the confidence of many in our communities, with the recent judicial review finding against the Council, the disclosures through FOI on other cases and the public outrage, as we have seen, with regards to a controversial (and allegedly damaging to the health of residents) development. What is the Leader doing to restore the faith of our communities in the planning process?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

An MP has started a campaign to reduce the noise levels of fireworks, in Mirfield and other areas our residents rightly complain about fireworks being let off throughout the year and for prolonged periods late in the evening. What measures can the Leader bring in to protect our communities from such nuisances?"

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

Question from Councillor Sheard

Over recent months, serious concerns have been raised locally about housing developments taking place on land with a history of industrial use, where geoenvironmental and public health assessments have identified potential contamination risks — including asbestos and other hazardous materials — with implications for nearby residents and construction workers. These concerns highlight the critical importance of the Council's environmental health responsibilities under Policy LP53 of the Kirklees Local Plan, Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the DEFRA Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012), which collectively require that land be suitable for its intended use and that any risks to human health or the environment are robustly assessed, remediated, and transparently verified.

Can the Cabinet outline how the Council ensures full compliance with these statutory duties — including independent verification of remediation works, clear lines of accountability between planning and environmental health functions, and ongoing monitoring where contamination risks are identified — and whether development activity will be suspended where there is uncertainty about the adequacy of investigation or remediation to protect public health?"

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

Question from Councillor Masood Ahmed

At a recent Cabinet meeting, when questioned about spending on the George Hotel, you responded that the full £30 million had not yet been spent as the project is still awaiting planning approval.

Can you therefore confirm how much has actually been spent to date on the George Hotel project, including all costs such as consultancy fees, design and architectural work, professional services, surveys, legal or staffing costs, or any other associated expenditure?"

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

Question from Councillor McKerchar

In Kirklees what is the most recent 12 month total for children's suspensions from education? How does this relate to the overall trend in Kirklees, and compare with similar LAs?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education (Councillor Rylah).

Question from Councillor McKerchar

What are the most recent figures on Violence Against Women and Girls in Kirklees, and how do they compare with similar LAs?"

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

Question from Councillor J C Lawson

How many contaminated sites are included in the Council's brownfield site register and are already allocated for housing?"

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

Question from Councillor A C Pinnock

The Library in Cleckheaton is a grade 2 listed building and in need of urgent maintenance to prevent further deterioration. What funding is allocated in the Council's budget for this essential work?"

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

94 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).

95 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Firework use, Enforcement and Community Safety

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

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

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

- 97 **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).
- 98 **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).
- 99 **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).
- 100 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Growing Epidemic of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 101 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Abolition of the Council Committee System**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 102 **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).
- 103 **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).
- 104 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 105 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Disabled Bus Access**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

KIRKLEES COUNCIL				
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC				
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS				
Council				
Name of Councillor				
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest	

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2025 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Mayor Tracy Brabin (Chair)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Councillor Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Matthew Morley (Substitute)	Wakefield Council
Councillor Peter Kilbane (Substitute)	City of York Council
Asma Iqbal (Substitute)	West Yorkshire Business Board
Councillor Martin Love	Bradford Council
Councillor Sue Holdsworth	Calderdale Council
Councillor Alan Lamb	Leeds City Council

In attendance:

Simon Warburton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Sarah Eaton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Paul Matthews	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Pope	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kate Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tim Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Nikki Deol	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Denise Jeffrey (Wakefield Council), Councillor Claire Douglas (City of York Council), and Mandy Ridyard (West Yorkshire Business Board Representative and Mayor's Business Advisor).

Substitute Members

Councillor Matthew Morley attended as substitute for Councillor Denise Jeffrey, Councillor Peter Kilbane for Councillor Claire Douglas, and Asma Iqbal for Mandy Ridyard.

2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of interests given at the meeting.

3. **Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Chair advised members that **Agenda Item 10 – 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 10 – 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.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Authority held on 18 September 2025**

RESOLVED: – That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 18 September 2025 were approved as a correct record.

5. **Mayor's Update**

The Chair reported on her participation in the Prime Minister's trade mission to Mumbai, where three West Yorkshire businesses were represented. The Chair promoted regional opportunities at Yash Raj Film Studios and the Global FinTech Fest, and welcomed investment announcements including £2 million by Mastek and £5 million by Algorithms Software in Leeds.

The Chair noted West Yorkshire's £25 million allocation from the Creative Industries Growth Fund and reported attending the launch of the Turner Prize 2025 at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery in Bradford, as part of the City of Culture celebrations.

Member Comments

Members requested an update on the White Rose Rail Station. The Chair acknowledged delays and committed to providing further information at the next meeting.

Members thanked the Chair for support of the Rob Burrow Train event. The Chair reflected on the event's significance, which took place at Castleford Station on 26 September 2025, and praised Northern Trains and Rob Burrow's legacy.

The Chair also highlighted the upcoming Reclaim the Night March on 26 October 2025, a region-wide initiative aimed at raising awareness of violence against women and girls.

6. Project Approvals

(a) Project Approvals - Cross Cutting Approvals - Delivering Benefits to the People of West Yorkshire

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting proposals for the progression of projects across the Investment Priority areas. One scheme was considered for approval under the “Cross Cutting Approvals – Delivering Benefits to the People of West Yorkshire” programme.

Members expressed support for the paper and welcomed efforts to make reports more concise. It was suggested that further detail and performance figures on successful initiatives would be useful outside of the meeting, to help inform future activity and identify areas for expansion.

Mayor’s Cost of Living Emergency Fund

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the change request for the West Yorkshire Mayor’s Cost of Living Emergency Fund programme to increase the Combined Authority’s funding by £750,000, from £3,000,000 to £3,750,000, to increase the scheme outputs as set out in the submitted report and to extend the delivery time frame to April 2027.
2. Approved a delegation to the Combined Authority’s Chief Executive to enter into addendums to the existing funding agreements with the partner councils.
3. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route and tolerances outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within those tolerances.
4. Noted that no programme-level risk or contingency allowance has been established for this scheme.

(b) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 1 - Good Jobs and Resilient Business (Including Entrepreneurialism)

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting proposals for the progression of a scheme under Investment Priority 1 – Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses (including entrepreneurialism), within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy. The scheme relates to the

deployment of accrued funds from the West Yorkshire and York Broadband programme.

Members stressed the need to prioritise digital infrastructure, with poor connectivity continuing to limit business activity. Improvements were urged to reach all areas. A non-voting member welcomed cross-border collaboration between West Yorkshire and York and offered input to the ongoing review.

West Yorkshire and York Broadband Gainshare

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the delegation of authority to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to approve the use of funding from the £6,300,000 West Yorkshire and York Broadband accrued fund. The fund is to be utilised only for capital investment related to digital infrastructure.

(c) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 3 - Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting proposals for the progression of schemes under Investment Priority 3 – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. One additional scheme was also considered for approval.

A member raised concerns about clerical errors in the agenda pack, including incorrect report links and spelling mistakes. These were noted as issues of accuracy and presentation, though the inadvertent errors did not impact the substance of the recommendations.

Brownfield Housing Fund

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the change to the Brownfield Housing Programme to increase the total programme funding by £21,043,998, from £89,038,292 to £110,082,290.
2. Approved the extension of the Brownfield Housing Programme delivery timescales, for new homes to start on site by 31 March 2029.
3. Noted that business case(s) will be presented to future committee meetings to approve the projects the funding is allocated to and to enter into funding agreements.

Bradford City Village Phase 1

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the change to the Bradford City Village Phase 1 outline business case to include a delegation to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to be able to amend the entity name for the grant funding agreement if so required and once determined.
2. Noted the continued approval in principle for a potential grant funded contribution of up to £13,166,409 towards Bradford City Village Phase 1, to be drawn from the Brownfield Housing Fund and subject to conditions agreed at the Combined Authority meeting on 3 April 2025.

National Poetry Centre

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved that the National Poetry Centre scheme proceeds through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commences on activity 3 (outline business case).
2. Approved development funding of up to £367,436 in order to progress the scheme to decision point 3 (outline business case), taking the total scheme approval to £367,436.
3. Approved that the Combined Authority enters into a funding agreement with the National Poetry Centre for funding of up to £367,436.
4. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.
5. Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding of £5,000,000. The estimated total scheme cost is £22,643,595, of which £2,484,000 is for risk and contingency allowances and £342,167 for monitoring and evaluation. Forecast development funding for the scheme to reach delivery is £2,046,588.

(d) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 4 - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting proposals for the progression of a scheme under Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability. One scheme was considered for approval.

A member raised concerns about conflicting policies around battery energy storage facilities, noting that while more capacity is needed, they are often proposed on greenfield sites. The member expressed the opinion that no funding from the Combined Authority should

support solar panels or energy schemes on green belt land. The Assistant Director for Legal, Governance and Compliance noted the complexity of emerging case law and advised that constituent councils would need to develop a local policy position before the Combined Authority could establish its own. The Director for Policing, Environment and Place clarified that the schemes had been brought forward by local authority partners, who were therefore responsible for setting the scheme criteria.

West Yorkshire Mayoral Renewables Fund Grant Scheme

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority, subject to the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero’s approval of funding from the Mayoral Renewables Fund:

1. Approved the change request to the West Yorkshire Mayoral Renewables Fund Grant Scheme to increase the Combined Authority’s funding by up to £1,376,338 to £2,291,176 to deliver more solar and battery storage projects. The total scheme cost is up to £2,531,176.
2. Approved a delegation to the Combined Authority’s Chief Executive to enter into funding agreements / addendums to existing funding agreements with the partner councils.
3. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

(e) Project Approvals - Investment Priority 5 - Delivering Sustainable, Intergrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting proposals for the progression of schemes under Investment Priority 5 – Delivering Sustainable, Integrated, Inclusive and Affordable Transport. Two schemes were considered for approval.

A member questioned rising costs in the Armley Gyrotory scheme and called for more robust reporting. The Transport Capital Programme Director explained the £3.8m increase was due to unforeseen ground contamination and noted that 92% of schemes remain within budget. The A638 Dewsbury to Cleckheaton sustainable travel corridor scheme also required additional funding due to early-stage cost underestimation, with Kirklees Council reducing its scope to manage costs. Lessons are being applied across the wider capital programme, and clawback of unused contingencies at a programme level is under review.

Officers confirmed newer processes now require more rigorous cost assessments. Members were also reassured that future devolution

and longer-term funding will improve planning. The Chair of Scrutiny raised concerns about the lack of a dedicated risk section in reports, and officers agreed to improve transparency in future reporting.

Leeds City Centre Network & Interchange Package: Armley Gyratory

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the change request for the Leeds City Centre Network & Interchange Package: Armley Gyratory scheme to increase the Combined Authority's funding by a further £3,148,000 to complete activity 5 (delivery), taking the total approval to £45,118,000. The total scheme value is £45,118,000.
2. Approved that the Combined Authority enters into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Leeds City Council for funding of up to £45,118,000. This includes a ring-fenced amount of £341,000 for Monitoring and Evaluation, release of which is delegated to the Combined Authority Director.
3. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

A638 Dewsbury Cleckheaton Sustainable Travel Corridor

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Approved the change request for the A638 Dewsbury Cleckheaton Sustainable Travel Corridor scheme to descope Phase 3 of the scheme and increase the Combined Authority's funding by a further £1,760,282 to complete activity 5 (delivery), taking the total approval to £17,560,259. The total scheme value is £17,560,259.
2. Approved that the Combined Authority enters into an addendum to the existing funding agreement with Kirklees Council for funding of up to £17,560,259. This includes a ring-fenced amount of £100,000 for Monitoring and Evaluation, release of which is delegated to the Combined Authority Director.
3. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.

4. Noted that £2,892,165 is assigned for risk and contingency allowances.

7. Portfolio Summary

The Combined Authority considered a report on the impact on available funding of the latest project approvals being sought, as well as those granted through delegated decisions since the September meeting of the Combined Authority.

Members welcomed the Portfolio Summary but noted it was difficult to navigate, especially for the public. Officers acknowledged the feedback and are working to improve presentation. Questions were raised about overprogramming and tracking unused funds; officers confirmed that overprogramming had been used as an agreed mechanism approved by Board to maximise use of funding devolved to the region and progression of schemes was part of programme management. The Chair of Scrutiny called for clearer risk reporting to improve public understanding, and officers agreed to enhance transparency.

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

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

8. Devolution and Integrated Settlement Update

The Combined Authority considered a report updating progress on the Devolution and Integrated Settlement Programme, including preparations for receipt of the Integrated Settlement from April 2026 and a proposed delegation for Outcome Framework submissions.

Members received an update on the Devolution and Integrated Settlement Programme. The Chair welcomed the pace of work and highlighted the importance of achieving Established Strategic Authority status. A member expressed frustration with Treasury delays and queried the status of funding allocations. The Director of Strategy advised that indicative figures were expected shortly to support the Outcomes Framework, and officers noted that similar challenges had been faced in other areas, such as Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Noted the progress made to prepare for implementation of measures set out in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, through the Devolution and Integrated Settlement Programme, and the Programme Plan attached at Appendix 1.
2. Noted the detailed activity underway in relation to receipt and delivery of the Integrated Settlement from April 2026, including anticipated next steps and the work required to receive the Settlement.

3. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and the Director of Strategy, as Senior Responsible Officer, to submit iterative drafts and the final Outcome Framework submissions to Government, in line with the timetable set out at paragraph 3.25 of the submitted report.

9. Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee for consideration

The Combined Authority considered a report presenting recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee on governance and procedural improvements. These arose from recent committee sessions, including the Call-In of the School Travel Policy decision, which was released for implementation.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer would return a further report on implementation of these recommendations at a later date.

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Accepted the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the submitted report and accompanying appendix.

10. Bus Franchising Update

The Combined Authority considered a report providing an update on the Bus Franchising transition programme in relation to fleet provision. The report sought approval of an Outline Business Case for new bus procurement, delegated authority to undertake public consultation, and funding to progress delivery of Round 1 fleet.

Members highlighted the need for public involvement in designing the new bus fleet and called for greater flexibility to meet local needs. Boston Spa was cited as an area facing infrequent services and accessibility challenges, with suggestions for increased frequency and adaptable seating.

One member raised concerns about rising costs, noting that revised government funding for electric buses had increased unit costs, and enquired about potential sources of additional funding or the need for service adjustments.

The Chair acknowledged these points and confirmed that funding integration work was ongoing, reiterating the shared commitment to delivering improved bus services for West Yorkshire.

Before discussing Appendix 1 to Agenda Item 10, the Chair, in accordance with the resolution at Agenda Item 3 (referencing paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972), requested that the public leave the room and the livestream be suspended. The meeting then continued in private session. Following this, the Combined Authority returned to public session to consider the report resolutions.

RESOLVED: – That the Combined Authority:

1. Noted the updates provided in the submitted report.
2. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to commence a public consultation exercise to help inform the final specification of new buses.
3. Approved that the Bus Reform Fleet Provision scheme proceeds through decision point 3 (Outline Business Case) and work commences on activity 4 (Full Business Case).
4. Approved development funding of £85,007 to progress the fleet provision scheme to decision point 4 (Full Business Case), taking the total development funding approval to £1,206,514.
5. Approved release of £29,972,556 to progress delivery of the bus fleet provision for Round 1, taking total scheme approval to £31,179,070.
6. Approved that future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report, subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined.
7. Noted the Combined Authority's potential funding of up to £100,000,000 for Round 1 fleet provision.

11. 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.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Combined Authority was scheduled to take place on Thursday 4 December 2025.

13. Decision Log

The Decision Log is appended below.

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 21st October 2025

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Habiban Zaman

Apologies: Councillor Amanda Pinnock

50 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Pinnock.

51 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

52 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

53 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

54 Deputations/Petitions

Isobel Heeley on behalf of Holmfirth Business Together submitted a petition in relation to the temporary closure of traffic at Hollowgate, Holmfirth.

55 Questions by Members of the Public

No public questions were received.

56 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor J C Lawson

“Following the media attention given to the controversial development at Westgate in Cleckheaton, I have been contacted by several residents in my ward who have similar concerns to those regarding Westgate. Cabinet is aware of the development of 700 homes on former Black Cat Fireworks factory and associated land, a brownfield site. My residents want assurances that their health and wellbeing is not being put at risk by the planned building works that will take several years. Will the relevant Cabinet member outline what tests and procedures are done on brownfield sites, known to be sites of former factories that relied heavily on chemicals and other carcinogenic substances, to ensure they are fit to build homes on? Can he assure residents that these were carried out on the site and is not a risk to their health and wellbeing, and that of future residents?”

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

Question from Councillor Scott

“You stated that the burial land update would be brought back to Cabinet in October. Council adopted the burial land motion on 12 February 2025 and under CPR 14, CPR 13.9, motions agreed by council must be acted upon by Cabinet or the relevant portfolio holder. You informed the Kirklees Bereavement Forum on 11 May 2025, that you would outline the short, medium, and long term solutions within three months ensuring the £500,000 remained ringfenced for Dewsbury. You have failed to deliver on that commitment which is a clear breach of CPR 13.9 of Article 7 relating to the executive duty to implement the Council’s decision transparently. Can you explain why you failed to honour this promise, and when you will find the burial land update and give it to the public?”

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

Question from Councillor Vickers

“Following on from Councillor Lawson’s concerns regarding the former Black Cat development site, the Phase 1 and Phase 2 GO environmental site assessment states on page 4 ‘this assessment has identified the presence of elevated heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, asbestos and total petroleum hydrocarbons C16 and C21’. It then states, ‘further chemical validation samples will be required’. Could the Council confirm that this testing has been carried out, and that the samples have been received by planning?”

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

Question from Councillor Zaman

“The Council’s report relating to the Playing Pitch Strategy in January 2025, lists Sands Lane, Dewsbury as an established cricket ground and notes that the Council will work with the national governing bodies to explore the greatest potential at these sites. Given that public statement of intent, why did the Council decide, just 10 days before the start of the 2025 cricket season, to prohibit cricket being played at Sands Lane without prior notice or consultation with long term users, such as Savile Stars Cricket Club, which has been using the ground since 1995?”

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

57 Increasing Physical Activity in North Kirklees

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Scott, Darwan, Lawson and H Zaman).

Cabinet considered an update following the decision in November 2024 to permanently close Dewsbury Sports Centre due to health and safety concerns and financial constraints. The report outlined findings from an independent engagement exercise commissioned to explore barriers and enablers to physical activity in North Kirklees, with a particular focus on Dewsbury and Batley. The Brightsparks research, gathered responses from nearly 1,000 residents and highlighted a strong community desire for a new sport and leisure facility that would be safe, welcoming, and socially inclusive. The research also identified wider factors influencing physical activity, including affordability, safety, accessibility, and cultural relevance.

Cabinet noted that physical activity levels in Dewsbury and Batley remained among the lowest in the district, with significant disparities affecting women, disabled people, and those from deprived communities. Cabinet was informed that the proposed next steps included commissioning an options appraisal and feasibility study to explore the development of a new facility, alongside immediate work to pilot community-based physical activity offers.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That, in noting the report, approval be given to take the next steps towards developing a new sport and leisure facility.
- 2) That approval be given to commission an external options appraisal and feasibility study to determine:
 - (i) what should be prioritised as part of any new sport and leisure facility, including facilities, co-location of services;
 - (ii) potential site options, including the availability of sites; the capacity and suitability of sites to accommodate new provision; and the accessibility of sites mindful of proposed future housing growth; and
 - (iii) the viability of options to be delivered within new capital budgets additional to the existing capital plan.
- 3) That the proposed immediate work, using insight from the Brightsparks report to develop targeted opportunities to complement existing provision and support people across North Kirklees to be physically active, be noted.

- 4) That it be noted that many factors affect physical activity and agree to keep working with partners to tackle the broader issues that make it harder for people to be active.
- 5) That scrutiny be engaged ahead of, and throughout the next steps of the process.
- 6) That authority be given to the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to execute any documents or instruments in relation to these resolutions.

58 Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-2027 – 12-month update

Cabinet received an update on the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024–2027. The report outlined achievements across the strategy’s three pillars: Compliance, Ambition, and Partnership. Members were informed of the key achievements over the past year which included (i) strengthened community engagement through partnerships (ii) enhanced accessibility and inclusion (iii) progress in inclusive education and (iv) work to foster a diverse and engaged workforce.

Cabinet noted that progress against the strategy demonstrated how the Council was advancing its broader objectives, ensuring that inclusion was not a standalone initiative but a fundamental part of achieving the ambitions set out in the Council Plan. The Inclusion & Diversity Strategy also set out how the Council was fulfilling its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty to set inclusion objectives.

RESOLVED – That the 12 month update on the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-2027 be received and noted.

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE - LOCAL ISSUES

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Nosheen Dad

In attendance: Muhammad Qadri, Project Manager
Phil Waddington, Group Engineer
Gail Bentley, Senior Technical Officer
Matthew Barret, Principal Lawyer

16. **Membership of the Committee**
No apologies were received.
17. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 be approved.
18. **Declaration of Interests**
No interests were declared.
19. **Admission of the Public**
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.
20. **Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
21. **Public Question Time**
No questions were asked.
22. **Member Question Time (Oral Questions)**
No questions were asked
23. **TRO No 1 2025 Lockwood Road Huddersfield Proposed Banned Turning Movements, Lockwood Bar**
The Committee considered the objections received to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) No 1 2025, Lockwood Road, Huddersfield which included banning turning movements between Lockwood Road and Bridge Street, except for buses and cycles.

Cabinet Committee - Local Issues – 10th September 2025

The report was presented by Muhammad Qadri, Project Manager who advised the Committee that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order was critical to the successful delivery of the Lockwood Bar junction improvement scheme, which formed a key part of the wider Huddersfield Southern Corridor project.

It was noted that allowing vehicles, other than buses and cycles, to use the proposed junctions would reduce the effectiveness of the scheme, which aimed to reduce congestion and improve journey times between the south of Kirklees and Huddersfield Town Centre along the A616 corridor. The scheme also aimed to provide active travel facilities to support a longer-term vision of a more cycle-friendly Kirklees.

Several months after awarding the construction contract and before any changes to the junction could be constructed, the previously advertised Traffic Regulation Orders TROs expired.

The original TROs were re-advertised at the start of 2025, with no changes since they were first advertised in 2022, and no objections were received at that time. The new Traffic Regulation Orders for the whole scheme were advertised between the 5 March and 2 April 2025 and 4 objections were received.

The Committee were advised that the objections were concerning 5 key areas which were consultation, fairness, passenger impact, scheme effectiveness, and legal compliance. Officers acknowledged the concerns but maintained that statutory processes had been followed in line with legislation and exemptions were limited to avoid operational and enforcement issues.

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Cabinet Committee – Local Issues then received representations from Atif Mukhtar.

In the discussion to follow, the Committee confirmed that the consultation had been carried out correctly and that Hackney Carriages had been contacted with regards to the scheme as key stakeholders. The Committee also noted that the proposals were important to enable the successful delivery of the TRO and would improve the impact of the wider schemes around Huddersfield.

Having considered all the information presented to it verbally and in writing the Committee agreed that:

RESOLVED: That the objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) No 1 2025 Lockwood Road, Huddersfield be overruled and that the Order be implemented as advertised.

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 26th September 2025

- Present: Councillor John Taylor (Chair)
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Kath Pinnock
- Co-optees: Nicholas Booth
Andrew North
- In attendance: Erin Wood, Information Governance Manager, Governance and Commissioning
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk and Internal Audit
Rachel Spener-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources
Samanth Lawton, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance
Sarah Brown, Head of Welfare and Exchequer, Financial, Transactional Services
Laura Burrell, Electoral Services Manager, Governance and Commissioning
Nick Howe, Policy and Partnership Manager, Strategy, Innovation and Planning
Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton
Councillor Nosheen Dad (Ex-Officio)
Councillor Graham Turner (Ex-Officio)
- Apologies: Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Bill Armer (ex-Officio)

1 Membership of the Committee
Apologies were received from Councillor Angela Sewell.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2025 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No public questions were asked.

7 Representation on Outside Bodies 2025/26

The Committee received the Representation on Outside Bodies 2025/26 report which advised that the Service Director, Legal, Governance & Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) had delegated authority, in consultation with Group Business Managers, to determine nominations to Outside Bodies.

The appointments to outside bodies were reviewed annually, immediately following Annual Council, and a report submitted to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in September.

During discussion of the item, the Committee was advised that the variances in representation were determined by the different categories and restrictions of each Outside Body, and that any vacancies were a reflection of the relevant parties being unable to make a nomination.

RESOLVED- That the Representation on Outside Bodies 2025/26 report be noted.

8 Annual report on Bad Debt Write-Offs 2024/25

The Committee received the Council's Annual Report on Bad Debt Write-Off 2024/25.

Overall, write offs for 2024/25 totalled £5.22 million. The top 5 write off areas related to Business Rates and Council Tax, Adult Social Care, Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery and Housing Revenue Account. It was noted that whilst there was a need to write off debt, it did not mean that the Council would not write debt back on the accounts if new information came to light, and that the Council would incorporate tighter processes and procedures to maximise recovery.

The Council had a good record for collecting income due, and Direct Debits had proven to be a key collection technique in collecting and preventing debit accruing. A Debt Recovery Transformation Project was being developed which would be shared with the Committee as it developed.

During consideration of this item, the Committee was advised that successful business rate appeals were treated as an adjustment to provisions, rather than true write-offs. It was noted that new Government guidance stipulated that business rate evaluations took place every three years to reduce the significant backdating of appeals.

The Committee acknowledged the challenges with development-related write-offs, particularly tracking occupancy triggers and missed collections due to developer insolvency or lack of notification.

RESOLVED- That the Annual report on Bad Debt Write-Offs 2024/25 be noted.

9 Information Governance Annual Report 2024/25

The Committee received the Information Governance Annual Report 2024-2025 which outlined the Council's performance in relation to Freedom of Information (FOI), Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), Subject Access Requests (SARs), Data Subject Rights Requests (DSRs) and Security Incidents. The report focused on compliance, the continued growth of FOI/EIR's and SAR's year on year, the challenges faced, successes, including improved processes and next steps.

It was noted that the SAR backlog continued to be overseen by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and showed signs of improvement due to a shift in processing strategy. The Committee also noted that the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) enabled timely and proportionate risk assessments to be carried out.

During discussion of this item, The Committee acknowledged the need for greater public access to information to help reduce the number of FOI requests but noted the technical and resource constraints. The Committee suggested that a further update on FOI trends and service responsiveness would be useful.

RESOLVED-That the Information Governance Annual Report 2024/25 be noted.

10 Interim Polling District and Places Review 2025

The Committee received the Interim Polling District and Places Review 2025 report which outlined the Local Government Boundary Commission for England changes, that had affected 15 district ward boundaries within Kirklees. A review of the polling districts was carried out to address anomalies and align new ward boundary arrangements ready for the May 2026 elections. The review was conducted in line with statutory guidance and included the Electoral Commission guidance on polling station capacity (2,250 in-person voters) to achieve an equitable balance in the number of polling districts across the wards.

During consideration of the item, the Committee noted that the revised scheme reduced the reliance on the use of school buildings from 23 to 10, with only three schools opting to close. The Committee raised concerns around accessibility and was advised that that all polling stations were disability compliant, and that residents affected by the changes would be notified in writing prior to the election and encouraged to consider a postal vote where appropriate.

It was noted that the recommendation to relabel polling districts codes had been actioned, and that following agreement of the Committee, the electoral register would be updated in Autumn 2025, and a revised electoral register published on the 1st December 2025.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken and noted that polling station arrangements would remain under review.

RESOLVED-

- 1) That the Polling district boundaries as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
- 2) That the Polling scheme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be noted.
- 3) That the Polling districts as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be noted.

11 Community Governance Review Terms of Reference and Timeline

The Committee received a report which detailed the Community Governance Review, Terms of Reference and Timeline.

The Community Governance Review (CGR) was a process that allowed upper-tier councils to review and make changes to the governance arrangements of parishes within their area, and to ensure they continued to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and were as effective and convenient as possible.

On the 16th July 2025, Council agreed to the undertaking of a Community Governance Review in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance, and under the delegation of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to agree the terms of reference and oversee the delivery, which was due to commence on the 1st October 2025.

During discussion, the Committee raised concerns regarding the potential implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, which was still unclear and required further guidance from Government. The Committee also raised concerns regarding the visibility of the consultation, which was noted by Officers and agreed that further efforts would be made to ensure wider community awareness.

RESOLVED- That the Terms of Reference and Timeline for the Community Governance Review as detailed in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

12 External Audit Update Report September 2025

The Committee received the External Audit Update Report from Grant Thornton which outlined the Audit progress as of September 2025 and included Audit Deliverables and Sector Updates.

It was noted that the audit was progressing well with regular on-site engagement. A technical “hot review” had also been undertaken due to the Council’s status. Key enquiries related to long-term debtors and loans to external bodies and would be included in the ISA260 Report.

During discussion of the item, the Committee was advised that the findings of the review on Value for Money (VFM) were expected to be shared and presented to the Committee in January 2026, alongside the ISA260 Report.

RESOLVED- That the External Audit Update Report, September 2025 be noted.

13 External Auditors Recommendation Report

The Committee received the External Auditors Recommendation Report which advised on progress against the recommendation made by the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, in respect of the financial year 2023/24. It was noted that a number of recommendations were in progress, over half had been completed but some were difficult or impossible to fully complete.

The report also contained information from the previous year's Value for Money (VFM) report which had identified three key recommendations. It was noted that while improvements had been made in areas one and three of the report, recommendation, item two of the report remained a challenge due to national factors.

The Committee acknowledged the complexity of tracking and reporting progress against recommendations, and across different time horizons, and suggested that this be taken into consideration for future reports, with clearer commentary to be provided against each recommendation.

RESOLVED- That the External Auditors Recommendation Report be noted.

14 Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 - Quarters 3 & 4

The Committee received the Internal Audit Plan for 2025-26, quarters 3 & 4 report which advised that the Council had an internal audit function lead by the Head of Risk and Internal Audit who reported for governance purposes to this committee. Each year it was necessary to identify how internal audit resources were to be deployed. It was considered good practice to be flexible on the contents of the audit plan but to assure the Committee about structure and focus. The audit plan was set for half a year, based on a risk assessment.

The Committee noted that Internal Audit was a statutory obligation for local authorities and existed to provide independent assurance about the business processes for the Council. Internal Audit work was designed to provide assurance through following a programme of work to give coverage across the organisation areas of risk. The report covered the following areas:

- Audit Planning for quarter 3 and 4 2024/25 (October 2025 – March 2026)
- Fraud Work

During consideration of this item, the Committee acknowledged the resource challenges and the need to defer or remove certain audits from the original schedule.

RESOLVED-

- 1) That the proposed Audit Plan for 2025/26 be agreed.
- 2) That the resourcing position be noted.

15 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 1 2025/26 - April 2025 to June 2025

The Committee received the Internal Audit Quarterly Report 1 which set out the work completed in the first quarter and progress towards the implementation of recommendations made in previous quarterly reports that should be implemented by 30th June 2025.

In the Quarterly report, there were a mix of assurance levels and a small number of fundamental recommendations. In the recommendations progress report, it was noted that two of the fundamental recommendations had been fully implemented, two partially implemented and one was no longer appropriate (Care Phones). Among the significant recommendations, 46% had been fully implemented, 36% partially implemented, with no action on the remaining 18%.

During discussion of this item, the Committee raised concerns regarding data sharing, including inadvertent sharing of data and ensuring appropriate data sharing agreements were in place. The Committee also requested clear timescales against each recommendation to show what progress has been made.

RESOLVED- That the Internal Audit Quarterly Report 1 2025/26 – April 2025 to June 2025 be noted.

16 Agenda Plan 2025/26

The Committee received the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Agenda Plan and noted that the Risk Assurance Process would be considered at the meeting in November 2025.

The Committee also noted the meeting originally scheduled for March 2026 had been brought forward to February 2026.

RESOLVED- That the Agenda Plan 2025/26 be noted.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 4th September 2025

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Paul Moore

9 Membership of the Committee

Councillor J Lawson substituted for Councillor Davies.

Councillor Homewood substituted for Councillor Firth.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bellamy, Kahut and Moore.

10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

11 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

There were no declarations of interest or lobbying.

12 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

13 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

14 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

15 Site Visit - Application No: 2025/90116

Site visit undertaken.

16 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/90116

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2025/90116 – Change of use from class C3 (dwellinghouse) to mixed use dwellinghouse and class E(f) (childminders)

District-Wide Planning Committee - 4 September 2025

and single storey rear extension and raised decking at 42 Birmingham Road, Meltham, Holmfirth.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from (i) Maxine Taylor (applicant), Matt Taylor (on behalf of the applicant's agent), Hayley Moore, Jane Berisha, Harrison Phillips, Hannah Fitzpatrick and Lynne Holden (in support of the application) and (ii) Alison Dumville (on behalf of an objector), Caroline Hartshone and Margaret Hartshone (in objection).

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(3), the Committee received a representation from Councillor Bellamy (local member).

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

- Standard timeframe condition regarding implementation
- Development to be in accordance with plans
- Hours of use
- Restrict the maximum number of children to 9
- Restrict the maximum number of staff to 4
- Operate in accordance with the noise survey and noise management plan
- Operate in accordance with the drop off/pick up management plan.

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

For: Councillors Homewood, J Lawson, Lee-Richards, McGrath, Sokhal and Ullah (6 votes)

Against: (no votes)

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 9th October 2025

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Harry McCarthy

Apologies: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Tony McGrath

17 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Firth, McGrath and Ullah.

Councillor Homewood substituted for Councillor Ullah and Councillor McCarthy substituted for Councillor Firth under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 35 (7).

18 Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED -

That Councillor James Homewood be appointed Chair for the meeting.

19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

20 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal advised they had been lobbied in respect of Application 2025/92103.

Councillor Scott advised that she had also been lobbied in respect of Application 2025/92092.

21 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

22 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

23 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

24 Site Visit - Application No: 2025/92092

Site visit undertaken.

25 Site Visit - Application No: 2025/90439

Site visit undertaken.

26 Site Visit - Application No: 2025/92103

Site visit undertaken.

27 Request for Deferral - Application No. 2025/92103

A request had been submitted for the consideration of Application 2025/92103 to be deferred due to the Ward Councillor who had referred the item to the Committee being unable to attend.

RESOLVED –

That the consideration of Application 2025/92103 be considered at the meeting as scheduled.

28 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/90439

The Committee considered Application 2025/90439 relating to the conversion of an existing listed church to two dwellings, forming new resident's car park, external amenity spaces and associated works at Church of the Holy Innocents, Vicarage Road, Dewsbury.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Emma Cosgriff (on behalf of the Church Commissioners).

RESOLVED –

That consideration of the application be deferred and that the Head of Planning and Development be requested to:

- (i) Review and strengthen the conditions in respect of, but not limited to:
 - (a) The internal works. To include specification of the retention/ preservation/re-use of internal features including the war memorial.
 - (b) Ensure the Construction Management Plan, or any related condition, includes a requirement for further survey work to be undertaken, prior to commencement, in the area proposed for car parking to check for unmarked graves and ensure no unmarked graves will be impacted.
- (ii) Seek information/comment from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Civic Society in respect of the whole of the area within the red-line boundary.
- (iii) Provide the full text of the consultation response from consultees including the Victorian Society and any consultation with the Civic Society and the local community.
- (iv) Include a footnote to ensure the use of permeable/sustainable drainage for the parking area.

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

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Homewood, Lee-Richards, McCarthy, Scott and Sokhal (7 votes)

Against: 0 votes

29 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92092

The Committee considered Application 2025/92092 in relation to the change of use from dwelling (use class C3) to residential care home (use class C2) at 81 George Avenue, Birkby, Huddersfield.

RESOLVED –

That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development, in order to complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below:

1. Development to commence within 3 years.
2. In accordance with plans.
3. Restrict the maximum number of children.
4. In accordance with management plan.

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

For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Homewood, Lee-Richards, McCarthy and Scott (6 votes)

Against: Councillor Sokhal (1 vote)

30 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92103

The Committee considered Application 2025/92103 in respect of the change of use from dwelling (C3) to a children's home (C2) at 17 Far View Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Chris Sentance and Malcolm Sizer (in objection), Jessica Corrales-Ruiz and Johnny Haigh (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED -

That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development, in order to complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below:

1. Standard conditions regarding time scale.
2. In full accordance with plans.
3. Restrict maximum number of children.
4. In accordance with management plan.

District-Wide Planning Committee - 9 October 2025

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

For: Councillors Bellamy, Homewood, McCarthy and Scott (4 votes)

Against: 0 votes

Abstain: Councillors Davies, Lee-Richards and Sokhal.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 25th July 2025

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

In attendance: Councillor Nosheen Dad – Adult Social Care and Corporate
Portfolio Holder
Andy Simcox – Service Director, Strategy and Innovation

Apologies: Councillor Itrat Ali

15 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Itrat Ali.

16 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

17 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

18 Deputations and Petitions

No deputations or petitions were submitted.

19 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

20 Corporate Portfolio Priorities 2025/2026

Councillor Nosheen Dad, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Corporate, gave a presentation in respect of her priorities for 2025/26.

Also present was Andy Simcox, Service Director for Strategy and Innovation. Councillor Dad explained that she had three main priorities within the Corporate element of her portfolio:

Supporting the most vulnerable in Kirklees:

Support was offered to residents in financial crisis working closely with partners, such as third sector organisations, to maximise the impact. This included the effective use of the Household Support Fund (HSF) which facilitated the provision of targeted support and advice services to help people improve their financial circumstances through prevention and building resilience. The HSF was due to be replaced by the new Crisis and Resilience Fund from April 2026.

Championing an inclusive workplace:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 25 July 2025

There was a commitment to making the Council a great place to work by ensuring all staff felt heard, valued, and included. This included working collaboratively with staff, trade unions, and employee networks to support open communication and meaningful participation. As an example, Project Search was a collaborative, supported internship programme, delivered alongside partners, and designed to help young people with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum conditions transition from education into employment.

Delivery of an inclusive and accessible customer service to all our communities:

To ensure that all residents could easily access the services they need through Kirklees Direct (the Council's Customer Contact Centre). The Customer Access Programme was ongoing which focused on improvements for customers and addressing their needs.

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

- The parameters of the portfolio had changed from last year. There was continuity, in particular, in respect of supporting the most vulnerable and championing an inclusive workplace for all staff.
- In terms of welfare changes, and the potential impact on benefits and wider services associated with the replacement of the Household Support Fund (HSF) with the Crisis and Resilience Fund in April 2026, it was explained that detailed guidance was still awaited from the Government. Forward planning work was being undertaken and the changes would be factored into the programme to ensure that nobody fell behind.
- There was an awareness of the impact of transition on residents who might not be eligible under new criteria and ensuring that those that needed extra support were safeguarded as much as possible.
- The hope was that the difference was focussed mainly on the change in approach in terms of building resilience within communities whilst supporting them.
- Further information could be presented once the detail was available, although the timescale between the guidance being received and implementation may be tight.
- There was a very dedicated central advice team which assisted residents to identify any benefits that they were entitled to or other funding that they could access. The Council also worked very closely with third sector organisations on this issue. Ward Councillors who were aware of residents needing support should encourage them to get in touch with the Council's team or third sector organisations who could help them. Communications activity was also undertaken to raise public awareness through the Council's channels to increase uptake.
- If access to services was not working effectively then this led to residents contacting their ward councillors. There were issues with the telephony system and some residents did not have access to online services or found them challenging to operate. It would be helpful to capture the reasons why residents approached councillors to see if there were any recurring themes so that this information could be used to inform improvements. It was also important that ward councillors were able to access the information they needed and get a

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 25 July 2025

timely response to queries to assist them in dealing with their constituents' concerns.

- Analysis of data could also be used in relation to which services people were trying to access, such as the volume of calls and wait times. The Customer Access Programme was considering these issues, including customer expectations and what improvements could be made, and it was acknowledged that data about the contact with councillors could be a key part of that.
- This data could also assist in tracking whether the position had improved.
- Digital inclusion was one of the key issues in the future digital strategy with consideration of making the best use of technology to ensure that it was as simple as possible to use, but also ensuring that the needs of residents were considered and people were not being excluded by any of those sorts of improvements. It was noted that the digital strategy was on the Committee's work programme.
- It would be helpful to know how changes in customer service would be monitored and evaluated, and the outcomes that were expected.
- In addition to the ongoing staff survey, consistent engagement with staff was undertaken through the joint consultative group, the various employee networks and the trade unions. Any ideas from staff about what they would like in terms of engagement or how they could feel more valued and heard were welcomed. There was a wish for staff to feel comfortable in approaching managers with concerns, without worrying about repercussions and to feel that they were heard, were valued and were part of a positive change.
- The current staff survey was live at this point in time, data on the response rate could be provided for Committee Members. Significant efforts were being made to maximise participation and the responses would be used to support future actions.
- The initial point of contact with the trade unions was the Joint Consultative Group but one-to-ones were also being organised for the Portfolio Holder to build that relationship and discuss the priorities and develop two-way support.
- In addition to staff surveys, it was considered that departmental/team meetings which provided a safe space for a catch-up and for issues to be raised could also be very useful. It was acknowledged that this was good practice, to allow engagement on an ongoing basis, and was encouraged within the Council, whilst the survey would provide a snapshot at a particular point in time. It was noted that it could also be helpful in terms of being able to regularly check on the wellbeing of staff, particularly in light of the increase in working from home.
- The work being undertaken by Project Search was very valuable in helping young people move from education to employment.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Corporate be thanked for attending to present her priorities for 2025/26.
- (2) That the stated priorities for the Corporate Portfolio for 2025/26 be noted and the Committee request that a progress report be presented at an appropriate time.
- (3) That a report be added to the Committee's Work Programme in respect of the replacement of the Household Support Fund and the impact on Kirklees' residents.
- (4) That a visit be organised to see the work being undertaken by Project Search.

21 Kirklees Scrutiny Work Programmes 2025/2026

The Chair introduced the Committee's Work Programme for 2025/26.

The Chairs of each of the four standing Scrutiny Panels below, introduced their initial Work Programmes for 2025/26:

- Children's
- Environment and Climate Change
- Growth and Regeneration
- Health and Adult Social Care

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Scrutiny Panel Work Programmes for 2025/26 be agreed.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Work Programme for 2025/26 be approved.
- (3) That the Lead Members be thanked for introducing their Work Programmes and that progress updates be given at future meetings.

22 Concluding Remarks

The Chair provided an update in respect of the Armed Forces Covenant, which had been discussed at the May meeting. Members had recently visited Tommy's Lounge, along with the relevant Cabinet Member; this had proved to be a very interesting and worthwhile visit. He had requested that he be updated in respect of the bid for funding to develop the facility into a 'one-stop shop' to assist veterans. In relation to the Committee's recommendation that all Councillors should take every opportunity to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and to encourage local businesses and organisations in their area to sign, a briefing note was in development to assist them in this.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 12th September 2025

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

In attendance: Councillor Carole Pattison, Leader of the Council
Councillor Graham Turner, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration
Martin Dearnley, Head of Audit and Risk
Mike Henry, Head of Data and Insight
Kelly Hollis, Policy and Partnerships Officer
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance

23 Membership of Committee

No apologies were received.

24 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

25 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

26 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

27 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

28 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

29 Council Plan and Performance Update - Quarter 1 Report 2025-2026

Councillor Carole Pattison, the Leader of the Council introduced the report in respect of the Council Plan and Performance for Quarter 1 of 2025/26, supported by Mike Henry, Head of Data and Insight.

The report had been submitted to Cabinet on 9th September 2025 and included:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 12 September 2025

- Details on activity and delivery against the four priorities within the Council Plan and planned activity for Quarter 2.
- The latest data against the Council's key measures for 2025/2026, including a summary of the direction of travel and planned activity for Quarter 2.
- Benchmarking data to contextualise the demand and performance trends and enable comparison of Kirklees with regional and national rates.

The following points were highlighted:

- **Getting the Basics Right:**
 - Tight budget controls had been maintained.
 - The Highways Capital Plan 2025-27 had been approved.
 - Improvements were being made in respect of the focus on customers.
- **Protecting the Vulnerable and Achieving Inclusion:**
 - Investment had been made into additional provision for children, with good progress towards the improvement and expansion of two special schools.
 - A scheme supporting neurodiversity inclusion had commenced in 14 schools.
 - Modernisation of day care facilities for adults with complex learning disabilities and autism was underway.
 - A dedicated apprenticeship scheme had been introduced to support care leavers.
- **Thriving People and Communities:**
 - Continued strengthening of partnerships.
 - Environmental sustainability improvement activities, including tree planting and management/support for the White Rose Forest partnership.
 - Public safety issues were being addressed.
 - A Physical Activity Strategy was being developed.
- **Local Economic Growth:**
 - The Inclusive Economic Strategy had been approved.
 - Good progress was being made in relation to the Cultural Heart and Dewsbury Blueprint.
 - A range of projects were progressing in Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth and Marsden.
 - The Council's Transport Strategy had recently been approved.
- There were ongoing challenges in respect of:
 - Increased demand for adult social care services.
 - Rising numbers of looked-after children.
 - An increase in incidents of fly-tipping.
- In relation to performance against key measures:
 - The percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans issued within 20 weeks had improved.
 - Significant improvements had been made in addressing damp, mould, and condensation cases in Council properties.
 - A reduction had been achieved in respect of the number of households in temporary accommodation.

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

- In response to a question about the rise in adult social care cases and early intervention and prevention, it was explained that efforts were being made to

help keep people in their homes longer, including through the use of technology. The recently opened day care facility in Mirfield provided respite care and also provided information and support for carers and relatives of people with dementia.

- The increase in fly-tipping was of concern and it was suggested that a comprehensive strategy, including media campaigns, CCTV, convictions and community engagement would assist in addressing this issue. Assurance was given that the fly-tipping strategy was being implemented in phases and additional staff and equipment were in place. A 'blitz' was in progress to clear the backlog, with a target of 8 to 12 weeks.
- The importance of prevention, education and working with the community in reducing the amounts of waste and disposing of waste responsibly was emphasised; fly-tipping needed to be completely socially unacceptable. There had been an increase in the numbers of people prepared to make statements and community groups would not accept adverts such as 'man with a van'.
- It was suggested that some people may be unable to afford the charges for the Council's bulky waste collection service but noted that the charges could be cheaper than other alternatives and may not be as much as residents perceived; discounts were offered in some cases. Suggestions included offering one free bulky waste collection per household.
- Reporting fly-tipping on the website did not generate a response or updates.
- It was important that initiatives such as the 'blitz' on fly-tipping were communicated effectively, and providing timescales was also important.
- Use of the online reporting portal was encouraged as it provided data that could identify hotspots, levels of waste and how long it had been in situ.
- Improvements in the timescales for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) were welcomed, but it was noted that this was an issue that was still being raised with ward councillors.
- Work was being undertaken with schools to provide the support that was needed for children through working in clusters, additional SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) places were being provided and two new schools were progressing. The Authority's strategy was recognised as being good practice.
- In terms of the EHCP complaints process, this had been streamlined and there was a team to deal with these issues. It was noted that the complaints covered a range of issues and that officers aimed to work with parents to be able to access what their child needed.
- Getting the basics right was not just about financing but getting the processes right such as ensuring the necessary equipment and/or staff were available to be able to provide services.
- The sustainability and management of trees planted as part of the White Rose Forest initiative was discussed. There were targets in place for Kirklees and the district was performing well, though long-term maintenance was a separate issue; if they were on Council land they would be maintained by the relevant service(s).
- More detail on the Customer and Access Programme was requested, noting that some residents did not or could not use online facilities.
- The progress on damp, mould and condensation cases was commended. It was explained that there had to be careful management of the different trades involved to achieve this and the backlog had now been cleared.

- The reduction in the use of temporary accommodation was welcomed. In respect of plans to reduce the numbers further, efforts were being made to increase the amount of suitable housing stock and thus reduce reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation, with the first priority being families. Further information could be provided to Members in respect of the length of the average stay in bed and breakfast accommodation.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Leader and the Head of Data and Insight be thanked for attending to present the update in respect of the Council Plan and Performance for Quarter 1 2025/26.
- (2) That the current position be noted and it be recommended that these reports continue to be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis so that Lead Members can pick up any items within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.
- (3) That the Committee requests the provision of further information in respect of:
 - (i) The Customer and Access Programme.
 - (ii) The average length of stay in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation in Kirklees.

30

Devolution Update - Impact on Kirklees and Engagement at Regional Level

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Carole Pattison, presented a report which summarised the contents of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill for the Committee's information and to facilitate consideration of the potential impact on Kirklees and engagement at regional level. Kelly Hollis, Policy and Partnerships Officer was also present for the item.

The following points were highlighted:

- The bill had recently had its second reading in the House of Commons.
- There had been recent changes in Government ministerial roles and it was not known at this stage if there would be any changes to the bill as a result.
- Local government reorganisation would have a less significant impact on Kirklees, as it was already a Unitary Authority.
- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) would be designated as an Established Mayoral Strategic Authority, with a few changes in governance.
- The main impact of the bill would be in relation to the integrated settlement, which was expected to be implemented in April 2026.
- WYCA was working to identify the additional powers and funding that the region would wish to be devolved and was actively preparing for future changes. The relevant workstreams were set out in the report and updates were anticipated in the near future.
- Further detail was awaited from the government across a number of areas including the neighbourhood governance arrangements. Regulations and guidance, on this and other elements, such as the local audit system, would be issued separately following the Bill becoming law.

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

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- There was a need to know how neighbourhood governance would operate. Various methods had been used in Kirklees in the past, such as use of the Place Standard and area committees. Funding would be needed to effectively implement it and allow focus on neighbourhood priorities.
- It was noted that the Local Government Association were advocating for 'new burdens funding' to support neighbourhood governance.
- The restoration of the alternative vote system for electing regional mayors and the proposals for 'Community Right to Buy' were welcomed.

RESOLVED-

- (1) That the Leader and the Policy and Partnerships Officer be thanked for attending to update the Committee.
- (2) That it be noted that further updates will be provided to members of the Committee, via a briefing note, in December 2025 and February 2026.

31

Corporate Risk - Quarter 1 Report 2025-2026

Councillor Graham Turner, Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, introduced the Corporate Risk Report for Quarter 1 2025/26 with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 9th September, supported by Martin Dearnley, Head of Audit and Risk.

The following points were highlighted:

- There had been minimal change since Quarter 4.
- One new risk had been added in respect of project management and delivery. This was to be further developed and was rated amber.
- Two risks had been removed: 'Adult Social Care Assurance Framework' and 'Data Insight for Adults Services' and were now being managed at service level.
- The score for 'Climate Change' had increased due to gaps in skills and staffing affecting the ability to deliver grant-funded initiatives and secure future third-party funding.
- The 'Budget Monitoring and Management' risk score had reduced, reflecting the tracking and control in place, although it was acknowledged that financial risk remained a key risk.
- The score for 'Procurement Processes' had reduced due to the successful implementation of new procedures and staff training aligned with the Procurement Act.
- There were 16 red-rated risks, including 'Medium-Term Financial Sustainability', 'Cybersecurity', 'Contract Management', 'SEND Provision', 'Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation', 'Housing Safety and Quality', and 'Capital Plan Management'.
- An overview of the full register, with information provided in relation to the current and previous risk score, the controls in operation and the actions being taken.

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

- It would be a good idea to have an opportunities register, particularly for areas such as climate change.

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- The co-benefits of action on climate change should be emphasised, such as reduced fuel bills, improved air quality and job creation.
- Issues with staffing and recruitment in climate-related roles was of concern, as this could potentially limit the Council's ability to take opportunities, an example being the Warm Homes Local Funding.
- Climate change was acknowledged as a significant challenge and the view was expressed that, whilst more could always be done, the Council was doing what it could within the constraints. It was noted that the difficulties in recruitment extended beyond local government.
- Local area energy plans were being developed by some other local authorities and this was an issue that the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel should look at.
- Several initiatives were underway in respect of alternative provision for temporary accommodation and there was a strong desire to reduce reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation and improve homelessness support.
- There was a hope that upcoming legislation aimed at regulating landlords and improving housing security for tenants may assist in preventing some homelessness.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, and the Head of Audit and Risk be thanked for attending to update the Committee.
- (2) That the current position be noted and it be recommended that these reports continue to be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis so that Lead Members can pick up any items within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.

32 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 1 2025-2026

Kevin Mulvaney, the Service Director, Finance gave a presentation in relation to the financial monitoring for Quarter 1 2025/26, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 9th September 2025.

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

The presentation went through:

- The revenue headlines.
- Quarter 1 Forecast and Outturn, with a breakdown across each directorate.
- The high-level variations for each directorate.
- Analysis of the variances for each directorate.
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) position.
- Capital headlines and re-profiling.
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) position.

The following points were highlighted:

- A projected overspend of £5.9 million was reported for Quarter 1, noting that this was the lowest Q1 overspend since the pandemic and there was optimism about achieving a balanced budget by year-end.

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- Key financial pressures continue to stem from demand-led services such as Children's Services and Adult Social Care.
- Investment in future service delivery in these areas was ongoing, although the benefits would take time to have an impact.
- Children's Services showed a £3.9 million overspend, primarily due to increased numbers of looked after children, external placements and a rising average weekly cost. It was noted however, that Kirklees compared favourably to statistical neighbours in terms of the numbers of looked-after children.
- Adult Social Care projected a circa £1.7 million overspend, with significant challenges in achieving savings targets related to client income and debt collection.
- Place Directorate faced a £1.5 million overspend, mitigated partially by reserves. The key pressure areas were home-to-school transport, property management and maintenance costs, landbank, parking and highways.
- Public Health, Corporate and Central showed an underspend of £0.7 million, although attention was drawn to additional demand affecting legal services.
- The Council was using contingency reserves to manage pressures, including £1.5 million for home-to-school transport and circa £400k for the delayed care homes transfer.
- The HRA was broadly balanced with minor variances.
- The Capital Plan had been reprofiled with approximately £10 million moved to future years.
- The DSG deficit was forecast to increase by £12.5 million, bringing the cumulative deficit to over £75 million. It was noted that this was a national issue and a White Paper was expected in Autumn 2025 which would establish the Government's approach.

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

- The Council had entered into a 'Safety Valve Agreement' with the Department for Education (DfE) to manage high needs block pressures. The Council had committed £10 million over five years, and Government approximately £2.3 million annually plus a significant additional grant to support the provision of two special schools, with the aim of reducing the cost of external placements.
- In response to a question about the Government's approach and the conditions attached to such agreements, it was explained that the current government was honouring existing agreements but not entering into new ones. It was anticipated that future policy would be included in the upcoming White Paper.
- It was noted that the Council had been commended by the DfE for its work on the Safety Valve.
- The £9.9 million re-profiling of the Capital Plan had been undertaken since the July rollover report and had contributed to reducing borrowing needs. The estimated revenue saving from re-profiling was generally based on approximately £80,000 per £1 million, if borrowing over 25 years, but the calculation was complex as there were two parts, the interest on the borrowing and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration and Service Director – Finance be thanked for attending to update the Committee.

- (2) That the current position be noted and it be recommended that these reports continue to be submitted to the Committee on a regular basis so that Lead Members can pick up any items within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.

33 **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Kevin Mulvaney, the Service Director, Finance gave a presentation on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 9th September 2025.

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

The presentation went through:

- The basis of the Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0.
- The Key Funding and Pay Assumptions.
- An explanation of the 2026-27 Funding.
- 2026-27 MTFS Build Up, including a breakdown by directorate.
- MTFS Summary Position 2026-27 to 2030-31
- Next Steps.

The following points were highlighted:

- The MTFS established the financial framework for the Council's budget planning for 2026-27 to 2030-31 and reflected assumptions in relation to funding, inflation, service demand, and national policy changes.
- A budget gap of £18 million was forecast for 2026/27 which would require some reduction in budget pressures and new savings to deliver a balanced budget.
- The recent changes in the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) were noted and advice was awaited on whether this would change the approach in terms of funding local government.
- The Government's Fair Funding Review consultation had concluded in August 2025 and the response was expected in mid to late October.
- The MTFS assumed Kirklees would gain funding but the Government had stated that the figures were not confirmed. A prudent position had been taken of 60% of the figure from the modelling, which equated to £6.7 million.
- The assumptions in terms of Council Tax increase and pay inflation.
- The position in respect of the Collection Fund and Reserves.
- The key cost and income pressures, across the directorates.
- A cumulative gap of £56.3 million over five years.
- The report would be submitted to Council on 17th September 2025.
- Future action, in the short term:
 - Review and update pressures based on latest information.
 - Finalise Capital Plan review.
 - Give Services three-year savings targets.
 - Await Government response, Local Government Policy Statement, and Chancellor's budget (26th November 2025).
 - Budget proposals to be submitted to Cabinet on 2nd December 2025.

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

- The assumed gain from the Fair Funding allocation was welcomed but was insufficient given the scale of the challenges faced by the Council. It was noted that the gain from Fair Funding was a one-year figure, with potential to rise over the three years.
- In response to queries about the Council's contributions to the West Yorkshire Pension Fund, it was explained that:
 - The fund was currently in surplus and a consultation was underway (closing 3rd October) regarding potential reductions in employer contributions.
 - Representations would be made to support significant savings, whilst recognising the need for sustainability.
 - A 1% reduction in employer contributions could equate to savings of over £2 million.
 - No assumptions had been built into the MTFs, pending the outcome of the consultation.
 - There would not be an impact on members' pensions.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Cabinet Member, Finance and Regeneration and Service Director – Finance be thanked for attending to present the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to the Committee.
- (2) That it be noted that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy was considered by Cabinet on 9th September 2025 and would be submitted to Council on 17th September 2025.
- (3) That the proposed engagement with Scrutiny on the budget proposals for 2026/27, at a dedicated meeting in January 2026, to help inform the development of the proposals in advance of consideration by Cabinet and Council in February 2026, be welcomed.

34 Allocation of Scrutiny Co-optee for 2025-26

The Committee considered a report in respect of the allocation of a co-optee to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

That the appointment of Kevin Evans as a co-opted member on the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel, for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year, be approved.

35 Lead Members' Updates

The Lead Members for each of the Scrutiny Panels gave an update in relation to the work currently being undertaken by their panel:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Health and Adult Social Care
- Growth and Regeneration
- Children's

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The Chair of the Committee provided an update in respect of the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC), reporting that:

- The Council had been awarded the Gold Award in the AFC Employer Recognition Scheme for 2025, in recognition of its outstanding commitment to supporting the armed forces community. Congratulations were offered to all those involved.
- There had been a good response to the introduction of an informal armed forces staff network, with a mix of veterans, reservists, cadet force adult volunteers and family members expressing interest.
- A networking event and drop-in had been arranged in partnership with Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on 24th September 2025.

36 Work Programme 2025-2026

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2025-2026 was submitted for consideration.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Present: Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Aziz Daji
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Graham Turner

Apologies: Councillor David Hall
Councillor Cathy Scott

1 Membership of the Committee

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 35(8) Councillor Crook substituted for Councillor Pattison.

Councillor Munro substituted for Councillor Lawson.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hall and Scott.

2 Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED – That Councillor Crook be appointed to Chair for this meeting of the Committee.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 April 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

5 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information had been submitted in relation to Agenda Item 9 (Minute No.9 refers).

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

8 Senior Management Arrangements - Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on changes to senior management arrangements. The Committee were advised that (i) following the appointment process the post of Executive Director - Children and Families had now been recruited to and (ii) interim arrangements were being put in place to provide leadership capacity on a short term basis of up to six months to the post of Service Director – Highways, Waste and Streetscene due to the absence of the postholder and (iii) with regards to the post of Service Director – Skills and Regeneration, interim arrangements had been put in place to fill the post via a secondment arrangement and that the permanent recruitment process would commence in the Autumn.

The Committee were asked to give approval to the commencement of permanent recruitment to the post of Service Director – Commissioning, Quality and Partnerships (formerly Service Director – Resources, Improvement and Partnerships) in accordance with Chief Officer recruitment practices. It was noted that the title of the post had been amended following a review of the portfolios of the Service Directors within the service area.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the recent appointment of Executive Director for Children and Families be noted.
- 2) That (i) approval be given to commence permanent recruitment to the post of Service Director – Commissioning, Quality and Health Partnerships (formerly Service Director – Resources, Improvement and Partnerships), in accordance with Chief Officer recruitment procedures and (ii) a Member Appointment Panel be convened to recruit to this post.
- 3) That the interim operational arrangements for Place Directorate be noted.

9 Review of Returning Officer Remuneration for Local Elections

(The report included exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely it contains information relating to financial and business affairs of third parties (including the Authority holding that information)).

The Committee gave consideration to a report which sought to review the Council's approach to remunerating the Returning Officer (RO) for local elections, in order to recognise the personal responsibility attached to this function.

The Committee noted that the Returning Officer role, held by the Chief Executive, carried personal statutory responsibility which is separate from their duties as Chief Executive, and while fees are currently paid for regional and national elections, no such arrangement exists for local elections in Kirklees.

The report explained that the proposed remuneration would align with the government's methodology for national elections, applying a rate of £475 per 10,000 electors, with a locally agreed application of 53.5%. Based on the current electorate

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of 319,308, this would result in a fee of £8,114.34. The cost would be absorbed into the elections budget and adjusted over the next five years.

The Committee noted that this approach would ensure consistency with national standards and reflect the personal accountability of the RO. The decision would not affect existing arrangements for regional and national elections, and any changes would be reflected in future pay policy statements.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the payment of a fee to the Returning Officer for the delivery of local elections, equating to a fee per 10,000 of the electorate of 53.5%, in line with the current locally agreed approach for national and regional elections.

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 31st July 2025

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Mark Thompson

Apologies: Councillor Susan Lee-Richards

- 10 Membership of the Committee**
Councillor Cathy Scott attended for Councillor Paul Moore and apologies were received from Councillor Susan Lee-Richards.
- 11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED –
That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th June 2025 be approved as a correct record.
- 12 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying**
No declarations of interest or lobbying were received.
- 13 Admission of the Public**
All items were considered in public session.
- 14 Public Question Time**
No questions were asked.
- 15 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 16 Site Visit - Planning Application 2024/91853**
Site visit undertaken.
- 17 Site Visit - Planning Application 2024/92105**
Site visit undertaken.
- 18 Site Visit - Planning Application 2025/90577**
Site visit undertaken.

19 Planning Application - Application No. 2025/90577

The Committee considered Application 2025/90577 to vary Conditions 4, 5 and 7 (landscaping) on previous permission 2013/90204 for the erection of 42 dwellings, formation of associated site access, and drainage and landscaping works at land off Cowrakes Road, Lindley, Huddersfield.

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

RESOLVED –

That authority to refuse the application be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development for the following reason:

The deletion of the previously approved pedestrian connection would result in the development and the surrounding neighbourhood being insufficiently permeable, walkable and connected and active travel and the use of sustainable modes of transport would not be sufficiently enabled or encouraged contrary to Policy LP24dii of the Local Plan and Chapters 8 and 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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

For: Councillors Homewood, Pinnock, Scott, Sokhal and Thompson (5 votes)

Against: Councillor Armer (1 vote)

20 Planning Application - Application No: 2024/91853

The Committee considered Application 2024/91853 for the erection of 21 dwellings with garages, formation of adoptable road, private road and parking spaces, and new car park and beer garden for the Liberal Club at Birkenshaw Liberal Club, 10 Croft Street, Birkenshaw.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Joe Flanagan (agent) and Paul Frain (applicant).

RESOLVED –

(1) That approval of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to:

(a) complete the list of conditions including those contained within the report, as set out below, and subject to the amendment of Condition 11* to require an updated Construction Management Plan to include provisions to ensure operation of the Liberal Club is maintained during construction, including in respect of deliveries, bin emptying and customer parking:

1. Three years to commence development.
2. Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
3. Materials for walls and retaining structures shall comprise of Marshall's Cromwell reconstituted pitched face stone.
4. Surfacing and drainage of approved vehicle parking areas.
5. Visibility splays to be provided.

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6. Means of access to and from the site shall be in accordance with the preliminary access design(s) show on plan ref: PRGN-2318-HGM-DR-CH-0001C.
7. Management of waste.
8. Highway condition survey.
9. Relocation of bus stop.
10. Development undertaken in accordance with Noise Impact Assessment.
- 11.* Development in accordance with Construction Management Statement.
12. Submission of a remediation strategy.
13. Implementation of remediation strategy.
14. Submission of Verification Report.
15. Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
16. Construction Environment Management Plan (Biodiversity).
17. Submission of a Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan (LMMP).
18. Details of cycle storage for all dwellings.
19. Provision of pedestrian connection.
20. Removal of permitted development rights for outbuildings and extensions on all dwellings.
21. Detailed design scheme for foul surface water and land drainage.
22. Roofing materials – prior to their use.
23. Development in accordance with Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.
24. Development in accordance with Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
25. Development in accordance with Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan.
26. Unexpected tree works.
27. No obstruction over or within 3 metres of the public water main.
28. Submission of a scheme detailing the location and cross-sectional information and construction/design details for all new retaining walls/building retaining walls adjacent to the existing/proposed adoptable highway.
29. Submission of a scheme detailing the location and cross-sectional information and construction/design details for all new surface water attenuation tanks/pipes/manholes located within the proposed highway footprint or influence zone of highway loading.

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

1. Affordable Housing – 3 x First Homes (14% provision).
2. Public Open Space – Off-site contribution to local Public Open Space of £57,615.35.
3. Highways – £10,000 towards funding waiting restrictions at the site access onto Old Lane.
4. Management and Maintenance – Management and maintenance of drainage features in perpetuity (unless adopted by the statutory undertaker), informal Public Open space on site in perpetuity and Biodiversity Net Gain measures for a minimum of 30 years.

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

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

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Pinnock, Scott, Sokhal and Thompson (6 votes)

Against: 0 votes.

21

Planning Application - Application No.2024/92105

The Committee considered Application 2024/92105 for alterations to convert former offices to 21 apartments (Listed Building within a Conservation Area) at Wesley House, Huddersfield Road, Birstall, Batley.

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

RESOLVED -

That determination of the application and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development in order to assess the bat survey, with regard to the roof and potential habitat value, and re-consult with Kirklees Council Ecology Team. Further to which:

- (i) If no bats, or bat roosts are found, or Kirklees Ecology conclude that suitable conditions may be imposed to mitigate anticipated impacts, approve the application subject to conditions, including those set out in the report, as set out below:
1. Three years to commence development.
 2. Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
 3. Roof lights to be conservation type, flush with the roof slope.
 4. Pointing and mortar to be in keeping with existing.
 5. If any additional ventilation is required, prior consent needed from the Local Planning Authority.
 6. Any existing original features shall be retained and protected.
 7. Obscure glazing to side elevation opening.
 8. Waste storage shall be appropriately located.
 9. Ecological mitigation (subject to bat survey outcome),

together with an additional condition in respect of a Construction Management Plan, to include specific provisions to protect the existing gravestones within the site.

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- (ii) if bats are found and are inhabiting / roosting in a manner that would preclude the development so as to form a strong reason for refusal, determine the application on that basis.

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

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

Against: Councillor Scott (1 vote)

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