

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 2nd December 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

Observers: Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin

59 Membership of Cabinet

No apologies were received.

60 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

61 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

62 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

63 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

64 Questions by Members of the Public

No public questions were received.

65 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Cooper

“Is the Leader aware of the government's solar for schools’ programme, which is a £100m solar programme being delivered by Great British Energy? 250 schools

across the country will benefit from this programme which has helped schools reduce their energy bills and demonstrates the value of renewable energy in cutting their carbon emissions. In West Yorkshire, eight schools are scheduled to have solar panels under this scheme. Two schools in Bradford, two schools in Calderdale, two schools in Leeds, two schools in Wakefield, but no schools in Kirklees. When the scheme was announced in March this year, did Kirklees suggest some schools or didn't we bother?"

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

Question from Councillor J C Lawson

"Why is it that pockets of Kirklees land, vested with the housing department on both Springdale Avenue and Springdale Street in Thornton Lodge, are not being cleared in a timely fashion? Why are my residents living on Springdale Avenue subjected to having to live next door to land that is overgrown, fly tipped, with vermin often being seen in and around the site with it still in situ for months and possibly years later because it is deemed to be Kirklees housing land. Why is there disparity in clear clearing the land just because it is vested with Kirklees housing? If this was private land, I'd have requested environmental enforcement help in contacting the landowners to get it cleared long ago. My residents deserve better. Can the cabinet lead for housing confirm when the land on Springdale Avenue will be cleared and what measures will be put in place?"

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

66 Council Proposed Budget Report 2026/27; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account

Cabinet considered a report which provided the Council's proposed budget for 2026/27 for consultation, which included the Capital, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The report set out details of the overall budget position prior to the submission of a final budget to Council in February 2026.

The report explained the application of financial strategy and that the proposed budget included estimated changes to the Council's main sources of income, corporate expenditure and service pressures based upon current information. Cabinet noted that the draft budget balanced the council's ambition to transform and improve services for residents while focusing funding on local people and services that needed support the most. It built on the significant investment coming into Kirklees while setting a stable and prudent platform for service and economic development for future years.

The report advised that a public consultation on the proposals would take place from 3 December 2025 to 7 January 2026 and that a summary of the outcome would be presented at Cabinet on 10 February 2026.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That it be noted the proposed budget was balanced based on assumptions around the potential impact of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 as outlined in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in September. It was noted these assumptions may be subject to change when the provisional local government finance settlement was published by Government (expected mid-December) and furthermore once the final settlement was published. A balanced budget must be set no later than 10th March 2026.
- 2) That approval be given to a 5 week consultation on the Proposed Budget for 2026/27 starting on 3 December 2025 and closing on 7 January 2026. This includes the proposed 2.99% increase in core Council Tax and the 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept.
- 3) That the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2026-27 year and indicatively the following 2 years (Appendix B) be noted;
- 4) That it be noted the Proposed Budget for 2026/27 presented in the considered report was based on the approval and delivery of £6.9m of new savings for 2026/27 as identified in the report (Appendix D).
- 5) That the forecast levels of statutory and other Council reserves as set out at Appendix C be noted;
- 6) That the proposed savings as set out in Appendix D be noted.

Capital

- 7) That the draft updated Capital Plan for 2025-33 for consultation as part of the budget (Appendix E) be noted
- 8) That it be noted the proposed release of £57.7m uncommitted budget across the multi-year capital plan (£1.3m 2025/26, £56.4m 2026/27 onwards) to assist treasury management of the capital financing budget
- 9) That the proposed addition of £35.1m budget towards a new sport and leisure facility in North Kirklees (£0.1m feasibility 2025/26, £35m construction budget 2028/29 – 2032/33) be noted.
- 10) That it be noted that following changes to the operation of business rates pools set out by Government, there would be no Leeds City Region business rates pool in 2026/27.

Housing Revenue Account

- 11) That it be noted that the proposed budget including rent and service charges increases for the HRA which was considered as a separate report at the meeting.
- 12) The Integrated Impact assessments referred to in paragraph 3.5 be noted.

67

Rent & service charge setting for Housing Revenue Account properties for 2026-27

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

Cabinet considered a report which provided the financial context and basis for the annual rent and service charges inflationary uplift for 2026-2027, which would form part of the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals.

Cabinet was advised that, if approved, the approach to maximises rent and service charge income, ensured compliance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to have a balanced HRA and the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and the rent standard. The approach ensured sufficient resources were available to invest in tenants' homes, prioritising safety and maintaining compliance with the decent homes' standard.

The report outlined that the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget was £115m, whereby 28% was budgeted to be spent on repairs and maintenance, 24% on management costs, 5% on community facility costs which was recoverable through a service charge, 10% to be spent on extra care schemes which was recoverable through grant, rents and service charges, 23% to contribute to the cost of capital and major works, 7% for financing costs and 3% for other provisions and taxes.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the rent uplifts by an average of £4.19 per week (CPI, 3.8% +1%) and service charges payable between 0.01p and £0.87 per week (4.8%) from 1 April 2026, after taking into consideration the affordability to tenants, as summarised in Appendix 1
- 2) That approval be given to the increase the rent by a further £1 or £2 per week in line with the government announcement to move towards rent convergence.
- 3) That approval be given to increase the service charge for communal grounds maintenance services capped at £1.00 per week each year until full cost recovery is achieved.
- 4) That approval be given to increase the charges for Extra Care Services – Intensive Housing Management to be uplifted by between £1.47 and £3.74 (4.8%) and Extra Care Services – Night Care Service to be uplifted by £1.13 per week (4.8%).
- 5) That the national and local financial challenges outlined as part of the HRA budget proposals for 2026-27 be noted.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Housing to approve any changes to the rate for sheltered heating and district heating.
- 7) That the draft HRA Revenue Budget for 2026/27 be recommended to Council in February 2026 for approval as outlined at appendix 2
- 8) That the revised proposed five-year Capital Plan Budget be recommended to Council for approval as outlined at appendix 6. (Funding summary Appendix 4)

68

Proposed Updates to Procurement Strategy

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for proposed updates to the Procurement Strategy, which was prompted by the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 and the Provider Selection Regime. The report also sought

approval of an Ethical Procurement Policy and Ethical Code of Conduct for Suppliers.

Cabinet noted that whilst the existing Procurement Strategy remained relevant, it had been refreshed and updated to ensure alignment with legislation and to reflect what had been achieved since the strategy was introduced. The revised strategy would remain in effect until 2028.

The report advised that the Ethical Code of Conduct would apply to all suppliers and individuals acting on behalf of the Council, whether directly or through subcontracted arrangements, for contracts valued over £25,000 (excluding VAT), initiated from January 2026 onwards. Adherence to this Code would be a mandatory requirement for engagement with the Council.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the updated Procurement Strategy.
- 2) That approval be given to the introduction of an Ethical Procurement Policy and Supplier Code of Conduct.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Legal & Commissioning, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to make any minor amendments required to the Procurement Strategy, the Ethical Procurement Policy and Ethical Code of Conduct for Suppliers.

69 Marsden Master Plan - Approval and Next Steps
(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors McCarthy and McLoughlin, and under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37 received a representation from Mr Tom Lonsdale).

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for the Masterplan for Marsden and the proposed next steps.

The report advised that the Masterplan was non-statutory, but it signalled political and institutional backing which would enhance funding credibility, enable market engagement and help align stakeholder priorities. Although the Masterplan did not have formal planning status it would be used as a consideration in the determination of planning applications where appropriate. Cabinet also noted that funding for additional design development, momentum would be maintained to align with the emerging proposals for the New Mills development.

The report outlined that the Masterplan set a 10-to-15- year vision for change, with it serving as a baseline for ongoing engagement, project development, and future investment. The plan aimed to strengthen community life, improve public spaces, protect heritage, support the local economy, deliver affordable housing, and promote sustainability. The New Mills redevelopment was central to this vision, acting as a catalyst for wider improvements and would address local priorities for housing, employment, heritage, parking, and public realm.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the final draft Masterplan, as appended to the considered report, be noted.
- 2) That the Masterplan be approved.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration to finalise the Masterplan document and formally adopt the plan.
- 4) That the Masterplan be published on the Council's website to form the basis for informing investment decisions in the masterplan area.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration to continue to develop the masterplan, its principles and the propositions along with approval to spend up to £140,000 to progress design development on Peel Street as the initial priority project.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Service Director for Finance, Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning, and the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Regeneration, to agree all necessary legal agreements with any potential external funders and for the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into, on behalf of the Council, any external funding agreements and/or legal formalities related to the Masterplan.

70

Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 2 2025-26

Cabinet received a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 2.

The report advised that the forecast outturn position at Quarter 2 was an overspend of £5.1m which was the lowest Q2 forecast overspend since Covid and that the additional resources included in Directorate base budgets as part of the 2025/26 budget were having the desired effect in that the majority of the projected overspend related to delays in delivery of savings.

The report provided a breakdown of the projected outturn financial monitoring position in terms of (i) forecast general fund revenue outturn position in 2025/2026 by service area (ii) general fund reserves and balance movements in year (iii) forecast Housing Revenue Account outturn position including movements in the Housing Revenue Account reserves in-year (iv) forecast capital outturn position in 2025/2026 and (v) treasury management prudential indicators.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That it be noted the revenue outturn position at Quarter 2 was a forecast overspend of £5.1m (Q1: £5.9m) and that there would be a requirement to balance the budget using reserves should the overspend remain;
- 2) That it be noted the Quarter 2 position on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was an in year deficit of £14.7m (2024/25 £20m) to take the cumulative deficit to £78.5m;
- 3) That it be noted the Quarter 2 HRA position was a projected underspend of £318k and any underspend would be taken to HRA reserves at year end.

That it also be noted the current forecast year end reserves position was £19m;

- 4) That the Quarter 2 forecast capital monitoring position for 2025/26 as set out in the accompanying slides (Appendix 1 slides 39-43 and Appendix 3) be noted along with a proposed net reduction in the 2025/26 position of £29.3m due to (i) £28.9m re-profiling of spend into future years (£23.4m General Fund and £5.5m HRA) (ii) £0.8m net increase in the capital plan due to increased grant and S106 contributions (iii) approval to fully fund injection into the capital plan for an MHCLG Community Cohesion Grant (£170k) and WYCA Mayoral Renewables Grant Phase 1 (£110k) (iv) delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place and Service Director Finance to accept Mayoral Renewables Grant Phase 2 in the event the Council is successful with its bid (v) approval of the draw down of a fully repayable £250k from the Investment & Modernisation Fund towards an Energy Efficiency Invest to Save Scheme for LED lighting and control upgrades across six Council-owned leisure centres operated by Kirklees Active Leisure (KAL) and (vi) that as a means of helping reduce revenue overspends, an exercise to identify expenditure that could be charged to capital would be undertaken. Any such capitalisation would be funded from capital receipts.
- 5) That the Quarter 2 treasury management prudential indicators (slide 43-57, Appendix 1) be noted.

71 Q2 2025/26 Council Plan and Performance Update Report

Cabinet received the Quarter 2 2025/2026 Council Plan and Performance Update Report which provided information on progress against the 2025/2026 Council Plan priorities, and performance against the 2025/2026 Council key measures.

The report outlined that during Q2 2025/26, performance improved in several areas which included (i) the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (ii) stability for looked after children (iii) freedom of Information requests completed on time (iv) improved Business Rates collection (v) the fall of open damp, mould and condensation cases and (vi) non-emergency housing repairs completed within timescale.

Cabinet was advised that some challenges remained which included (i) an increase in the number of adults aged 18–64 open to social care services (ii) Council Tax collection rates being slightly lower than last year; and (iii) sickness absence remaining high.

RESOLVED – That the Quarter 2 (2025/2026) Council Plan and Performance Update Report be noted.

72 Corporate Risk Report, Quarter 2 2025-26

Cabinet received the Corporate Risk Quarterly Report (2) 2025/2026 which provided information about an assessment of risks faced by the Council at a significant corporate level.

The report highlighted the importance of having effective risk management arrangements for part of a strong assurance and governance framework and it was noted that identifying current and potential future controls played a key role in this.

The report advised that risks remained stable during the quarter with no new risks raised and no risks removed. It was noted that there would be continual monitoring and reporting through the Council's governance and management processes.

RESOLVED – That the Quarter 2 (2025/2026) Corporate Risk Report be noted.

- 73 Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge - Kirklees Council Action Plan Progress Report**
Cabinet received a report which set out a summary of the report produced following the Local Government Association (LGA) progress review carried out on 23 September 2025. The report also highlighted the progress against the actions contained within the action plan.

The report advised that the LGA acknowledged the progress that the Council had made on delivering its recommendations made in November 2024. The LGA recognised the continued strengthening of working relationships between the Leader, Cabinet, Chief Executive, and Senior Management Team, which brought stability, clarity, grip, and renewed energy to the Council. The peer team also observed greater confidence, tempered with realism, within the senior political and managerial leadership regarding their approach to current and future challenges.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Council's progress update against the LGA recommendations, along with the delivery status ratings, be noted.
- 2) That the progress review report produced by the LGA from their September 2025 visit be noted.

- 74 Surplus Property Disposals - December 2025**
(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors J C Lawson and Cooper).

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to the disposal of land and property as outlined within the Capital Receipts Schedule as appended to the report.

Cabinet noted that the Council had a capital receipts target of £6M in Financial Year 2025/6 and £4M in 2026/7 with sites for disposal either at auction, private treaty or through freehold reversion based on previous cabinet reports and the scheme of delegations. The report advised that whilst there were some assets declared surplus in previous Cabinet reports that were still to be disposed of, by identifying additional assets as surplus, it provided further opportunities to support the Capital Plan through capital receipts either in 2026/27 or future years for which further targets of £4M had been set.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the disposal of the land and property within the Capital Receipts Schedule December 2025 as appended to the considered report, to support the Council's income targets subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration.

- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place to negotiate and agree terms and complete the sales of any land and property identified within the Capital Receipts Schedule December 2025 to support the Council's income targets on such terms as officers deem most appropriate.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning authority to enter into all agreements necessary to affect any of the disposals.

75 Huddersfield Health Innovation Incubator Programme

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to receive external funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) to deliver the Huddersfield Health Innovation Incubator (HHII) programme.

Cabinet noted the HHII programme was part of a partnership with the University of Huddersfield and Huddersfield Innovation and Enterprise Centre Ltd trading as the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre. The programme would create wrap around support for businesses in the health, wellbeing and digital sectors that were seeking to start-up or scale up. It would also deliver tailored start-up support, workspaces, events and networking activity and would create a thriving community of businesses, academics, clinicians and other professionals focused on supporting and embedding innovation across health and care systems.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the delivery of the Huddersfield Health Innovation Incubator.
- 2) That approval be given to accepting external revenue funding of £2,023,576.25 from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to support delivery of the programme, and for the Council to act as Accountable Body for the grant.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning, to agree all necessary legal agreements with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the flow down grant agreements with the Council's project delivery partners the University of Huddersfield and 3M Buckley Innovation Centre.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into the aforementioned documentation in resolution (3) on behalf of the Council and for the Executive Director for Place to put in place the necessary governance arrangements for the programme.
- 5) That authority be delegated for the implementation of the programme to the Executive Director for Place to include the commencement and award of any related procurement exercises and for the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into the associated legal formalities and documentation on behalf of the Council.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and the Service Director Finance to submit grant claims and to undertake related project monitoring and reporting in accordance with the contract procedure rules and finance procedure rules.