

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 9th September 2025

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

Co-optees

In attendance:

Observers:

Apologies:

33 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of Cabinet were present.

34 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hawkins declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Items 16 and 17 (Minute No.s XXX refer) on the grounds that he had been actively engaged with the groups involved throughout the process.

Councillor A U Pinnock declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 16 (Minute No. X refers) on the grounds that a family member was involved in the scheme.

35 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

36 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information was contained within Agenda Item 12.

37 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

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38 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were received.

39 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

"I've received concerning emails regarding the construction in Cleckheaton. Knowing that houses around the site have tested positive for various types of asbestos, can you tell me at what stage public health would intervene?"

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

Question from Councillor Cooper

"I checked what support was available to help households insulate their homes and came across the warm homes local grant on the Government website. It said if you are eligible and your local council has funding available they will arrange a home survey to see how your home could be made more energy efficient. They will then organise and pay for any improvement work they have agreed with you. The government website said that Kirklees was not participating, whereas neighbouring local authorities had secured funding. Why is Kirklees not participating in this scheme to help residents, did we not apply or was the application not successful?"

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

Question from Councillor Scott

"At Kirklees we originally had three planning committees, we reduced those to two and we are now finding that there is a backlog in planning, and committees are not sitting. Its worrying that we have Members that are asking for applications to be directed to Committee and that the Chair is making the decision that applications can't go to Committee. This isn't right, we have people losing money because of this."

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

"A recent gala charity event at our local wreck was a statement that the community takes pride in its shared spaces and that together we can transform places into spaces that we can all value. The park has long struggled with fly tipping and ASBO issues but it became a clean welcoming hub last Sunday. We are asking for visits from the relevant Cabinet Members to this site as it has now reverted back to being a fly tipping area with anti social behaviour. We are asking for regular maintenance and support from the Council to enable regular community events, children's activities during the summer and a space where everyone feels welcome and connected."

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

Question from Councillor Ali

“With regard to Westgate, Cleckheaton, I don’t feel that we have fully explored the concerns of the local community. I would like this to be halted to look at the preventative measures that we have in place to reduce the dust and going forward the local community needs to be spoken to. There is a public meeting at 7pm on Sunday 14 September at St Luke’s Church and we should be responsible in addressing the concerns of the local community.”

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

Question from Councillor Safdar (on behalf of Councillor Bramwell)

“The questions are in regard to flytipping and potholes and repeated failures to deal with such issues. Cllr Bramwell has reported mattresses in Westtown at the end of summer, and chased this up but the mattresses are still there and more rubbish has been dumped. Waste remains uncollected and residents are angry and losing faith. When will the Council finally admit its repeated failures to complete most basic tasks and respond to reports? What real action will be taken to improve this lacklustre service?”

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

40 Council Plan and Performance Update Report - Quarter 1 2025/2026

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

Cabinet received the Council Plan and Performance Update Report Quarter 1, 2025/2026 which provided information on progress against the 2025/2026 Council Plan priorities, and performance against key measures during the period.

The report provided a narrative against each of the four council plan priorities and against key measures by setting out an update on progress and activities delivered in the quarter and planning activities for the next quarter. It also provided a summary of key issues which were (i) the number of people open to adult social care had risen by 6.5% and the number of nursing and residential service users was higher than the national average (ii) the number of Looked After Children had risen by 12% over the past 12 months and (iii) the number of flytipping incidents had risen by 8% compared to the same period 12 months ago.

Cabinet noted that, in terms of highlights, (i) the timeliness of EHCPs had improved significantly during Quarter 1 (ii) the number of open damp, mould and condensation cases had reduced significantly during Quarter 1 and (iii) the number of households in temporary accommodation had reduced by 20% compared to 12 months ago.

RESOLVED - That the Council Plan and Performance Update Report – Quarter 1 2025/2026 be noted.

41 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 1, 2025-2026

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

Cabinet gave consideration to the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report, Quarter 1 2025/2026, which provided an update on the financial position as of 30 June 2025, together with key risks.

The report advised that the projected overspend at Quarter 1 of £5.9m for the General Fund was the lowest Quarter1 forecast overspend since covid. The report provided a breakdown of the projected outturn financial monitoring position in relation to (i) forecast general fund revenue outturn position 2025/2026 by service area (ii) general fund reserves and balance movements in year (iii) forecast housing revenue account revenue outturn position including movements in housing revenue account reserves in-year and (v) treasury management prudential indicators.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 1 for 2025/26 (£5.9m overspend) be noted and that it be further noted that Executive Directors have been asked to bring forward sustainable proposals to reduce the overspend to bring the budget back into balance.
- 2) That it be approved that £149k of the budget amendment for Christmas week bin collections be redirected to support the Flytipping Strategy (£100k) and the Kirklees Clean-Up project (£49k).
- 3) That the Quarter 1 forecast that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit is forecast to increase by £12.5m in 2025/26 to £76.3m be noted.
- 4) That the Quarter 1 forecast HRA position as £181k overspend and forecast year-end reserves position of £14m be noted.
- 5) That the Quarter 1 forecast capital monitoring position for 2025/26 be noted and approval be given to a further net reduction in the 2025/26 position of £9.6m due to £9.9m re-profiling (£7.2m General Fund and £2.7m HRA) into future years.
- 6) That £0.4m net increase in the overall capital plan (£0.3m 2025/26, £0.1m 2026/27) due to increased grant and S106 contributions be noted.
- 6) That the Quarter 1 treasury management prudential indicators be noted.

42 Corporate Risk Report - Quarter 1, 2025-2026

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the Corporate Risk Register for Quarter 1 2025/2026 and provided an assessment of risks faced at a significant corporate level. The report outlined major corporate risks and assessed their risk score alongside any movement from the previous quarter and provided a summary of processes and controls that may be in place to monitor and mitigate identified risks.

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Risk Report – Quarter 1 2025/2026 be noted.

43 Council Budget Strategy Update 2026-2027 and following years (Reference to Council)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out an update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, providing the framework for the subsequent budget setting process and future financial planning.

The report advised that the commencement of this financial strategy coincided with significant changes that were expected to all local authorities through Fair Funding 2.0 and the planned implementation of multiyear settlements. Cabinet were informed that local authorities were expected to receive the provisional local government finance settlements in November 2025. It was noted that the report made a number of prudent assumptions with regard to the impact of fair funding.

The report explained that there was a cumulative estimated budget gap over the five year medium term financial year strategy up to 2030/2031 of £56.3m, with the most immediate issue being the 2026/2027 forecast gap of £17.9m, caused by ongoing cost pressures, particularly in social care.

The report identified four key priorities of (i) a balanced budget and modern organisation (ii) protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion (iii) thriving people and communities and (v) local economic growth and working with regional and national partners.

Cabinet noted the information provided in the report which set out an update on (i) quarter one budget monitoring (ii) overarching principles of the financial strategy (iii) risk and uncertainty within the financial strategy, including the fair funding review (iv) council tax equalisation (v) risk (vi) update of the medium term financial strategy (revenue) 2026/2031 (vii) specific funding assumptions and portfolio assumptions (ix) medium term capital plan 2025/2033 (general fund) (x) general fund revenue budget (xi) collection fund and (xii) dedicated schools grant and housing revenue account.

The report indicated that the cumulation of this work would be that Cabinet would make initial budget proposals in December 2025, prior to consideration at Budget Council in February 2026.

RESOLVED – That the following recommendations be approved and that the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 17 September 2025;

- 1) That the key risks to the delivery of the budget in 2025/26 outlined in the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring report be noted, and that they be subject to consideration as part of the Budget Monitoring reports submitted to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis;
- 2) That the uncertainty as to the precise level of future funding for the Council and the assumptions around the potential impact of Fair Funding Review 2.0 be noted.
- 3) That the update and the revised budget gap to the MTFs for the period 2026/27 to 2030/3, as shown at Appendix A, be noted and that, in view of the uncertainty with some of the assumptions upon which the Strategy is based, it will remain under review as the Council's budget process progresses.

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- 4) That it be noted that there is a significant gap of c£18m in 2026/27 which requires either reduction in budget pressures and/or new savings proposals to be brought forward.
- 5) That the scenario analysis (Appendix C) which models 'worst'/'best' case scenarios around the baseline MTFs as part of the assessment of potential risks facing the Council be noted.
- 6) That the current Capital Plan (Appendix D) reflecting updated General Fund funding assumptions prior to the completion of the Capital plan review and a revised HRA Capital Plan with updated funding be noted.
- 7) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be agreed.
- 8) That in consultation with relevant Cabinet Members, Officers be requested to identify and bring forward budget savings proposals as part of the provisional budget report which will be initially considered by Cabinet in December 2025 and then a final budget report be presented for approval by Cabinet/Council as part of the development of the final budget for 2026/27 in February 2026; (subject to consultation as set out (11) below).
- 9) That it be noted that funding assumptions made in this report may be subject to change when the provisional local government finance settlement is published by Government.
- 10) That the timetable set out at Appendix E for the development of the Council's Budget for 2026/27 be noted.
- 11) That the proposal to undertake consultation on the budget proposals in late 2025 with a view to informing decisions on the Council's budget for 2026/27 be noted.
- 12) That subject to the continuation of the Business Rates Pooling arrangements, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, to determine whether the Council should continue as a member of the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool in 2026/27.

44 Our Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint, Phase 2 Gateway 4
(The report included exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely that it contains information relating to financial and business affairs of third parties (including the Authority holding that information). It was considered that the disclosure of the information would adversely affect those third parties, including the Authority and therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the rights of an individual or the Authority, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness and transparency in relation to public expenditure in the Authority's decision making).

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out an update on the progress of Phase 2 of Our Cultural Heart. The report advised that Phase 2 would progress to the Gateway 3 and 4 process and that further approval was sought to sign off the conclusion of the pre-contract services agreement and Gateway 4, to award JCT the construction contract and commence construction works onsite.

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The report provided an update on Phase 1, which included the library and public realm space, by outlining the contractor's progress on site. It also set out proposals for the demolition of remaining retail units in preparation of the next phase (phase 3) and sought approval to procure and award the retail demolition contract.

Cabinet noted the overview of the remaining phases of the masterplan, including the feasibility study to develop the option of land at Queen Street as a multi storey car park. The report advised that the costs relating to operational costs and costs for the preparation of opening and ongoing operation of the facilities would continue to be reviewed.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That, in regards to the Conclusion of Phase 2 Gateway 4 & Enabling Works, authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration to sign off the conclusion of Phase 2 Gateway 4 including the contractors design proposals, planning and listed building consent matters, the RIBA 4 design, the construction programme, the construction contract and the contract sum and if required to maintain the optimum programme and subject to approval of Recommendation 6 to instruct any necessary enabling works from the Phase 2 Construction Budget during the PCSA period prior to the conclusion of Phase 2 Gateway 4.
- 2) That, in regards to Construction Partner, Phase 2, JCT Construction Contract, authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Service Director (Finance) and the Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration) to make the decision to award the JCT construction contract and start works on site and that if the award would exceed the Phase 2 Construction Budget the matter be brought back to Cabinet.
- 3) That, in regards to Demolition Partner, Retail Demolition Contract, authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Service Director (Finance), the Head of Procurement and the Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration) to make all necessary preparations to secure vacant possession of the Piazza Shopping Mall including serving notice on the remaining tenants and occupiers and ending all contracts, procure and then award the demolition contract either as part of Phase 2 or as a separate contract and start works on site and that if the award would exceed the Retail Demolition Budget the matter will be brought back to Cabinet.
- 4) That, in regards to SDP, Architect and Engineer Services and Extension of Appointments, subject to agreement on fees and in line with the Council's procurement process and Contract Procedure Rules, approval be given to continue the services being provided by the Client construction delivery team (SDP, architect and the engineer) to progress Phase 2 to Gateway 5 and the procurement and completion of the retail demolition, and that it be noted that

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same delivery team is providing the necessary services on Phase 1 and the rest of the feasibility work on the master plan.

- 5) That, in regards to Construction Budget for Phase 1 Gateway 5, Phase 2 Gateway 5, Retail Demolition & Master Plan Allowances, approval be given to the further draw down of £58.228m, thereby increasing the committed funding for the programme from £78.957m to £137.185m.
- 6) That, in regards to Reallocation of Budget to Operational Services, approval be given, subject to no other sources of funding being available, the reallocation of funding from the Construction Budget to fund the West Yorkshire Archive Service (£265k) archive cleaning pre-opening capital costs as part of Phase 1 and IT costs (£200k) for Phase 2.
- 7) That, in regards to Reallocation of Budget for Internal Staff Costs and Property Costs, approval be given, subject to no other sources of funding being available, the reallocation of funding from the Construction Budget to fund the council's internal staff costs associated with the construction delivery (£2m) and property costs (£750k) as set out in Section 3.2 of the report.
- 8) That, in regards to Deliver the Programme to Phase 1 Gateway 5 (end of construction), Phase 2 Gateway 5 (end of construction) , Retail Demolition & Develop the Master Plan, authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place) to work within approved budgets to deliver the project management, design and construction of the programme to Phase 1 Gateway 5, Phase 2 Gateway 5, retail demolition and develop the master plan.
- 9) That, in regards to, Complete the Agreement to Lease and the Lease for the Phase 1 Food Hall Tenant, authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Service Director (Finance) and the Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration) to conclude the tenant selection process, negotiate the commercial terms and complete the Agreement to Lease, and the Lease.
- 10) That, in regards to, Operational Services Additional Budgets Phase 1 & Phase 2, it be agreed that the Executive Director (Place), Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Public Health and Corporate Resources) in consultation with the Service Director (Finance) review and monitor the relevant service pre and post opening costs of the various phases of the Our Cultural Heart programme, and that the Service Director (Finance) shall ensure that the requests and estimates are added to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and be further refined as updated information becomes available.
- 11) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to negotiate, agree, enter into all agreements and enter into and execute any documents necessary to enable the delivery of the Our Cultural Heart project to proceed.

45 Kirklees Transport Strategy, Consultation Results and Adoption

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the results of the publicity campaign and consultation activity undertaken on the draft Kirklees Transport Strategy.

The report advised that the draft Kirklees Transport Strategy, which had been subject to public consultation from 3 March to 28 April 2025, had received over 2000 responses from individuals, organisations and businesses. Cabinet were informed that an analysis of the responses had resulted in a redraft of the document to reflect the responses to the consultation and that the report presented the results of this consultation and engagement activity prior to the adoption of the strategy.

It was noted that a better approach to transport would help deliver against the Council's core priorities and place a stronger focus on more sustainable forms of transport in helping to achieve a greener, healthier Kirklees. The report advised that, subject to adoption, the strategy would establish the Council's transport ambition, support decision making, direct future funding bids, project activity and spend, and would remain fully aligned with the key priorities in the Council's Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Transport Strategy, as attached at Appendix E, be endorsed and that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place, be delegated authority to make any necessary changes to the Strategy and formally adopt the Strategy.

46 Simpler Recycling in Kirklees

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought agreement for the Council to comply with simpler recycling legislation for residential recycling collection from 2028 through the collection of all compliant materials via the collection method required within legislation, from the start of the new waste disposal and treatment contract in 2028.

The report also highlighted how the recycling collection model would critically link with the new integrated resource and waste management procurement, which was previously approved by Cabinet in 2024.

The report advised that a decision was required to comply with simpler recycling legislation from 2028, which would allow the service to model an effective and efficient collection model, which would be implemented following the end of the existing waste treatment and disposal model, in line with guidelines set out within EPR funding and would enable the service to develop a complaint model that could be adopted for the new disposal and treatment contract, starting in 2028.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to planning for the implementation of a simpler recycling collection model, in line with legislative requirements.
- 2) That it be agreed that a new model will be implemented for recycling collections, which will commence in 2028, subject to the submission of a report to Cabinet to seek approval to commence a new contract.

- 3) That approval be given to the development of options for a future collection model that complies with simpler recycling legislation at the relevant time during the procurement process for the new integrated resource and waste management services contract.

47 Kirklees Lane Rental Scheme

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out the proposal of a Council Lane Rental Scheme and sought authority to apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for powers to operate the scheme. The report advised that such applications needed to be submitted by 1 October 2025.

Cabinet noted that the scheme was a regulatory framework which would allow highway authorities to charge utility companies and contractors a daily fee for occupying the most traffic sensitive roads at the busiest times with the aim of incentivising faster, more efficient roadworks and minimise disruption to road users. The report advised that, subject to approval by the Secretary of State, the implementation of the scheme would enable the reduction of disruption from roadworks, improvements in air quality and making improvement times more reliable.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the commencement of the statutory consultation be noted.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Highways and Waste) to (i) consider the results of the statutory consultation (ii) determine the contents of the Lane Rental Scheme (iii) determine whether to make an application and of the timing of the submission to the Department of Transport (DfT), and if DfT/Secretary of State for Transport (SoS) approval is granted, to implement the Kirklees Lane Rental Scheme and (iv) to determine the governance arrangements for the Surplus Income Board.
- 3) That the content of the Integrated Impact Assessment as set out at paragraph 3.5 be noted.

48 Community Asset Transfer of the Hudawi Centre, Great Northern Street, Huddersfield

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Community Asset Transfer of the Hudawi Centre, Great Northern Street, Huddersfield, to the Black Business Support Agency Community Interest Company.

Cabinet noted that the granting of a long leasehold would be in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy 2020 and would provide the Community Interest Company with the security needed to satisfy grant funder requirements whilst ensuring that the building remains available to the local community for the long-term future.

RESOLVED - That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Development), in consultation with Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration), to negotiate and agree terms with BBSA (Black Business Support Agency) C.I.C for the grant of a 125 year lease for the Hudawi Centre and instruct the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute all necessary documentation in connection with the grant of the lease.

49 Community Asset Transfer of the DRAM Centre, Ridgeway, Dalton, Huddersfield

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Community Asset Transfer of the DRAM Centre, Ridgeway, Dalton, to Moldgreen ARLFC Community Interest Company. The report advised that the transfer of the property would support the aim of allowing local people and communities to have greater control over the delivery of local assets and services.

Cabinet noted that the granting of a long leasehold would be in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy 2020 and that a long leasehold would give the Community Interest Company the security to ensure that the building and sports pitches remain available to the local community for the long term future.

RESOLVED - That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Development) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration), to (i) negotiate and agree terms with Moldgreen ARLFC (DRAM Holdings) for the grant of a 125 year lease for the DRAM Centre and (ii) instruct the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute all necessary documentation in connection with the grant of the lease.