

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 11 March 2026**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Elizabeth Smaje) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Timothy Bamford	Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Martyn Bolt	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 Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Caroline Holt	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Harry McCarthy	Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Kath Pinnock	Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Alex Vickers	Councillor Habiban Zaman

153 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillor Cahal Burke had recently passed away and invited tributes from Councillor J C Lawson and Councillor A Smith.

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Council received tributes to Elected Members who would be retiring from service at the forthcoming local elections, namely Councillors Addy, Ali, Dad, Khan, Longstaff, Lowe, McGrath, McKerchar, Munro, O'Donovan, Sewell and Simpson.

154 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Addy, Ali, Bramwell, Daji, Lowe, McGrath, Safdar, R Smith, Ullah and A Zaman.

155 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

156 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

157 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), Council received a petition from Councillor Taylor requesting action in regard to dangerous zebra crossings.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, the petition would be referred to the relevant Executive Director.

158 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council received a deputation from Akhtar Kasia regarding the disposal of Batley Baths.

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

159 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

160 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 4 December 2025 were received and noted.

161 Proposed Revisions to Financial Procedure Rules (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

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

RESOLVED – That the revisions to Financial Procedure Rules, as set out at Paragraph 2 of the report, be approved.

162 Proposed Revisions to Contract Procedure Rules (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

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

RESOLVED – That the revisions to Contract Procedure Rules, as set out at Paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

163 Proposed Revisions to the Constitution (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

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

RESOLVED – That Council (i) notes the changes made to the Constitution in 2024/2025, as listed in the appendix to the report and (ii) approves the proposed changes to the Constitution as set out at paragraph 2 of the report.

164 Dates of Council Meetings - 2026/2027 Municipal Year (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

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

RESOLVED – That the schedule of Council Meetings for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year be approved.

165 Cooper Bridge Improvement Scheme – Acceptance of delegated non-executive functions from Calderdale MBC to Kirklees MBC (Reference from Strategic Planning Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Homewood, seconded by Councillor Turner and

RESOLVED – That Council

- 1) Provides approval for Kirklees MBC to accept the delegation by Calderdale MBC of all necessary non-executive powers and functions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Housing Act 1980 necessary to deliver the Scheme.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport, to negotiate and agree the terms of the Agreement with Calderdale MBC to enable the delegation of the non-executive powers and functions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Housing Act 1980 set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 3) Delegates authority to the Service Director for Legal, Governance & Commissioning to seal and complete the Agreement and enter into any and all additional legal documents necessary to accept the delegation of the specific non-executive powers and functions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Highways Act 1980 as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 4) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport, and the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to accept the delegation of any specific additional non-executive powers or functions not listed at Appendix A from Calderdale MBC should such powers or functions become necessary to enable Kirklees MBC to deliver the Scheme and to negotiate and agree the terms of any additional legal agreement required to effect the delegation of non-executive powers or functions.

- 5) Delegates authority to the Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning to seal and complete any supplemental or additional legal agreement or legal documents necessary to accept the delegation pursuant to resolution (4), above.

166 Member Development Framework (Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Dad, seconded by Councillor Pattison and

RESOLVED – That Council approves (ii) the Member Development Framework as set out at Appendix 1 of the report and (ii) delegates authority for any minor amendments and consequential constitutional changes to the Code of Conduct or other relevant constitutional documents, incorporating reference to the Framework, to the Monitoring Officer.

167 Response to Motions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5(o)

Council received, for information, the responses to the following Motions which had been approved at the meeting held on 17 December 2025; (i) Disabled Bus Access (ii) Growing Epidemic of Violence towards Women and Girls and (iii) Firework Use, Enforcement and Community Safety.

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

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“What action does the Council propose taking to ensure that pupils and parents can safely access Highburton First School, given the poor state of Northfield Lane?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“Who is responsible for keeping the Spen Valley Greenway clean, safe and well lit?”

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

“Where a long-term vacant commercial or industrial site is located within or adjacent to a residential community, will the Cabinet Member outline what steps the Council takes to ensure the site remains safe, secure and does not pose a risk to neighbouring residents?”

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

“I have recently been contacted by residents who access their homes via an unadopted, privately owned access route and associated parking area which provides the sole vehicular and pedestrian access to their properties.

The surface is significantly degraded, with deep potholes, persistent surface water and inadequate lighting, creating safety concerns for pedestrians, vehicles and potentially emergency service access.

I understand that, as the land is privately owned and unadopted, primary responsibility rests with the landowner. However, where such an accessway serves multiple residential properties and residents have no alternative means of access, could the Cabinet Member clarify the statutory powers that the Council may have where the condition of an unadopted access route raises potential public safety concerns and what practical steps the Council can take to support residents where engagement with the landowner has not been successful?”

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

Question from Councillor McCarthy

“Many residents have been in touch with us regarding the appalling state of Manchester Road between Linthwaite and Milnsbridge. This is the main arterial road through the Colne Valley, and the frequency and size of potholes across this stretch of road is so great that cars have to swerve to get around them, presenting a real safety risk to motorists and pedestrians. The number of potholes is so great that it is not possible to record them all on the council’s online reporting system, as there is a limit to the number of potholes that can be reported in one location, and you cannot report new road defects within a certain radius of an already reported defect.

Could the Cabinet Member please outline the steps the council will take to carry out emergency repairs to this section of road, and consider this road for full resurfacing in the upcoming highways capital plan for next year?”

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

169 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Council received the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 2 December 2025 and 13 January 2026 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 19 November 2025.

170 Holding the Executive to Account

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

171 Minutes of Other Committees

Council received the Minutes of (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee held on 28 November 2025 and 30 January 2026 (ii) District Wide Planning

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Committee held on 27 November 2025 (iii) Health and Wellbeing Board held on 25 September 2025 (iv) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 5 December 2025 and (v) Strategic Planning Committee held on 23 October 2025, 4 December 2025 and 15 January 2026.

- 172 **Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 173 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Establishing a Formal Fast-Track System for Home Adaptations for Residents Living with Motor Neurone Disease**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 174 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Defending Civil Liberties - Absolute Opposition to Digital ID**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 175 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protecting the Green Boundaries between Kirklees Towns and Villages**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 176 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Review of the Communal Grounds Maintenance Charge**
Motion withdrawn.
- 177 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Further Support for Armed Forces Veterans**
Motion withdrawn.
- 178 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Supporting Local Pubs through VAT Reduction**
Motion withdrawn.