



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

Committee:
Date:
Committee Clerk:
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COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026
Andrea Woodside
01484 221000

Chair

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Councillors Attended

Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor John Lawson

Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Habiban Zaman

Apologies

Councillor Martyn Bolt, Councillor Tanisha Bramwell, Councillor Damian Brook, Councillor Aziz Daji, Councillor Paola Antonia Davies, Councillor Zahid Kahut, Councillor Jo Lawson, Councillor Gwen Lowe, Councillor Paul Moore, Councillor Darren O'Donovan, Councillor Ashleigh Robinson, Councillor Will Simpson, Councillor Alex Vickers and Councillor Adam Zaman

**8: Half Yearly Monitoring on Treasury Management Activities
2025/2026 (Reference from Cabinet)**

To receive the half yearly monitoring report on treasury management activities for 2025/2026.

Contact: James Anderson, Accountancy

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

11: 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."

RESOLVED – Motion approved.

12: 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 on weekdays 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 Act became law in October 2025 and aims to improve the performance, accessibility and quality of bus services across the country. Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough, Tom Gordon, submitted an amendment to the Bus Services (No. 2) Bill when it was debated in Parliament, and called on the Government to remove the 23:00-09:30 exception to free travel for disabled people. The amendment received support from over 75 MPs, disability charities and campaign groups, but 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 to:

- 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 last year, as it 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."

RESOLVED – Motion approved.
