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Kirklees Council

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield.

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 — 1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council Meeting held on 20 May 2026.

4: Declaration of Interests 9 - 10

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: Election of the Leader of Council 11 - 20

To elect the Leader of the Council, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

8: Appointment of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

To appoint to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, if applicable, pursuant to Agenda Item 7.

(In accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be from a different political group to the Leader of the Council).

9: **Pay Policy Statement (Reference from Personnel Committee)** 21 - 40

To consider the report.

Contact: Steve Mawson, Chief Executive

10: **Written Questions to Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

To receive written questions to Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

A schedule of written questions will be published. One supplementary oral question will be permitted.

11: **Minutes of Other Committees** 41 - 108

(i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
(ii) District Wide Planning Committee
(iii) Health and Wellbeing Board
(iv) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
(v) Personnel Committee
(vi) Standards Committee
(vii) Strategic Planning Committee

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

- Appeals Panel (Councillor Bramwell)
- Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (Councillor Amjad)
- District Wide Planning Committee (Councillor O'Leary)
- Health and Wellbeing Board *(awaiting appointment)*
- Licensing and Safety Committee (including Licensing Panel and Regulatory Panel) (Councillor Howard)
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee *(to be appointed at Agenda Item 8)*
- Personnel Committee (Councillor Anwar)
- Scrutiny Panel – Children's (Councillor Vickers)
- Scrutiny Panel – Environment and Climate Change (Councillor Moughtin)

- Scrutiny Panel – Growth and Regeneration (Councillor T V Bamford)
- Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care (Councillor Kasia)
- Standards Committee (Councillor Armer)
- Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor Amjad)
- Kirklees Active Leisure (Councillor Fallas)
- One Adoption Joint Committee *(awaiting appointment)*
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority *(awaiting appointment)*
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Weaver Network Board *(awaiting appointment)*
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor Khalid Patel)
- West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee *(awaiting appointment)*
- West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Mark Smith)

13: 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 Neuron Disease

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Darwan (Independent);

Signatory: Councillor Ahmed

“This Council notes that

Motor neurone disease (MND) is one of the most devastating and unforgiving conditions imaginable. It advances with a cruel and relentless pace, leaving families little time to adjust to the profound changes it brings. A third of those diagnosed will die within a year; half within two. For those living with MND, every day truly matters.

In such circumstances, a safe and accessible home becomes far more than bricks and mortar: it becomes security, independence, dignity and comfort at a time when these are most fragile. Yet the swiftness with which MND progresses means that home adaptations must be provided not merely promptly, but with genuine urgency.

At present, Kirklees Council does not publish a fast-track process with defined, shortened statutory timescales for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications. While it is acknowledged that urgent cases are prioritised through the Council’s triage system, this informal approach, however well-intentioned, does not offer the clarity, consistency or speed required by those whose needs can change dramatically in a matter of weeks.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association, in its report A Lifeline Not a Luxury, highlights examples of best practice across the country and recommends the creation of formal fast-track pathways for people with progressive and terminal illnesses. These systems ensure that vital adaptations are delivered swiftly, sparing families avoidable distress and preventing crises that carry greater emotional and financial costs.

This Council believes

That every resident facing a progressive or terminal condition deserves a timely, compassionate and clearly defined route to the support they urgently require.
That early and decisive intervention preserves dignity, reduces avoidable hospital admissions, and protects individuals from becoming trapped in homes no longer suited to their rapidly changing needs.

And that Kirklees should adopt a standard worthy of its values transparent, humane and fit for the realities of MND.

This Council therefore resolves

To request that the matter be referred to the Council's Scrutiny process and that the relevant Scrutiny Panel be requested to review the implementation of (i) to (iv) below;

(i) To publish the Council's fast-track process for the assessment, approval and delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant home adaptations for residents living with progressive or terminal conditions, including MND.

(ii) To request that any necessary works and adaptions to support residents are carried out within a reasonable timeframe and as soon as is practically possible.

(iii) To ensure that the fast-track process is transparent and accessible to residents, families and professionals, with clear guidance published on the Council's website

(iv) To request that the Council works in close partnership with local health, social care, and care providers and patient representative organisations to ensure the Council collectively prioritises and responds to urgent health, housing and care needs arising for any residents experiencing any rapidly progressing life-limiting condition, including MND.

In adopting this motion, we affirm that in Kirklees, compassion is not optional, and timeliness is not a courtesy it is a duty. Though we cannot halt the course of MND, we can ensure that no residents spend a single day longer than necessary waiting for the dignity, comfort and safety they so urgently need."

14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Defence of Civil Liberties - Opposition to National Digital Identity Schemes

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed (Independent);

Signatory: Councillor Darwan

"This Council notes:

1. That His Majesty's Government is advancing proposals which may result in the introduction of a national digital identity system, thereby fundamentally altering the manner in which individuals interact with public services and the state.

2. That national digital identity scheme gives rise to serious concerns in respect of civil liberties, including the expansion of data collection, increased monitoring, and the potential for state or corporate surveillance.

3. That there are well-documented risks relating to data security, breaches of privacy, and the prospect of "mission creep" once such systems are established.

4. There is no clear or compelling evidence that a national digital identity system would deliver benefits that are either necessary or proportionate for local communities, whilst the risks of exclusion and discrimination particularly affecting residents without access to digital devices, reliable connectivity, or adequate digital literacy are substantial.

5. That previous attempts to introduce national identity cards in the United Kingdom were abandoned due to widespread concerns regarding cost, intrusiveness, and incompatibility with democratic principles.

This Council believes:

1. That the right to live freely, without undue monitoring or surveillance by the state or private corporations, is a fundamental pillar of a democratic society.

2. That national digital identity systems risk undermining public confidence, creating additional barriers for vulnerable residents, and normalising an excessive reliance on personal data.

3. That access to essential public services should not be contingent upon the possession or use of digital identification.

4. That local authorities have a duty to protect the privacy, dignity, and fundamental freedoms of the communities they serve.

This Council resolves:

1. To request that the Leader of the Council, on behalf of Full Council, write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department (i) expressing this Council's firm opposition to the introduction of any national digital identity scheme whether mandatory or voluntary (ii) setting out this Council's opposition to national digital identity proposals and (iii) calling for such proposals to be withdrawn.

2. To request that the Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive write to the Local Government Association (LGA), urging it to oppose the development, trial, or implementation of any national digital identity system that may erode civil liberties or exclude residents.

3. To reaffirm this Council's commitment to safeguarding residents' privacy, autonomy, and access to public services without the requirement for digital identification."

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

To consider the following Motion submitted by the Independent Group;

Signatories: Councillors Zaman, Amjad, Daji, Kasia, Kahut, Hussain, Anwar, Bramwell, Patel, Ahmed and Darwan.

"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.

4. There is no safeguard stopping future administrations from increasing the charge beyond £1 per week.

5. The brown-bin 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 the findings are brought to the most appropriate Scrutiny Committee for examination at the earliest available meeting.

3. Request that Cabinet ensure that tenants are fully consulted, and that their experiences, concerns and preferences directly inform the review and its outcomes.”

16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to A Proposal to Improve Community Safety across Kirklees (through targeted action against antisocial behaviour, dangerous parking and reckless driving, including measures to improve safety outside schools and in town centres)

To consider the following Motion submitted by the Conservative Group;

Signatories: Councillors Sheard, Taylor, R Smith, Armer, T Bamford, T V Bamford, Bolt, Brook and Smaje.

"This Council Notes

- Persistent concerns from residents across Kirklees regarding antisocial behaviour, dangerous parking, and reckless driving.
- Ongoing complaints from parents, schools, and local communities about vehicles parking on school keep-clear markings, double yellow lines, and pedestrian crossings, particularly at peak times.
- That inconsiderate and illegal parking outside schools creates avoidable and significant dangers for children, parents, and other road users.
- That many town centres and residential areas continue to experience nuisance vehicles, repeated traffic violations, and behaviours which undermine public confidence and community safety.
- Evidence from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) that approximately 1,200 school children are injured each month across the United Kingdom in traffic-related collisions within a 500-metre radius of schools.
- The vital role played by School Crossing Patrol Operatives in ensuring children's safety on their journey to and from school.

This Council therefore resolves that Cabinet be requested to

- Work with West Yorkshire Police and other relevant partners to identify locations outside schools and within town centres where persistent road safety concerns exist, and explore appropriate enforcement and traffic management measures.
- Consider Increasing enforcement against vehicles obstructing (i) school keep-clear zig-zag markings (ii) pedestrian crossings (iii) bus stops (iv) pavements and access routes and (v) double yellow lines where safety is impacted.
- Enhance the reporting, recording, and monitoring of near-miss

incidents involving School Crossing Patrol Operatives, ensuring data is used to inform enforcement and safety improvements.

- Explore the provision of body-worn cameras for School Crossing Patrol Operatives to support the documentation and prosecution of drivers who fail to comply with stop signals.
- Work with schools, residents, ward councillors, and West Yorkshire Police to identify antisocial behaviour and road safety hotspots requiring targeted action.
- Explore and implement technologies that support the enforcement of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), particularly in relation to school keep-clear zig-zag restrictions.
- Review and improve parking restrictions, road markings, and street layouts around school entrances to ensure clear sightlines and safe crossing conditions for pedestrians.
- Report back to councillors within six months on progress, including potential pilot schemes, estimated costs, enforcement options, and delivery timelines.
- Continue to lobby for stronger neighbourhood policing visibility and more robust action against persistent antisocial behaviour and repeat traffic offenders across Kirklees."

17: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Tackling Poverty and Saving the Council Money through Enhanced Advice Services

To consider the following Motion submitted by the Green Group;

Signatories: Councillors A Cooper, Lee-Richards, Allison, Vickers, Safdar, Jabar, T Cooper, Jawaid, Burton, Duffy, Price and Knight.

"This Council notes:

1. That the ongoing cost-of-living crisis continues to have a severe impact on residents across Kirklees, with rising housing costs, energy bills and food prices pushing more households into hardship;
2. That poverty in Kirklees is deepening, with local voluntary and community organisations reporting increased demand for crisis support, debt advice, housing assistance and welfare support;
3. That residents on low incomes often experience clusters of interrelated problems (housing, debt, benefits and health)

which escalate if left unresolved, driving increased demand on local authority services;

4. That recent UK evidence demonstrates that timely legal and welfare advice can prevent problems from escalating into crisis, reducing risks of homelessness, worsening health and long-term poverty, all of which carry significant cost to local authorities;

5. That research linking advice services with local authority data shows that people receiving advice experience average income gains of approximately £153 per month and reductions in poverty, primarily by securing correct benefit entitlements and resolving issues early;

6. That evidence shows investment in advice services is not only a support function but a cost-effective preventative measure, reducing downstream expenditure on homelessness, crisis support and other statutory services and therefore saving public money;

7. That holistic advice models, such as those delivered by the Council's three key advice partner services, are particularly effective because they:

    a. Address multiple issues simultaneously

    b. Maximise household income

    c. Reduce repeat demand across services

8. That advice services play a critical role in preventing evictions, sustaining tenancies and supporting residents through housing crises, thereby reducing pressure on homelessness services and temporary accommodation;

9. That advice services increase the take up of benefits which feeds additional revenue into the local economy and increases Local Authority income by demonstrating higher need under the UK government's Fair Funding Formula;

10. Core funding for advice services in Kirklees has reduced in real terms to around a quarter of what it was 10 years ago.

This Council believes that:

1. Despite the dedication of council officers and the voluntary sector, the current system of advice, benefits support and referrals is too poorly funded to effectively meet rising levels of need;

2. A more integrated approach led by core advice agencies and bringing together council services, advice providers and voluntary organisations—would:

- Improve access to services, early intervention and prevention;
- Reduce failures by Council departments to meet statutory duties, thereby saving time and costs in both Council and advice service teams;
- Deliver better outcomes for residents

3. Better use of data and partnership working can support earlier identification of residents at risk, enabling proactive intervention and improved service coordination;
4. Enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of advice services would improve outcomes, reduce overall Council expenditure, boost the local economy and align with the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and inequality.

This Council resolves that Cabinet is asked to:

1. To prioritise the development of a fully integrated, prevention-focused approach to advice services and poverty reduction in Kirklees, including:

- To strengthen partnerships with its recognised key advice organisations: Kirklees Citizens Advice & Law Centre, Fusion Housing and Huddersfield Mission;
- To increase support for early, specialist advice provision to prevent escalation of housing, debt and welfare issues
- To embed a holistic, person-centred model of support across services

2. To develop a Kirklees Advice and Financial Support Strategy, which will:

- Set out a coordinated, multi-agency approach to tackling poverty led by key advice agencies
- Align council services, advice providers and voluntary organisations
- Identify sustainable funding models for advice provision which would include longer-term funding agreements, full cost recovery and multi-year inflation linked awards. The model should have clarity about the funding of essential core costs and additional funding for particular specific projects, objectives or outcomes.
- Recognise that providing core advice for strategic partners strengthens the sector and supports services to attract additional external funds to enhance capacity

- Recognise advice services as a core component of prevention and demand management

3. To improve data sharing and integration, including:

- Exploring the development of a shared data framework or single view of residents' needs
- Using administrative data to identify residents at risk of crisis (e.g. rent arrears, benefit issues)
- Supporting data-sharing partnerships with advice providers to improve outcomes and measure impact

4. To establish clear metrics and outcomes to track impact, noting that this can be done more effectively in conjunction with data sharing measures (above) including:

- Number of residents accessing advice services
- Financial gains achieved for residents (e.g. increased income, successful benefit claims)
- Reductions in homelessness presentations and use of temporary accommodation
- Wider impacts on poverty and financial resilience

5. To recognise advice services as a key cost-avoidance and income-maximisation tool and:

- Protect and, where possible, strengthen funding for local advice provision
- Ensure funding supports early intervention and holistic support models, not just crisis response

6. That Cabinet, once appointed, reports back to Councillors within 3 months with:

- Detailed proposals and delivery plan with timescales
- Resource implications and funding options
- Recommendations for partnership and data-sharing arrangements
- A framework for monitoring impact and demonstrating value for money"

18: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to The Principle of Minority Administration

To consider the following Motion submitted by the Reform Group;

Signatories: Councillors Cllr Wood and M Smith

"This Council notes that:

- The Council currently has no overall political control.
- Prolonged uncertainty over the formation of an administration is not in the best interests of the residents of Kirklees, council staff or partner organisations.
- In many local authorities operating under no overall control, it is accepted constitutional practice that the largest political group is afforded the first opportunity to form a minority administration and demonstrate whether it can command sufficient support on a vote-byvote basis.
- That Kirklees Council has set a precedent for this, with Groups of a smaller number than the present largest Group of 28.

This Council believes that:

- Democratic accountability is strengthened where the largest political group is given the opportunity to govern, while all other members continue to scrutinise, amend and vote on each proposal according to its merits.
- A minority administration remains accountable to the Council

Council therefore resolves:

1) To affirm the principle that, where no political group commands

an overall majority and no formal stable coalition capable of commanding a majority has been formed, as set by precedence the largest political group should ordinarily be afforded the opportunity to form a minority administration.

2) That this principle is intended to promote democratic stability and effective governance and does not oblige any political group or individual councillor to support the administration on any particular policy or vote.

3) To invite all political groups to work constructively with any minority administration on matters that are in the interests of the residents of Kirklees."

By Order of the Council

Steve Mawson
Chief Executive

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

ANNUAL COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 20 May 2026 (and thereafter reconvened on Thursday 28 May 2026)

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Karen Allison) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Jane Barraclough
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Damian Brook
Councillor Richard Burton
Councillor Eric Butterworth
Councillor Lee Cliff
Councillor Toby Cooper
Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Simon Duffy
Councillor Gill Floyd
Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor Glennis Harrison
Councillor Simon Holbrook
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Philip James
Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Akhtar Kasia
Councillor David Knight
Councillor Matthew Maude
Councillor Brian Moughtin
Councillor James O'Leary
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Martin Price
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Dave Rowan
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Mark Smith
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Sarah Wood
Councillor Habiban Zaman
Councillor Khuram Amjad
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Tina Bamford
Councillor David Birch
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Simon Brophy
Councillor Robert Butler
Councillor Tracy Clayton
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Aziz Daji
Councillor Stephan Dransfield
Councillor Luke Fallas
Councillor Graham France
Councillor John Hardie
Councillor Pip Harvey
Councillor Michael Howard
Councillor Abdul Jabar
Councillor Maryam Jawaid
Councillor Maciej Kapsa
Councillor Chris Kennedy
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Susan Maxfield
Councillor Richard Noon
Councillor Khalid Patel
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor David Ridgway
Councillor Julia Roebuck
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Michael Simmons
Councillor Christine Smith
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Craig Wiles
Councillor Alex Vickers

1 To Elect the Mayor for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year
Councillor Karen Allison was elected as Mayor of the Borough for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

2 To Appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year
Councillor Lee Cliff was appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

3 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive
The Chief Executive advised of the official return of the election of Councillors held on 7 May 2026, as set out at Agenda Item 3.

The Mayor welcomed all new Councillors to the new municipal year, including newly elected Councillors.

Group Leaders were invited to pay tribute to former Councillors.

4 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council - 11 March 2026
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

5 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

6 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bamford, Butterworth, Rowan and Smaje.

7 Election of the Leader of Council
It was moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Zaman that Councillor Cooper be elected as Leader of the Council, whereupon it was moved by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor C Smith that Councillor Wood be elected as Leader of the Council.

Upon being put to the vote, neither of the nominations were carried.

An adjournment of the meeting then followed. Upon reconvening, a further vote for the election on the Leader of the Council was taken on the nominations that had been received previously. Upon being put to the vote, neither of the nominations were carried.

The Mayor advised that as a Leader of the Council had not been elected, the Council would reconvene to consider this matter at a later date.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Zaman, and seconded by Councillor A Smith, that a suspension of Council Procedure Rules be applied to enable a head to head vote of the two nominated candidates.

It was then moved by Councillor Bolt, and seconded by Councillor Kahut, that a suspension of Council Procedure Rules be applied to enable a question and answer session with the two nominated candidates to take place.

The proposal by Councillor Zaman, to suspend the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 24(6), was put to the vote, and was not carried.

The Mayor then advised that Council would proceed to consider the next agenda item.

8 Appointment of Committees, Boards and Panels

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the establishment of the Committees, Boards and Panels as listed within the report, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

9 Allocation of Seats

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED -

1) That the requirements of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 shall not apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for the ensuing municipal year.
2) That the number and proportion of Members of Committees, Boards and Panels be in accordance with the report as set out at Agenda Item 9.

10 Membership of Committees, Boards and Panels

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED - That the memberships of Committees, Boards and Panels, as set out in the circulated report, be approved and that the allocation of any outstanding places on any Committee, Boards and Panels, or any subsequent amendments, be delegated to Group Business Managers.

11 Calendar of Meetings for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED - That the dates and times of Committees, Boards and Panels be in accordance with the scheduled as set out at Agenda Item 11.

The Meeting concluded at this point and reconvened on Thursday 28 May 2026

12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors TV Bamford, Ridgway and Smaje.

13 Election of the Leader of the Council

The Mayor sought confirmation that there remained to be two nominees for the position of Leader of the Council and that there were no further nominations. The Mayor then advised that, following a request from Group Leaders, Council would hold a question and answer session with both nominees, Councillor Cooper and Councillor Wood.

Following the question and answer session an adjournment took place. Upon reconvening, it was proposed by Councillor A Smith and supported by five other Members, that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24(4) the vote be taken by ballot.

The meeting then adjourned for a vote by ballot to take place. Upon reconvening, the Mayor advised the outcome of the ballot;

Councillor Cooper: 29 votes (for) 37 votes (against)
Councillor Wood: 29 votes (for) 35 votes (against) 2 (abstentions)

The Mayor advised that, as a Leader of the Council had not therefore been elected, the matter would be revisited at the first Ordinary Meeting of Council on 15 July 2026.

14 Appointment of Members to Joint Authorities

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED –

1) That Council appoint the Leader as Kirklees Council's Elected Member for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), with the Deputy Leader as the WYCA Substitute Member.

2) That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, WYCA's Managing Director and other West Yorkshire Chief Executives, to jointly agree/appoint the 3 additional political balance Members and their substitutes to WYCA, so that the 8 constituent council members taken as a whole reflect the balance of political parties among members of WYCA's constituent councils, so far as reasonably practicable.

3) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Weaver Network Board: the relevant Portfolio Holder for Transport, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Board will appoint to the Deputy Chair role.

4) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group

Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Corporate Governance and Audit Committee: the Chair of Kirklees Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, a substitute, and political balance places if required.

5) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Investment Board: the relevant Portfolio Holder for Economy, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Board will appoint to the Deputy Chair role.

6) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Business Managers, to nominate Members to WYCA Scrutiny Committee: Kirklees Chair of Scrutiny, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Chair will be appointed by WYCA and that the Deputy Chair will be appointed from the Membership of the Committee.

7) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager, to make any additional/revised nominations to any WYCA Committee or Board, as required after this Council's annual meeting.

8) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager to nominate Members to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and note that this must reflect the political balance of Kirklees Council.

9) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager to nominate Members to West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in accordance with the requirements of that Panel, which must reflect the political balance across West Yorkshire. That it be noted that these Members will also automatically be members of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Board.

10) That Council delegate authority to Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers to determine the appointment of Members/Representatives to the remaining Joint Authorities not otherwise set out in this report.

11) That it be noted that the Leader will nominate the relevant Portfolio Holder for membership of the Vision Zero Board.

15 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Other Committees

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED –

1) That Council notes that Group Business Managers will put forward nominations to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) to fill places or make any adjustments to nominees on outside bodies/other bodies, as appropriate, following Annual Council.

2) That those bodies with executive functions be referred to the Leader of the Council to put forward nominations.

3) That, in relation to the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Management Committee, Council agree to waive political balance rules which apply in accordance with Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Note: this requires approval with no Member voting against).

4) That, Council delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with Group Business Managers, to nominate one nominee and a substitute to the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) Management Committee and to nominate a Director to the associated limited company: YPO Procurement Holdings Ltd.

5) That authority be delegated to the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Business Managers, to determine which of the two appointed Members on Kirklees Active Leisure will be authorised, for the purposes of Member meetings (distinct from Director meetings), to exercise a vote, pursuant to Section 323 of the Companies Act 2006.

6) That authority be delegated to the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Business Managers, to nominate a Director to Kirklees Henry Boot Partnership.

16 Appointment of Spokespersons for Joint Committees and External Bodies

It was moved by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards and

RESOLVED -

1) That the nomination of spokespersons to reply to oral questions at meetings of Council, on behalf of Kirklees Active Leisure and West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, be delegated to Group Business Managers for determination.

2) That it be noted that the Member appointed by Council to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority will be the spokesperson for that body and its Committees.

3) That it be noted that the spokespersons for the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee will be notified by those bodies.

4) That it be noted that the appointed spokesperson for the West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee (One Adoption) will be the substantive representative.

17 Appointment of Chairs of Committees, Boards and Panels

RESOLVED – That the appointment of Chairs of Committees and Panels be in accordance with the schedule below;

Appeals Panel – Councillor Bramwell
Corporate Governance and Audit Committee – Councillor Amjad
District Wide Planning Committee – Councillor O'Leary
Licensing and Safety Committee – Councillor Howard
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – Councillor Holbrook
Personnel Committee – Councillor Anwar
Standards Committee – Councillor Armer
Strategic Planning Committee – Councillor Amjad
Statutory Officer Dismissal Committee – Councillor Wood
Children's Scrutiny Panel – Councillor Vickers
Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel – Councillor Moughtin
Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel – Councillor T V Bamford
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel – Councillor Kasia

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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.

Kirklees COUNCIL

Election of a Leader Report

Meeting:	**Council**
Date:	**15th July 2026**
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	**N/A**
Key Decision **Eligible for Call In**	**No** **No**

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of their legal responsibilities to ensure a Leader of the Council is elected so executive arrangements can be established.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council;

1) Note the contents of this report from the Monitoring Officer

2) Elect a Leader, who shall make appointments to the Cabinet and other outstanding statutory positions and appointments.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Council is required to operate effective executive arrangements (i.e. it must have a Leader and Cabinet) required under the section 9B and 9C Local Government Act 2000 (as amended). It is essential that Council now elect a Leader.

Resource Implications:

This does not have any resource implications at present, but the failure to elect a Leader may incur costs to the Council in the future.

Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	**Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports** Rachel Spencer- Henshall 6th July 2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	**Give name and date for Cabinet reports**

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Kevin Mulvaney 5th July 2026 **Give name and date for Cabinet reports** Samantha Lawton 3rd July 2026

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes. This report does not contain any personal information.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Annual meeting of Council convened on 20 May 2026 failed to elect a Leader due to there being no majority in favour of either of the two candidates. The annual meeting of Council was reconvened on 28 May 2026 and the Council failed to elect a Leader. The next meeting of Council to elect a Leader will take place on 15th July 2026.

1.2 The Council is under a statutory duty to elect a Leader and has legal duties to operate effective executive arrangements (i.e. must at all times have a Leader and Cabinet) required under sections 9B and 9C of the Local Government Act 2000.

1.3 The Council has appointed all of its formal committees, set the date for meetings, and appointed the Chairs of committees. Committees such as Licensing, Planning and scrutiny panels are currently in operation. However, it does not have in place the executive arrangements as required by legislation and the Leader has not been able to appoint a lead member for Children's services under Section 19 of the Children Act 2004, alongside a number of other outside body appointments.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Although the Council is continuing to perform its functions and duties, outside of the election of a Leader and the forming of Cabinet, there is an operational risk that without executive arrangements being in place, the day to day functions of the Council may begin to be compromised, resulting in a potential breach of substantive duties in service provision.

2.2 The Council is in the position that it cannot participate in various collaborative arrangements across West Yorkshire which is causing concerns for partners and stakeholders where the Leader or a Cabinet Member is the Council's formal representative due to the current vacancies which is causing reputational damage. For example, there is no representation on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. For the time being this situation is being managed but the position may adversely impact on the Council, its businesses and residents if Members fail to resolve the current impasse.

2.3 Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 imposes obligations on the Monitoring Officer who is required to safeguard the legal and ethical governance of a Local Authority, to prepare a report to the Council, if it appears to her that what the Council has done or is proposing to do is likely to contravene any enactment or rule of law. Failing to do something that is required by law can be the subject of a future Section 5 report.

2.4 In the above circumstances and in the event the Council fails again to elect a Leader it will be necessary for the Monitoring Officer to make a formal public statutory report to all Members of the Council under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 setting out the legal position to ensure the Council acts within the law and to ensure Members are aware of potential legal breaches. A meeting of Council would follow where Members must consider that report.

2.5 The present political stalemate has significant consequences and Members are urged to consider all options whilst voting, including abstaining. Voting against proposals, knowing that the result means that no Leader is elected is incompatible with Members' obligations under the Code of Conduct, as failure to elect a Leader is likely to bring the Council into disrepute. Members are also urged to consider:-

-whether any coalition or collaboration across groups working together to achieve a majority can be achieved

-whether all nominees wish to continue to stand or an agreement can be reached to put forward one nominee only

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Not applicable

3.2 Financial Implications

To date, so far as officers are aware there are no direct financial losses arising out of the failure to elect a Leader. However, this may change unless the Council resolves to elect a Leader. The Chief Executive and Service Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer) are monitoring all expenditure and income to ensure proper controls and the risks of unlawful expenditure and receipts of income concerning Executive (and possibly Council) functions are mitigated. Of particular concern to the Council is the need to avoid adverse implications for the preparation of next year's budget which needs to be underway as soon as possible. Members are reminded that the Section 151 Officer may be required to issue a statutory Section 114 (2) Notice to the Council if it appears to him the Council has made a decision which involves or would involve unlawful expenditure.

3.3 Legal Implications

If the Council continues to fail to elect a Leader the Council could face a claim that failure to operate executive arrangements is unlawful and a breach of its statutory duty. The current interim arrangements relating to the Chief Executive's powers under Article 7.9.1 of the Constitution are a short term measure and are not intended for long term reliance. Such long term reliance on this short term mitigation may not protect the Council or its officers against a subsequent challenge.

3.4 Members must now elect a leader so that the use of Article 7.9.1 can cease as soon as possible. The failure to elect a Leader increases the risks of legal challenge around decision making.

3.5 A further risk is that, if services are compromised as a result of the lack of executive arrangements, the Council could face further judicial review claims, and/or claims for damages if people suffer losses as a result.

Risks other than litigation risks to the Council

3.6 As to risks other than risks of litigation against the Council, these include the following and apply to officers and members.

Intervention by the Secretary of State

a. The Council's external, Auditor Grant Thornton has indicated to the Chief Executive that as a result of the failure to elect a Leader and operate executive arrangements they are considering a Public Interest Report by the end of July 2026 and publicising it under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This is the first step towards potential intervention.

b. Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 imposes a best value duty on the council "…to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness".

c. The Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 gives the Secretary of State the power to intervene and take a range of measures. Intervention by the Secretary of State is a measure of last resort and is usually preceded by a report from external auditors, an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State or a regulatory body. However, the Secretary of State can intervene directly in cases of urgency and this includes the power to send in commissioners to take over some functions, which can be long term and over many months/years.

Members Code of Conduct

d. The Localism Act 2011 imposes a duty on Members to abide by the Code of Conduct for Members. In interpreting the Code, regard must be had to the seven Principles of Public life, including the requirement that Members should make decisions in accordance with the law. Paragraph 5 of the Code states: *As a Councillor: 5.2 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute. 5.3 I do not conduct myself in a manner which is contrary to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour.*

e. In order to elect a Leader, all Members should consider the following:

- exercising all of their options when voting including abstaining rather than voting against proposals, knowing that the result means a Leader is not elected,

-whether any coalition or collaboration across groups working together to achieve a majority can be achieved

-whether all nominees wish to continue to stand or an agreement can be reached to put forward one nominee only

f. A continuing political stalemate in the absence of electing a Leader is incompatible with Members' obligations under the Code as failure to elect a Leader is likely to bring the Council into disrepute.

g. The Code of Conduct states at paragraph 11.1 :*When reaching decisions on any matter I will have regard to any relevant advice from: … b. The Monitoring Officer (Service Director of Legal, Governance and Commissioning) where she is acting pursuant to her statutory duties*. This report is pursuant to those duties.

Reputational damage

h. Failure to elect a Leader, even in the absence of legal challenge and/or formal/informal intervention by the Secretary of State is already having significant impact on the Council's reputation locally and nationally. It may have an impact in terms of public and investor confidence, and people's preparedness to work with the Council or work for the Council as residents/investors may see the council as high risk and/or inefficient. Reputation and credibility is hard to earn, but once lost, difficult to regain.

3.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**
Not applicable

3.5 **Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

4. Consultation

The Group Leaders of the political groups have been advised and consulted in relation to this report.

5. Engagement

The Group Leaders for each political party have been engaged in relation to the contents of this report.

The Chief Executive wrote to all Members on 22nd May 2026 and a copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 1.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

The Council must operative executive arrangements in place pursuant to section 9B and 9C of the Local Government Act 2000. It is recommended that Council vote and appoint a Leader of the Council.

If the Council fails to elect a Leader the potential risks and consequences are likely to begin to happen as set out earlier in this report.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

To comply with legislative requirements to ensure the Council is operating executive arrangements.

7. Next steps and timelines

The Council will proceed to consider the report and vote on the Election of the Leader.

8. Contact officer

Samantha Lawton
Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning
Samantha.lawton@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221 000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letter from the Chief Executive

11. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton
Service Director -Legal, Governance and Commissioning
Samantha.lawton@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000

Chief Executive
STEVE MAWSON

Kirklees Council
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield
HD1 9EL

steve.mawson@kirklees.gov.uk
Tel: 01484 221000
www.kirklees.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 22 May 2026

Kirklees Councillors
Sent via email

Dear Councillors

Following the Annual Council Meeting, I am writing to provide clarity on the process for electing a Leader of the Council and the implications for governance should a Leader not be appointed.

A Leader must be elected by a meeting of the Council and this function cannot be delegated. The established method for election is set out in the Constitution. Where there are multiple nominations and no candidate receives a majority, successive rounds of voting will take place, with the lowest polling candidate removed each round until a majority vote is achieved for one of the nominated candidates (CPR 24(6)).

An alternative voting method was recently proposed which was not carried; accordingly, it is not expected that the same proposal could be revisited within a six-month period (CPR 23(1)) as the required notice period cannot be given. Furthermore, next week's meeting is effectively a continuation of the adjourned Annual Meeting at which the proposal was voted down.

Under CPR 24(4), a vote may take place by ballot at the request of any Member supported by at least five other Members. No Member requested this method of voting at the meeting on 20 May. Should a ballot be agreed, the process would be that each Member would vote for/against or abstain for each individual candidate in two separate votes. The votes would be counted and the Mayor would deliver the numerical result.

Members may also wish to explore whether a debate on the position of Leader should take place. This is not currently provided for within the Constitution; however, any such proposal would need to be moved, seconded and agreed by a majority of Members voting. Should such a proposal come forward, it would be advisable to agree in advance the proposed parameters of any debate in terms of timings and rules of the debate.

The Council's governance framework is fundamentally based on the Leader and Cabinet model and is not designed to operate without a Leader for a prolonged period. In the absence of a Leader (and Deputy Leader), the Council would continue to operate through officer decision-making arrangements led by me as Chief Executive.

Under the Constitution, where there is no Leader, any act or functions that could otherwise be performed by the Leader may be performed by the Chief Executive acting in consultation with Group Leaders (Constitution – Article 7.9.1).

In practical terms, this would mean me as Chief Executive taking decisions necessary to maintain the safe and lawful operation of the Council, including key decisions which cannot practicably be delayed. These decisions will continue to be formally recorded and published to ensure transparency and accountability. There would be structured and ongoing engagement with Group Leaders to consult before decisions are made.

This arrangement is intended to provide continuity only and does not replace formal political leadership or the collective decision-making role of a Cabinet. The Council can continue to function lawfully without a Leader through officer decision-making arrangements; however, these arrangements would be exceptional and temporary, designed to ensure continuity rather than to replicate political governance or substitute for a Leader and Cabinet model.

In terms of the wider governance implications relating to operating without a Leader, the Council will provide for the appointment of a Leader to remain a standing item on all future Full Council agendas. An extraordinary meeting may also be called in accordance with CPR 2(2).

With no Leader in place, no Cabinet can be appointed and, consequently, no Cabinet meetings would take place. Pre-decision scrutiny would continue where practicable, although officers would not be able to respond to questions relating to political priorities. Regulatory meetings of Planning, Licensing etc. would continue.

At a regional level, if Kirklees cannot appoint a Leader (and/or Cabinet), Kirklees' positions on Combined Authority decision-making boards would remain vacant; however, they would proceed as normal, continuing to take decisions, including on issues impacting Kirklees.

With regard to Council meetings, certain items of business would not be able to take place in the absence of a Leader and Cabinet, including:

- Holding the Executive to account
- Public questions to Cabinet Members
- Member questions to Cabinet Members

The Leader and Cabinet model underpins the Council's ability to exercise executive functions with clear political accountability. While interim arrangements ensure operational continuity, they are not designed as a long-term solution. If a council is not operating under a clearly established executive governance model for an extended period, there is a potential risk of external concern regarding governance stability and decision-making capacity. In such circumstances, where there is evidence of governance failure or an inability to discharge statutory functions effectively, the Secretary of State, via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), has powers to intervene. This can include the appointment of commissioners to exercise certain functions of the authority to ensure lawful and effective administration.

In light of the above, Members are therefore strongly encouraged to continue discussions — including potential agreements, coalitions, or other arrangements — to secure a Leader who can command the confidence of a majority of Council.

If you require any further procedural advice or clarification ahead of future meetings, please contact me or the Council's Governance Team.

Yours sincerely

Steve Mawson
Chief Executive

Kirklees COUNCIL

Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 (Reference from Personnel Committee)

Meeting	**Personnel Committee**
Cabinet Member	**Not applicable**
Key Decision **Eligible for Call In**	**No** **No**
Purpose of Report To comply with the requirements of Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011, that the authority produces a policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority's principal Chief Officers.	
Recommendations • That the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27 be approved. **Reasons for Recommendations** • To approve the annual Pay Policy Statement attached to this report in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act. The report was received by Personnel Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2026.	
Resource Implications: • There is sufficient revenue budgetary provision within the approved budget plans for 2026/27 to implement the attached 2026/27 pay policy statement.	
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name.	**Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 23/6/26**
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	**Kevin Mulvaney – 23/1/26**
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	**Samantha Lawton – 23/6/26**

Electoral wards affected: **All**

Ward councillors consulted: **All**

Public or private: **Public**

Has GDPR been considered? This report contains no information that falls within the scope of the General Data Protection Regulation.

1. Executive Summary

- Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 requires that the authority produce a policy statement that covers several matters concerning the pay of the authority's staff, principally Chief Officers. The attached policy statement appendices meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

- Section 39 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 specifically include the requirement that a relevant authority's pay policy statement must be approved by a resolution of the authority before it comes into force, and as per Section 39 (3) of the Act, that each subsequent annual statement must be prepared and approved before the end of the 31 March immediately preceding the financial year to which it relates.

2. Information required to take a decision.

- The report is submitted to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011. This requires the Council to produce an annual pay policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority's principal Chief Officers. It also requires a Council resolution to approve the annual statement before the end of the 31 March immediately preceding the financial year to which it relates.
- This policy also has some connection with the data on pay and rewards for staff which the Authority publishes under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and the data which is published under The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2015). This policy statement does not cover or include school staff and is not required to do so.
- The proposed 2026/27 Pay Policy Statement is attached in more detail for Council approval see the appendices.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1. Working with People
N/A

3.2. Working with Partners
N/A

3.3. Place Based Working
N/A

3.4. Climate Change and Air Quality
N/A

3.5. Improving outcomes for children
N/A

3.6. Financial Implications
There is sufficient revenue budgetary provision within the approved budget plans for 2026/27 to implement the attached 2026/27 pay policy statement.

3.7. Legal Implications
None to report

3.8. Other (e.g., Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)
None to report

4. Consultation
N/A

5. Engagement
N/A

6. Options

6.1. **Options considered**
N/A

6.2. **Reasons for recommended option**
N/A

7. Next steps and timelines
Publish the Pay Policy Statement on the Council's Internet site, to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

8. Contact Officer
Shauna Coyle – Head of People Services
shauna.coyle@kirklees.gov.uk
Margaret Lunn – Human Resources Partner, People Services,
Margaret.lunn@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions
2025-26 Pay Policy Statement approved and published on the Council Website.
Government Pay policy statement guidance: Openness and accountability in local pay: supplementary guidance - GOV.UK

10. Appendices
Kirklees Pay Policy Statement 2026/27
Remuneration of Chief Officers
Kirklees Council Single Status Grades (1st April 2025) this will be subject to the National pay award consultations for 2026/27.
Range of Policies

11. Executive Director responsible
Rachel Spencer-Henshall – Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Public Health and Corporate Resources

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Pay Policy Statement

1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027

Contents

Introduction

Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 requires that the authority produce a policy statement that covers matters concerning the pay of the authority's staff, principally Chief Officers. This policy statement meets the requirements of the Localism Act in this regard and also meets the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which the authority is required to have regard under Section 40 of the Act. This policy also has some connection with the data on pay and rewards for staff which the Authority publishes under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and the data which is published under The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2015). This policy statement does not cover or include school staff and is not required to do so.

Definition of Senior Officers covered by the Policy Statement

Level	**Position in Organisation**	**Position Title**
Level A	Head of Paid Service	Chief Executive
Level B	Monitoring Officer	Service Director – Governance & Commissioning
Level C	Statutory Chief Officer	Executive Director – Children & Families
Level C	Statutory Chief Officer	Executive Director – Adults & Health
Level C	Statutory Chief Officer	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Public Health & Corporate Resources
Level C	Statutory Chief Officer	Service Director – Finance – Section 151 Officer
Level D	Non-statutory Chief Officer	Executive Director – Place
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Family Help, Permanence and Safeguarding
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Learning & Inclusion
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Children's Commissioning, QA and Health Partnerships
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Adults Social Care Operation
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Communities & Access Services
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Strategic Commissioning, Partnerships & Provider Services

Level	Position in Organisation	Position Title
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Development
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Environmental Strategy & Climate Change
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Highways & Streetscene
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Homes & Neighbourhoods
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Skills & Regeneration
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Culture & Visitor Economy
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Service Director – Strategy & Innovation
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of People Services
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Health Protection
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Improving Population Health
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Accountancy
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Commercial Services
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Finance
Level E	Deputy Chief Officers	Head of Welfare & Exchequer Services

Level E are those officers who report directly to a Statutory or Non-Statutory Chief Officer.

Policy on remunerating Chief Officers

The authority's policy on remunerating Chief Officers is set out on the schedule that is attached to this policy statement at Appendix A. It is the policy of this authority to establish a remuneration package for each Chief Officer post that is sufficient to attract and retain staff of the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities that is consistent with the authority's requirements of the post in question at the relevant time, which may include reference to appropriate benchmarks.

Following the implementation of Single status, all Chief Officers are paid in accordance with the Council's pay spine including national pay awards.

Policy on remunerating the lowest paid in the workforce

The authority applies terms and conditions of employment that have been negotiated and agreed through appropriate collective bargaining mechanisms (national or local) or as a consequence of authority decisions, these are then incorporated into contracts of employment. This authority revised the pay spine with effect from 1 April 2019 to recognise the implementation of the national minimum wage. The lowest pay point in this Authority, is Grade 1, Spinal Column Point (SCP) 3; £12.85 hourly rate.

The pay rate is increased in accordance with any pay settlements which are reached through the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. (The 2025 pay spine shown at Appendix B, will be subject to the national pay award consultations, for 2026/27).

From April 2025, the government is revising the criteria for national living wage payments. Therefore, the authority has reviewed the implementation of apprenticeship rates of pay from the 1st of April 2024, the Year 1 rate will be increased in line with the percentage set by Government for the national living wage. For 2025 the hourly rate will be £12.42 and the Year 2 onwards rate will be £12.71 per hour, in accordance with the national living wage requirements. The rates are paid to all apprentices and is not related to the age of the apprentice.

Policy on the relationship between Chief Officer remuneration and that of other staff

The highest paid (actual) salary in this authority is £188,136, Grade 24, SCP 74, which is paid to Steve Mawson. The median (full-time equivalent) salary * in this authority (not including schools or other external organisations) is £31,022 second point of Grade 7, SCP 17.

*<u>*Median*</u>

The median is the value falling in the middle when the data items are arranged in an array of either ascending or descending order. If there is an odd number of items, the median is the value of the middle item. If there is an even number of items, the median is obtained by taking the mid points of the two middle points (add middle points together and divide by 2).

Excluded: Kirklees active Leisure, Maintained Schools, Academies, Claiming Teachers, Temp Direct, Teachers pensions, Casual and Paymaster Only Contracts, any record where the actual salary is zero.

The ratio between the two salaries, the ‘pay multiple’, is 6.06:1.

This authority does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific ‘pay multiple’, however the authority is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the authority as expressed in this policy statement and its wider pay policy and approach.

The authority’s approach to the payment of other staff is to pay that which the authority needs to pay to recruit and retain staff with the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities needed for the post in question at the relevant time, which may include reference to appropriate benchmarks, and to ensure that the authority meets any contractual requirements for staff including the application of any local or national collective agreements, or authority decisions regarding pay.

Policy on other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration

Other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration are appropriate to be covered by this policy statement, these other aspects are defined as recruitment, pay increases, additions to pay, performance related pay, earn back, bonuses, termination payments, transparency, and re-employment when in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) pension or a redundancy/severance payment. These matters are addressed in the schedule that is attached to this policy statement at Appendix C).

Approval of salary packages in excess of £100k

The authority will ensure that, at the latest before an offer of appointment is made, any salary package for any new post that is not currently included within Appendix A (not including schools and any initial transfer to the Council under TUPE), that is in excess of £100k will be considered by Personnel Committee. The salary package will be defined as base salary, any bonuses, fees, routinely payable allowances, and benefits in kind that are due under the contract.

Flexibility to address recruitment issues for vacant posts

In the vast majority of circumstances, the provisions of this policy will enable the authority to ensure that it can recruit effectively to any vacant post. There may be exceptional circumstances when there are recruitment or retention difficulties for a particular post and where there is evidence that an element or elements of the remuneration package are not sufficient to secure an effective appointment or retention through for example market supplements or recruitment and retention payments. This policy statement recognises that this situation may arise in exceptional circumstances and therefore a departure from this policy can be implemented without having to seek full Council approval for a change of the policy statement. Such a departure from this policy will be expressly justified in each case and will be approved through an appropriate authority decision making route.

Policy for future years

This policy statement will be reviewed each year and will be presented to full Council each year for consideration in order to ensure that a policy is in place for the authority prior to the start of each financial year.

Appendix A - Remuneration of Chief Officers

Job Level	Position in Organisation	Employment Conditions	Job Title	Salary Banding	Election Fees
A	Head of Paid Service	Single Status	Chief Executive	£175,000 £209,999	Contract includes duties of returning officer for District, Regional, & Parliamentary elections. Election duty fees are a normal part of the salary for local elections. Additional payment for other national elections is paid at the nationally agreed rate depending upon the type of election.
B	Monitoring Officer	Single Status	Service Director Governance & Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)	£100,000 £119,999	No
C	Statutory Chief Officer	Single Status	Executive Director Children & Families	£135,000 £154,999	Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures
C	Statutory Chief Officer	Single Status	Executive Director Adults & Health	£135,000 £154,999	Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures
C	Statutory Chief Officer	Single Status	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Public Health & Corporate Resources	£135,000 £154,999	Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures

Job Level	Position in Organisation	Employment Conditions	Job Title	Salary Banding	Election Fees
C	Statutory Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer)	£100,000 £119,999	No
D	Non-statutory Chief Officer	Single Status	Executive Director - Place	£135,000 £154,999	Election duty fees are in accordance with normal authority procedures
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director – Family Help, Permanence and Safeguarding	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director – Learning & Inclusion	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director – Children's Commissioning, QA and Health Partnerships	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Adult Social Care Operation	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Communities & Access Services	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Learning Disabilities & Mental Health	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Development	£100,000 £119,999	No

Job Level	Position in Organisation	Employment Conditions	Job Title	Salary Banding	Election Fees
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Environmental Strategy & Climate Change	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Highways & Streetscene	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Homes & Neighbourhoods	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Skills & Regeneration	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Culture & Visitor Economy	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Service Director - Strategy & Innovation	£100,000 £119,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Improving Population Health	£60,000 £74,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Health Protection	£80,000 £94,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Accountancy	£60,000 £74,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Commercial Services	£60,000 £74,999	No

Job Level	Position in Organisation	Employment Conditions	Job Title	Salary Banding	Election Fees
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Finance	£60,000 £74,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of Welfare & Exchequer Services	£60,000 £74,999	No
E	Deputy Chief Officer	Single Status	Head of People Service	£80,000 £94,999	No

Notes

1 Salary is Full Time Equivalent – current salary bands quoted reflect pay levels as of 1 April each year.

2 2026 Salaries are still to be confirmed salary band based on 2025 salaries.

3 Kirklees Council has a common set of Terms and Conditions that applies to all staff, entitled to claim.

4 No positions attract Performance Related Pay (PRP), Earn Back, Bonus or non-cash bonus, arrangements.

5 No positions have Joint Authority payment arrangements.

Appendix B - Kirklees Council Single Status Salary Grades

Grade	SCP	Salary	Grade	SCP	Salary
Apprentice	Year 1	£23,962	14	40	£51,356
Apprentice	Year 2	£24,521	14	41	£52,413
1	1	£24,413	14	42	£53,460
2	2	£24,413	15	43	£54,495
3	3	£24,796	15	44	£55,468
4	4	£25,185	15	45	£56,494
4	5	£25,583	16	46	£57,457
5	5	£25,583	16	47	£58,462
5	6	£25,989	17	48	£59,447
6	7	£26,403	17	49	£60,448
6	8	£26,824	17	50	£61,451
6	9	£27,254	18	51	£62,474
6 Not used	10	£27,694	18	52	£63,299
6	11	£28,142	18	53	£64,553
Unused	12	£28,598	19	54	£65,621
Unused	13	£29,064	19	55	£66,717
7	14	£29,540	19	56	£68,216
7	15	£30,024	19	57	£73,056
7 Not used	16	£30,518	20	58	£81,749
7	17	£31,022	20	59	£87,552
Unused	18	£31,537	20	60	£93,793
8	19	£32,061	21	61	£93,393

Grade	SCP	Salary	Grade	SCP	Salary
8	20	£32,597	21	62	£100,062
8 Not used	21	£33,143	21	63	£107,190
8	22	£33,699	22	64	£102,552
9	23	£34,434	22	65	£110,113
9	24	£35,412	22	66	£117,672
9	25	£36,363	23	67	£139,905
9	26	£37,280	23	68	£143,252
10	27	£38,220	23	69	£146,794
10	28	£39,152	23	70	£150,239
10	29	£39,862	23	71	£153,684
10	30	£40,777	24	72	£176,511
11	31	£41,771	24	73	£182,326
11	32	£42,839	24	74	£188,136
11	33	£44,075	24	75	£193,950
12	34	£45,091	24	76	£199,763
12	35	£46,142	24	77	£205,580
12	36	£47,181			
13	37	£48,226			
13	38	£49,282			
13	39	£50,269			

*Revised Pay spine Implemented 1st April 2023

** 2026 Salaries are still to be confirmed salary band based on 2025 salaries

*** Apprenticeship rates of pay are increased in accordance with the national minimum wage and national living wage requirements (rates shown are from 01.04.2026).

Appendix C – Range of Kirklees Policies

Aspect of Chief Officer Remuneration	Authority Policy
Recruitment	The post will be advertised and appointed to at the appropriate approved salary for the post in question level unless there is good evidence that a successful appointment of a person with the required skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities cannot be made without varying the remuneration package. In such circumstances a variation to the remuneration package is appropriate under the authority's policy and any variation will be approved through the appropriate authority decision making process.
Pay Increases	The authority will apply any pay increases that are agreed by relevant national negotiating bodies and/or any pay increases that are agreed through local negotiations. Following the implementation of Single status, all Chief officers are paid in accordance with the Council's pay spine including national pay awards. The authority will also apply any pay increases that are as a result of authority decisions to significantly increase the duties and responsibilities of the post in question beyond the normal flexing of duties and responsibilities that are expected in senior posts.
Additions to Pay	The authority would not make additional payments beyond those specified in the appropriate policies i.e., Market Rate Supplement, Recruitment and Retention, Acting Up or Honoraria payments.
Performance Related Pay (PRP)	The authority does not operate a performance related pay system as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance from its senior officers. Any areas of under-performance are addressed rigorously by utilising the Performance Management system.
Earn-Back (Withholding an element of base pay related to performance)	The authority does not operate an earn-back pay system as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance from its senior officers. Any areas of under-performance are addressed rigorously.
Bonuses	The authority does not pay bonus payments to senior officers.
Termination Payments	The authority applies its normal redundancy payments arrangements to senior officers and does not have separate provisions for senior officers. The authority also applies the appropriate Pensions regulations when they apply. The authority has agreed policies in place on how it will apply any discretionary powers it has under Pensions regulations. Any costs that are incurred by the authority regarding senior officers are

Aspect of Chief Officer Remuneration	Authority Policy
	published in the authority accounts as required under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.
Transparency	The authority meets its requirements under the Localism Act, the Code of Practice on Data Transparency and the Accounts and Audit Regulations in order to ensure that it is open and transparent regarding senior officer remuneration.
Re-employment of staff in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme Pension or a redundancy/severance payment	The authority is under a statutory duty to appoint on merit and has to ensure that it complies with all appropriate employment and equalities legislation. The authority will always seek to appoint the best available candidate to a post who has the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities, and qualities needed for the post. The authority will therefore consider all applications for candidates to try to ensure the best available candidate is appointed. If a candidate is a former employee in receipt of an LGPS pension or a redundancy payment this will not rule them out from being re-employed by the authority. Clearly where a former employee left the authority on redundancy terms then the old post has been deleted and the individual cannot return to the post as it will not exist. The authority will apply the provisions of the Redundancy Payments Modification Order regarding the recovery of redundancy payments if this is relevant. Pensions Regulations also have provisions to reduce pension payments in certain circumstances to those who return to work within the local government service.

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Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 30th January 2026

Present:	Councillor John Taylor (Chair) Councillor Paola Antonia Davies Councillor Angela Sewell Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Co-optees	Nicholas Booth Andrew North
In attendance:	Steve Mawson, Chief Executive James Anderson, Head of Accountancy Ginette Beal, Grant Thornton Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk Rachel Firth, Finance Manager Nick Howe, Policy and Partnership Manager Grant Mills, Grant Thornton Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance (S151 Officer) Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) Leigh Webb, Head of Governance
Apologies:	Councillor James Homewood Councillor Caroline Holt Councillor Harry McCarthy Councillor Kath Pinnock Councillor Graham Turner (ex-Officio)

62 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Harry McCarthy, Councillor Caroline Holt,Councillor James Homewood, Councillor Kath Pinnock and Councillor Graham Turner (Ex-Officio).

Councillor Mohan Sokhal substituted for Councillor James Homewood and Councillor Paola Davies substituted for Councillor Kath Pinnock under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 35 (7).

63 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2025 be approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to Minute 52 as follows:

(3) That the proposed implementation of the Local Government Ombudsman Complaints Code by Kirklees as in Appendix3 of the report be noted.

64 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

65 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

66 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

67 Public Question Time

No public questions were asked.

68 Auditor's Annual Report 2024-25

The Committee received the Auditor's Annual Report 2024-25.

The report highlighted the work the external auditors had undertaken with Kirklees Council during 2024-25, including commentary on the Value for Money (VFM) arrangements, the responsibilities of the Council (as set out in Appendix A) and the VFM auditor's responsibilities (as set out in Appendix B).

With regards to the VFM assessment, the three key recommendations had been retained from the previous year, acknowledging, however, that progress had been made/was continuing to be made by the Council. There had been positive improvements in the Council's overall financial position.

There was recognition that the report provided a retrospective view, as at 31 March 2025, and the management actions in the report did not impact on the assessment; there had been ongoing and robust engagement between Council officers and the External Auditor. It was anticipated that the positive changes would be reflected in the 2025/26 report.

The progress in respect of recommendations 1 and 3 was acknowledged and it was noted, in respect of the second key recommendation, concerning the DSG deficit, action was being taken by the Council but this was an issue that needed to be addressed at a national level.

The action in relation to Improvement Recommendation 2 (IR2) relating to the oversight of major capital projects was queried in respect of the long timeline for reviewing arrangements. The Committee was assured that significant oversight already existed through Cabinet and Scrutiny processes but there may be a need for better alignment between decisions and updates and perhaps there was a need for more visibility of this for the Auditors.

RESOLVED –
That the Auditor's Annual Report 2024-25 be noted.

69 Audit Findings (ISA260) 2024-25 Report

The Committee received the Audit Findings (ISA260) 2024-25 report, submitted by Grant Thornton, which highlighted that the External Auditors were on track to issue a full, unqualified, 'clean' audit opinion in February 2026 which was positive outcome for the Council.

It was explained that there were no audit adjustments impacting usable reserves, and although some technical adjustments and recommendations were included within the report, including one linked to IFRS 16 lease accounting, there was no impact on useable reserves.

The Committee sought assurance on the resources/capacity for the 2025-26 audit cycle to help achieve earlier deadlines . It was noted that the Council had an experienced finance team and a consistent experienced team on the audit side who would work closely together to achieve the November 2026 completion date. A post-audit review meeting would take place to evaluate the processes and streamline future audits.

During discussions, the Committee asked for an explanation of the level of assurance in respect of IT and cyber security arrangements and were advised that the arrangements were robust and adequately resourced. In respect of the progress in implementing recommendations from previous audits, the auditors advised that although these were not material issues in terms of the opinion, monitoring/oversight of this would be helpful and full implementation would support a smoother and more efficient process for 2025-26.

RESOLVED –
That the Audit Findings (ISA260) 2024-25 Report be noted.

70 Annual Governance Statement

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25, which all local authorities must produce to demonstrate how the Council ensures effective, efficient, and compliant service delivery. This Statement outlined the Council's responsibilities, the governance framework, key components, a review of effectiveness for 2024-25, criteria for identifying significant governance issues, and an assessment of progress on previously identified issues, as well as any new concerns arising during the year.

One new governance issue had been identified in relation to improvements in contract and project management and six previous issues had been carried forward, three of which had been completed. The other three related to housing, addressing SEND financial challenges and data management, which were still rated amber.

RESOLVED –
That the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 be approved.

71 Approval of the Councils final accounts for 2024-25

The Committee received a report which set out the final accounts and audit processes for 2024-25. The report requested that Members approve the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2024-25 including the final version of the Annual Governance Statement.

The preparation of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement, and Local Authorities were required to have them signed by the Section 151 Officer by 30 June. Despite significant challenges to the Council's finance team, dealing with competing demands, the draft accounts had been completed and signed on 27th June 2025. A six-week public inspection period ran from 27th June 2025 to 8th August 2025 and no queries or objections were raised.

The Chair would be advised of any changes prior to signing the final version.

In response to a question, the position in respect of the surplus and actuarial valuation of the pension scheme was explained noting that position was highly volatile. The fund had been in surplus for several years but had been in deficit prior to that.

RESOLVED –
1. That the Statement of Accounts 2024-25, including the Annual Governance Statement be approved and that the Chair of the Committee certify the Statement of Responsibilities on Page 21 upon completion of the audit.
2. That the draft Letter of Representation (Appendix C to the report) be approved and that the Chair of the Committee sign the final version, on behalf of the Committee, upon completion of the audit.

72 Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2026-27

The Committee received the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2026-27, in accordance with the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition, which the Council was required to approve prior to the start of each financial year.

The report provided information regarding:
(i) the outlook for interest rates and a recommended investment strategy,
(ii) the current and estimated future levels of Council borrowing and a recommended borrowing strategy,

(iii) methodologies adopted for providing for the repayment of debt and a recommended policy for calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP),
(iv) other treasury management matters including the policy on the use of financial derivatives, prudential indicators, the use of consultants, and the policy on charging interest to the Housing Revenue Account,
(v) a recommended annual Investment Strategy (Non-Treasury Investments) for the Council in 2026/27.

During discussion, the Committee was advised that the Council's investment strategy, was governed by the regulations and the CIPFA Prudential Code, which required decisions to be based on security, liquidity and yield, in that order.

RESOLVED –
That it be recommended that the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 incorporating:

- The borrowing strategy outlined in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.27 of the report.
- The investment strategy (treasury management investments) outlined in paragraphs 2.28 to 2.36 of the report and Appendices A and B.
- The policy for provision of repayment of debt (Minimum Revenue Provision) outlined in paragraphs 2.37 to 2.38 of the report and at Appendix C.
- The treasury management prudential indicators set out in Appendix D, and
- The investment strategy (non-treasury investments) set out at Appendix F.

be submitted for consideration by Cabinet and for approval by Council.

73 Dates of Council Meetings 2026-2027 (Reference to Council)

The Committee received a report which set out a schedule of Council meeting dates for the 2026-27 municipal year. The dates included two types of ordinary meetings of the Council: 'Holding the Executive to Account' and 'Key Discussions', as required by Council Procedure Rule 5 (1).

RESOLVED –
That the schedule of Council meetings for the 2026-27 municipal year be approved.

74 Kirklees Community Governance Review - Stage 1 consultation summary and stage 2 recommendations

The Committee received the Community Governance Review Report which provided a summary and analysis of the responses received in the first stage of public consultation and set out the proposals that would form the basis for stage 2.

The report detailed that 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 to ensure they continued to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and remained effective and convenient.

On 16th July 2025, Council had agreed to the undertaking of a CGR in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance, and delegated authority to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to agree the Terms of Reference and oversee the delivery.

On 26th September 2025, the Committee had resolved to undertake a review of the areas of Kirklees which were currently parished and relevant adjoining land, to enable the Council to consider if any changes were required to existing parish arrangements. The Terms of Reference for this review had been published on 1st October 2025, and the first stage of the public consultation took place between 1st October and 12th December 2025.

The Committee highlighted the low level of public engagement and suggested that additional methods of communication and wider publicity should be used to encourage more engagement in stage two, noting the responsibility of ward councillors to raise awareness and encourage engagement. The Committee also queried the potential cost implications with regards to creating or altering Parish Councils and were advised that costs to the Council were expected to be minimal; more detail would be provided later in the review process.
In respect of numbers of councillors; Stage 2 of the consultation would seek views on this.

RESOLVED –

1. That the draft proposals arising from stage one of the consultation on the Community Governance Review be approved.
2. That the arrangements for the second stage of consultation, scheduled to commence on 9th February 2026 be noted.

75 Agenda Plan

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

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 20th February 2026

Present:	Councillor John Taylor (Chair) Councillor Bill Armer Councillor Eric Firth Councillor James Homewood Councillor Kath Pinnock Councillor Angela Sewell
In attendance:	Ruth Calladine, Head of Procurement & Commissioning Support Greg Charnley, External Auditor, Grant Thornton Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal & Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources
Ex-Officio Members:	Councillor Nosheen Dad, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Corporate
Apologies:	Councillor Caroline Holt Councillor Harry McCarthy Councillor Graham Turner (ex-Officio) Nicholas Booth (Co-Optee) Andrew North (Co-Optee)

76 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Caroline Holt, Councillor Harry McCarthy, Councillor Graham Turner (Ex-Officio), Nick Booth (Co-Optee) and Andy North (Co-Optee).

Councillor Eric Firth substituted for Councillor Harry McCarthy and Councillor Bill Armer substituted for Councillor Caroline Holt under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 35 (7).

77 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

78 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

79 Admission of the Public
It was noted that Agenda item 13 would be considered in private session.

80 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

81 Public Question Time
No questions were asked.

82 External Auditor Progress Update
The Committee received a verbal progress update from the External Auditor, Grant Thornton who confirmed that the Accounts had been signed off by the Committee and that the Audit Plan and associated risks would be brought to the Committee meeting on the 24th April 2026 for consideration.

RESOLVED – That the verbal progress update be noted.

83 Proposed Revisions to Financial Procedure Rules
The Committee received a report outlining the proposed changes to Financial Procedure Rules for the municipal year 2026/27.

The report highlighted that most of the proposed changes which were outlined in section 2 of the report were incremental, with a slightly more significant change in how projects and programmes were included in the capital plan. Moving forward, Council would determine major projects and programme areas, with Cabinet having the discretion to manage programme areas, as well as being required to approve business cases for each type of project (or generically for similar projects within a programme). It was intended that over the next year, officers from Finance and Risk would draw up proposed (more significantly) revised Financial Procedure Rules.

During discussions, the Committee queried project values and how they could be reviewed against items already in the capital plan. The Committee was informed that the proposed changes aimed to clarify the distinction between a project and a programme which had been unclear in the past. There was no financial threshold proposed for defining a major project and delegations remained in place for projects within existing programme areas, which may be approved by Cabinet or officers depending on their scope. The Committee asked for examples of current projects that would now fall under Council approval.

The Committee was further advised that a recent peer challenge had recommended a capital governance review which was being undertaken. Some of the proposed changes to the Financial Procedure Rules arose from early findings but further work was necessary to ensure systems were fit for purpose.

The Committee queried the skills required for oversight of projects and was advised that all projects within the Capital Plan were overseen by Cabinet and Executive Directors, and some of the high value projects were considered by programme boards that were attended by external consultants and project managers, with regular updates provided to Portfolio Holders.

The Committee raised concerns about whether sufficient challenge was currently embedded in governance processes and was advised that additional training could be provided for Members in terms of expertise.

RESOLVED –
1. That the changes as detailed in the report be approved and recommended to Council for approval.
2. Officers to report back to a future meeting of the Committee on how projects which are identified for inclusion in the Capital plan, are then considered by Council.

84 Proposed Revisions to Contract Procedure Rules March 2026

The Committee received a report setting out the proposed changes to Contract Procedure Rules from 1st April 2026.

Contract Procedure Rules ensured that the Council was acting in line with current legislation and other developments in public law when conducting procurement. The report highlighted the proposed changes (as outlined in section 2) which included minor updates to terminology to ensure consistency and clarification of the process to be followed if a breach of the Contract Procedure Rules was identified, revisions to Data Sharing and Processing to align with current practice, inviting suppliers from within the Kirklees (and/or West Yorkshire) area to bid for lower-value contracts and updates to reinforce the requirement that all contracts were actively managed. An illustrative example of the contract award lifecycle and associated processes was set out in Appendix C of the report and provided evidence of the oversight and assurance applied at each stage of the procurement procedure.

During discussion of the item, the Committee was informed that:

- A breach-reporting process had been added which set out the responsibility of all officers to report failures to comply with CPR.
- Rule 3 had been revised to clarify the procurement process required at different spend levels, with below-threshold procurement potentially being restricted to suppliers in Kirklees or the wider West Yorkshire region, in accordance with national legislation.
- Rule 5 had been amended so that direct award from framework agreements was no longer treated as an exemption, although a business case was still required to evidence value for money.
- Rule 6 had been updated with new exemptions to ensure compliance with the Procurement Act.
- Rule 11 had been added, which confirmed the requirement for all contacts entered to have a Contract Manager responsible for managing the contract throughout its lifecycle.
- Rule 12 has been strengthened to ensure that all contract modifications were processed through the Procurement Team for compliance purposes.

The Committee was advised that the updated CPRs complied with the Procurement Act.

RESOLVED –
1. That the proposed amendments to Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) be noted and recommended for approval by Council on 11 March 2026.
2. That the information provided on the example illustrating the life cycle of a contract be noted.

85 Constitution Updates

The Committee received a report which highlighted the suggested amendments to the Constitution and that it be recommended to Council. It was essential that the Constitution was subject to regular review, and where necessary, amended, to ensure it followed any legal requirements placed on the Council and that it was fit for purpose.

The Committee noted that –

- Appendix A of the report summarised the Monitoring Officers amendments under delegation
- Appendix B of the report included a comprehensive rewrite of the Safeguarding Protocol
- Appendix C of the report covered amendments to Council Procedure Rules
- Appendix D of the report outlined the minor changes to the Protocol for speaking at Planning Committees
- Appendix E of the report included the Corporate Governance and Aduit Committee Terms of Reference.

The Committee noted that amendments had been made in relation to the removal of its oversight of Local Government Ombudsman matters. Updated national guidance confirmed that such matters were to be reported to Cabinet and Scrutiny instead. However, a reference had been retained to allow Cabinet to refer issues back to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee where appropriate.

During discussions, the Committee raised issues around Council motions and the growing volume of businesses related to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), in particular, bus franchising and rail reform, and the need for Members to be fully engaged. The Committee noted the benefits of pre-decision scrutiny for both Kirklees and WYCA matters, and the possible need to review scrutiny structures in the future, taking into account the outcome of the local elections and avoiding placing additional pressure on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, who already had an extensive workload.

The Committee also highlighted the challenges in ensuring information from WYCA meetings was shared consistently.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Monitoring Officer delegations in Appendix A be noted.
2. That the suggested amendments to the following areas set out at paragraph 2 of the report, be recommended to Council:-
   - Councillor Safeguarding protocol
   - Council procedure rules
   - Protocol for Public Speaking at Planning Committee
   - Responsibility for Non-Executive functions - CGA – Terms of Reference
   - Responsibility for Non-Executive functions - Appeals Panel – Terms of Reference
3. That the work of the cross-party Constitution Working Group be noted.
4. That it be noted that the Constitution has been subject to a review and no amendments other than those set out below are required at this time.

5. That the amendments to the Constitution be noted and recommended to Council for approval.

86 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2025-26 (October 2025 to December 2025)

The Committee received the Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2025-26, October 2025 to December 2025. The Council must have an Internal Audit Function.

The report provided information regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and the progress on the implementation of recommendation. Approximately half of the annual audit plan had been completed by the end of Quarter 3 due to slightly improved staffing levels, and it was forecast that around 75% of the plan would be delivered by year-end. 77% of completed audits (excluding schools) had received positive assurance, which was broadly consistent with, or slightly better than previous years. The report also included updates on recent work undertaken by the fraud team.

During discussions, the Committee questioned the high proportion of audits unallocated or not started at the end of December, and whether the reduced capacity had resulted in the audit plan focusing on lower-risk areas. The Committee was advised that of the 75% audits forecast for completion, these were a good balance to ensure sufficient coverage for the annual opinion. However, there was a need to maintain oversight of key financial systems which would be reflected in next year's audit plan.

Further discussions took place regarding assurance obtained through other mechanisms outside of internal audit processes and the Committee queried the reasons for the audit of Greenwood Park Café.

In relation to blue badge fraud, the Committee was advised that fraud levels represented a small proportion of total badges, but that misuse, particularly involving badges of deceased individuals or stolen permits, was an ongoing issue.

RESOLVED – That the Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2025-26, October 2025 to December 2025 be noted.

87 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED- That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that its involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned minute.

88 Internal Audit Quarterly Report 3 2025-26 (October 2025 to December 2025)

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to Minute number 86.

89 Agenda Plan

RESOLVED – That the Agenda Plan for 2025/26 be noted.

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Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 24th April 2026

Present:	Councillor John Taylor (Chair) Councillor James Homewood Councillor Caroline Holt Councillor Harry McCarthy Councillor Angela Sewell
Co-optees	Andrew North
In attendance:	Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) James Anderson, Head of Accountancy Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk and Internal Audit Philip Jones, Service Director for Homes and Neighbourhoods Lisa Rasden, Head of Housing & Neighbourhoods Greg Charnley, External Auditor, Grant Thornton
Apologies:	Councillor Kath Pinnock Councillor Bill Armer (ex-Officio) Nicholas Booth (Co-Optee)

90 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Kath Pinnock, Councillor Bill Armer (Ex-Officio) and Nicholas Booth (Co-Optee)

91 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

92 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

93 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

94 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

95 **Update on the Housing Tenancy Allocation Audit**

The Committee received an update on the Housing Tenancy Allocation Audit which advised that all outstanding recommendations from the Tenancy Allocation internal audit undertaken in July 2024 were now complete.

Philip Jones, Service Director for Homes and Neighbourhoods advised that there were four outstanding recommendations from the internal audit undertaken in July 2024, work had been undertaken and all actions were complete and signed off. The service was confident that the allocations process was now compliant and meeting the needs of policy documents. A further planned audit would take place in 2026/27 to hopefully receive substantial assurance.

During discussion, the Committee requested confirmation that phase 2 had been complete, it was noted that phase 2 had just begun with new systems being put in place, manual spot checks were undertaken, the audit in 2026/27 would be carried out following the implementation of phase 2.

RESOLVED- That the Housing Tenancy Allocation Audit update be noted.

96 **Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Kirklees Metropolitan Council**

The Committee received a report on Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Kirklees Council. The Council's External Auditors, Grant Thornton, asked that council officers complete an 'Inquiries of management and those charged with Governance' document which consisted of a schedule of questions from Grant Thornton. Appendix A in the report provided the questions and responses from Kirklees officers. Grant Thornton would consider the responses and use in providing their overall opinion on the Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement which was to be presented to this committee for approval by 30 November 2026. Grant Thornton requested that the Committee affirm that they believe the assertions to be true (or have no reason to believe that they were untrue).

During discussion, the Committee ascertained what Grant Thornton used this document for, it was noted that they reviewed the document for consistency and checked for any red flags of further work required.

RESOLVED-
1) That the Risk Assessment document be approved.
2) That the Risk Assessment document be formally submitted to Grant Thornton.

97 **Audit Plan 2025-26**

The Committee received the Audit Plan 2025/26 from the External Auditors, Grant Thornton ending 31 March 2026.

The report set out a summary of the work of the Auditors with specific regard to key developments impacting their audit approach, Identified risks, their approach on materiality, progress against the prior year's recommendations, IT audit strategy, value for money arrangements, logistics, fees and related matters, independence considerations, communication of audit matters with those charged with governance, and delivering the audit quality.

Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton advised the Committee of the accelerated timeline for the backstop, a detailed audit progress report would be brought to Committee in September 26.

During discussion the committee requested that the audit progress report be brought to committee sooner than September 2026 and sought assurance from the External Auditors on hitting the date in November 2026. It was noted that due to techniques and tools the external auditors had, along with planning work being more advanced the external auditors were confident they would meet the November 2026 date.

RESOLVED- That the External Audit Plan 2025/26 be noted.

98 Internal Audit: Charter, Strategy and Plan for 2026-27

The Committee received the Internal Audit Charter, Strategy and Plan for 2026/27. Formally for the first half of the year and informally for the second half. (A paper version of the Internal Strategy was provided to Committee Members that had been omitted from the published documents). The Internal Audit Charter and Strategy document was in fulfilment of the requirements of the Institute of Internal Auditors Global Internal Audit Standards and the UK Public Sector application note. A risk-based audit plan was necessary to achieve maximum assurance from a limited level or resource. Appendix three of the report set out the key areas of operational activity that were considered to be in scope for assurance activity.

Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk and Internal Audit advised that resourced available to internal audit were quite limited. Whilst a management vacancy was successfully filled, this was an internal candidate and vacancies were advertised through 2025/26, only one suitable candidate had been identified and appointed. During 2026/27 one team member was likely to be absent through maternity leave. Attempts were being made to recruit, both substantively and temporarily, and at Apprentice level.

During discussion the committee requested information about when each area of assurance (as listed in Appendix 3) was last subjected to an audit review. It was noted that core assurance areas were usually reviewed every three years, with some areas covered at least in part annually.

The Committee questioned the target (Appendix 5) for fundamental recommendations. They asked that this target be set at 100% completed within the promised timescale and asked that a report be provided to the next committee meeting showing implementation of fundamental actions and valid reasons for not being complete.

RESOLVED –

1) That the Internal Audit Charter and Audit Strategy (noting the areas where the council's arrangements might be assessed as not fully compliant) be approved.
2) That the proposed audit plan for 2026/27 (April to September 2026/draft October 2026 to March 2027) be approved.
3) That the resourcing position be noted.
4) That the Head of Risk and Internal Audit make changes to the Audit Plan as they consider reasonable, reflecting the need of the organisation, subject to being reported back to Committee to be noted.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 29th January 2026

Present:

Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Cathy Scott

Apologies: Councillor Tony McGrath

41 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McGrath.

Councillor Munir Ahmed substituted for Councillor Ullah.

42 Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED – That, in the absence of Councillor Ullah, Councillor Firth be appointed as Chair of the Meeting.

43 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 November 2025 be approved as a correct record.

44 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Firth, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal indicated that they had been lobbied on all of the planning applications listed on the agenda.

45 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

46 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

47 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

48 Site Visit - Applications 2025/92443 and 2025/93197

Site visit undertaken.

49 Site Visit - Application No: 2025/93235
Site visit undertaken.

50 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92443
The Committee gave consideration to Application 2025/92443 – External works to Market Building and wider site including alteration and demolition of modern additions to the Market building, new glazed screens, new WC and welfare facilities, provision of services and lighting including associated works, remodelling to the stone annexe, alterations to catering facilities, and self-contained commercial units, works to floor surfaces of Market Building. Use of Market Building for a mix of uses (sui generis) including retail, hot food takeaway, drinking establishment, restaurant / café uses, market office, public welfare facilities, storage facilities as well as provision of areas that provide a mix of fixed and flexible indoor and outdoor market stalls. Creation of areas for open market, siting of associated structures, installation of new fixed market stalls demolition of external bin store and creation of waste compound area, storage compounds, vehicular parking, remodelling and surfacing of areas of hardstanding, street furniture, car park layout, installation of parcel lockers, landscaping and associated works (Listed Building within a Conservation Area) Huddersfield Open Market, Brook Street, Huddersfield.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Jeff Needham, Jez Gunnell, Pam Day, Naeem Nazir, Alex Mettrick, Sandra Jackson and Andrew Wilson (in objection), Nick Mitchell (architect) and Jaime Nalson (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED – That, contrary to the Officer's recommendation, the application be deferred and that Officers be requested to (i) undertake comprehensive consultation with the market traders, and refine suggested plans as feasible (ii) review the feasibility study/contingency pack (iii) provide additional information on consultation responses received from Historic England and the Victorian Society in relation to impact upon heritage assets (iv) further discuss arrangements for the proposed temporary measures and (v) provide detail of an access management plan.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;
For: Councillors Ahmed, Bellamy, Firth, Davies, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal (7 votes)
Against: (no votes)

51 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/93197
RESOLVED – That, pursuant to the deferral of Agenda Item 11 (Minute No.50 refers), the determination of this application also be deferred.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;
For: Councillors Ahmed, Bellamy, Firth, Davies, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal (7 votes)
Against: (no votes)

52 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/93235

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2025/93235 – Removal of the Cross and reinstatement within the grass verge on Cross Street/Wyke Lane (Listed Building) at The Cross, Wyke Lane/Cross Street, Oakenshaw.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(3), the Committee received representations from Councillors K Pinnock, J C Lawson and A Pinnock (local members).

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Jean Tottie, Lindsey Sutherland, Katie Dingle and Colin Berry (in objection).

RESOLVED – That contrary to the Officer's recommendation, the application be refused on the grounds that (i) the listed monument should be returned to its original location as the repositioning would impact upon the heritage asset/ the original location is in keeping with the area/the relocation of the structure would impact upon the heritage asset, pride of place and historical significance and (ii) the archaeological foundations need to be maintained.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;
For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal (5 votes)
Against: Councillors Ahmed and Firth (2 votes)

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT-WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 5th March 2026

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Cathy Scott

53 Membership of the Committee
No apologies for absence were received.

54 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

55 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying
Councillor Davies advised that she had been lobbied in respect of Application 2025/92440.

56 Admission of the Public
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

57 Public Question Time
No public questions were received.

58 Deputations / Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

59 Site Visit - Planning Application No: 2025/92440
Site visit undertaken.

60 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92440
The Committee gave consideration to Application 2025/92440 – Erection of four dwellings at Lumb Lane Nurseries, Lumb Lane, Almondbury.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Janine Riley, Suzi Ellis and Richard Ellis (local residents), Ben Marsden (applicant) and Peter Roberts (in support of the application).

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 conditions regarding time scale
- in full accordance with plans
- sample materials
- windows and doors should be timber or metal and recessed by 100 –150mm
- remove permitted development rights
- soft landscaping scheme
- boundary treatment scheme
- front boundary wall to be no taller than 900mm
- approved vehicle parking areas would need to be surfaced and drained
- construction management plan
- scheme detailing the location and cross sectional information together with the proposed design and construction details for all new retaining walls
- construction (environmental) management plan
- precautionary working method statement
- badger survey
- full invasive species survey and management plan
- artificial lighting strategy
- phase 2 intrusive site investigation report
- remediation strategy
- implementation of the remediation strategy
- submission of verification report

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

To refuse
For: Councillors Bellamy, Davies and Scott (3 votes)
Against: Councillors Firth, Sokhal and Ullah (3 votes)
Abstained: Councillors Lee Richards and Kahut

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(2), the Chair applied their entitlement to a casting vote and voted against the proposal to refuse the application. The motion was not, therefore, carried.

To approve
For: Councillors Firth, Sokhal and Ullah (3 votes)
Against: Councillors Bellamy, Davies and Scott (3 votes)
Abstained: Councillors Lee Richards and Kahut

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(2), the Chair applied their entitlement to a casting vote and voted in support of the proposal to approve the application.

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Present:	Councillor Beverley Addy (Chair)
In attendance:	Lucy Wearmouth, Head of Improving Population Health, Kirklees Council Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Commissioning, Kirklees Council Adrian Wieniewski, Programme Manager, Strategy Innovation and Planning Ryan Hunter, Assistant Director of Strategy and Change SWYFT Victoria Vallance, Deputy Chief Executive Locala
Apologies:	Councillor Carole Pattison Councillor Ashleigh Robinson Tom Brailsford Sheran Loran Rachel Spencer-Henshall Steve Brennan Liz Town Andrews Izzy Worswick Stacey Appleyard

24 Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Carole Pattison, Steve Brennan, Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Liz Town Andrews, Cllr Ashleigh Robinson, Izzy Worswick Stacey Appleyard and Tom Brailsford.

25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th September be approved as a correct record.

26 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

27 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

28 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

29 Public Question Time
No public questions were received.

30 Partner updates on actions taken following Health and Well-being board discussions
Brent Kilmurray, Chief Executive of Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust, informed the Board that the Trust is planning engagement work focused on the configuration of services across its three sites. The Trust will also be marking the 150th anniversary of Dewsbury Hospital at Staincliffe, with a series of events to highlight services provided at the hospital, celebrate the hospitals history, and involve the local community. Several key initiatives will form part of these celebrations, and Board members will be invited to participate. Mr Kilmurray further highlighted that the Trust is beginning to look ahead to the development of its clinical strategy for the next five to ten years, noting that there will be significant work undertaken over the coming year.

Cllr Addy informed the Board that an email has been circulated seeking members' views on how the Board should operate within the new structure, with particular consideration given to future membership. Board members were encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions directly with Cllr Addy or with Lucy Wearmouth.

RESOLVED:

That Board member updates be noted.

31 Local Area SEND Inspection response and the Big SEND plan - Part 3
Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Commissioning, and Adrian Wisniewski Programme Manager Strategy Innovation and Planning, attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the Local Area SEND inspection response and the Big SEND 15-26 Plan Part 3. In summary, the Board was informed that the information being presented is the third in the series of 'Big Plans' for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for aged 0 to 25.

The Board received an update on the ongoing transformation plan, which set out how partners will work together to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people. The latest iteration of the plan had been developed in response to the SEND Area Inspection carried out by Ofsted and the CQC in June 2025. The inspection reviewed the full range of SEND provision across Kirklees, including schools within the local authority, health providers, the ICB, and other partners. The findings highlighted inconsistencies in the support offered to children and young people and identified areas requiring improvement. These areas were formally set out in the inspection report and gave four areas to improve.

The Board was informed that the purpose of the update is to set out how the revised plan will be developed, what it will involve, and what will be required from partners and the wider system. The focus is on identifying how collective action across the system can deliver the changes needed to achieve the required improvements.

The Board was reminded that an initial draft of the plan had previously been presented due to the short timescale for responding to the inspectors. The revised version, containing additional detail, was brought back to further inform the Board. The Board had previously advised that the strengths already demonstrated should continue to be built upon, and therefore the same format has been used as with the earlier Big Plans. This approach has received positive feedback from both the inspectors and the DfE and has been recognised nationally as an example of innovation and good practice.

The Board was advised that today's item would provide a brief overview of the detail within the plan which has been fully endorsed by partners, despite the very tight timescale required to progress it. The Board was advised that this is not a new programme of work; partners have been collaborating on these priorities for a while and the current iteration builds on existing knowledge, established activity, and the feedback previously provided by the Board.

The Board was informed that a similar format to previous Big Plans has been used, because it was well-received and it provides a logical structure. The document begins by addressing an important question readers typically have regarding purpose and relevance, and this section has been kept concise. It was also recognised that although those involved in the work are familiar with it, not everyone will have a detailed understanding of what a local area SEND inspection entails, therefore this explanation has also been presented in a brief and accessible way. A further question asked was how this plan differs from the two existing Big Plans. The first Big Plan set out the overall five-year vision, reflecting feedback from young people who felt that the term "strategy" did not resonate with them. The Big Plan Part 3 focuses specifically on the collective actions required in response to the recent SEND inspection.

Kirklees benefits from a partnership comprising of many highly committed individuals who make a positive difference every day. While the system is not without its challenges and further work is required, there is dedication across services to improving outcomes for children and young people, and the inspection findings reinforced this position.

The inspectors reported that the partnership has a clear understanding of its current strengths and areas for development, and that existing improvement activity is already under way. However, the inspection also highlighted that additional work is needed to address the identified priorities in full.

The inspection highlighted that leaders across the partnership are highly ambitious for children and that services are developed collaboratively. Inspectors were particularly positive about the role of PCAN, the local parent carer forum, noting the strong and constructive challenge it provides. PCAN's contribution was recognised as both supportive and influential, with representatives involved not only in reviewing proposals but also in shaping the work from the outset.

The inspection also identified several key areas requiring further focus. These included, preparing for adulthood, communication, waiting times, and the quality and timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans.

In developing the report, consideration was given to feedback previously provided by children, young people, families, and partners. Stakeholders had consistently expressed that, having already shared their views, they wished to see progress taken forward. This feedback has been incorporated into the development of the associated action plans.

Stakeholders also advised against producing an extensive action plan presented as a large spreadsheet, emphasising the need for a clear and straightforward outline of what actions will be taken and the timescales for delivery. As a result, the familiar roadmap format used in earlier plans has been retained to present the information in a concise and accessible way.

A tried-and-tested format has been used in developing the plan, with the visual roadmap approach proving effective in previous iterations. Each of the four priority actions is accompanied by a roadmap that follows the same structure and presentation style, ensuring consistency and ease of understanding.

The Board was informed that the plan represents a long-term programme of work. The inspection team were clear that the issues identified are not expected to be resolved within a 6–12-month period. As such, actions have been paced sensibly, with some elements scheduled to begin in later years and others identified as requiring immediate attention.

The first priority area considered is Preparation for Adulthood, including addressing existing inconsistencies in practice. Initial work began during the autumn, including information gathering, early engagement with partners, and scoping activity.

A peer review was carried out recently with colleagues from Wakefield and Doncaster, who came in and met with a range of partners in Kirklees to examine current practice and offer constructive challenge and suggestions for improvement. The feedback has provided valuable additional insight and will inform the next stage of development work.

The second priority area relates to waiting times, particularly for health services, an issue that was anticipated and is common across local areas. This presents a significant challenge and requires careful consideration of how services will operate within the evolving ICB and NHS landscape. Close collaboration with health provider partners is essential, with those partners leading on the design and delivery of the associated actions. This approach is intended to ensure that every opportunity is taken to improve access for children and young people to the support they need.

Prioritisation work has been undertaken to identify the areas of greatest concern, particularly those with the longest waiting times. The most significant pressures were noted within Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and

Speech and Language Therapy. These areas will form the initial focus for improvement activity.

The Board was informed that the work is being approached from the perspective of the child rather than from the viewpoint of individual services. The focus is on how outcomes are achieved, what is in the best interests of children and their families, and how support can be structured around those needs. The plan sets out realistic expectations regarding what can be achieved within the resources currently available. The approach focuses on making improvements in line with national trajectories, rather than committing to targets that would not be deliverable.

The next priority area concerns Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Significant progress has already been made when compared with the position one to two years ago, when waiting times were considerably longer and compliance with the 20-week statutory timescale was low. The current focus is a continuation of the existing improvement programme, with particular attention on enhancing the quality of information included within EHCPs alongside the continued effort to improve timeliness. Ensuring that plans contain accurate, relevant, and required information remains a key priority.

Further work is also being undertaken to strengthen the quality assurance processes for EHCPs, including improvements to the review process. The timeliness of reviews has been an area of weakness, with plans not always revisited as promptly as required. Demand for EHCPs remains high and continues to increase, adding further pressure to the system.

The Government is expected to publish a SEND White Paper in the near future, although the potential implications for EHCPs are not yet known. As a result, current planning is based on the existing framework. Even if national changes are introduced, implementation is likely to take time, and the immediate focus therefore remains on the current statutory processes and requirements.

The Board was informed that as work progresses into the spring, a key area of focus is the improvement of information systems and information-sharing between professionals. This has historically been a challenge, particularly in ensuring that the right information reaches the right practitioners at the right time. An enhancement to the current information system is being introduced in the form of a professional portal. This will allow individuals who would not ordinarily have access to the system, such as health professionals who cannot access local authority platforms, to use an interface designed to support more effective and timely information flow.

A parent portal is also planned for future development, which will help to address some of the communication challenges that have been highlighted. Parents frequently report frustration about not knowing their position within the system, including where they are on a waiting list and what the next steps will be. The proposed portal will enable parents to log in, view progress, and access key information without the need to make enquiries by phone or experience unnecessary uncertainty.

The next area of focus is communication, which encompasses several dimensions. This includes communication between services and parents, as well as communication between professionals and partner organisations. It was noted that many individuals find it difficult to remain fully informed about developments across different parts of the system.

Work is underway to enhance communication by providing more regular updates and improving the ‘Local Offer’ to ensure that parents can access information in a single place. In addition, resources such as the ‘What Works’, in SEND guidance are being drawn upon to support the development of more effective communication and engagement approaches.

The Board was informed that in relation to monitoring progress and assessing the impact of the improvement activity, regular scheduled meetings take place with the Department for Education and NHS England. These meetings provide both robust challenge and supportive advice on the delivery of the plans. The partnership is committed to publishing public updates on progress at least four times each year and updates will be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a regular basis, as required. In addition, as SEND is a corporate priority for the local authority, progress is reported to the Executive Team every six weeks. In terms of the governance structure, the Health and Wellbeing Board sits at the top of the governance framework and serves as the ultimate oversight body for the programme.

RESOLVED:

That Stewart Horn and Adrian Wisniewski be thanked for providing an update on the Local Area SEND Inspection Response and the Big SEND 15 – 26 Plan Part 3.

32 Changes to the Integrated Care Board landscape

Vicky Dutchburn, Interim Accountable Officer for the Kirklees Integrated Care Board (ICB), updated the Board on recent developments within the Integrated Care Board landscape. In summary, it was reported that there had been significant changes since the previous briefing and that work was now progressing at pace.

The Board was reminded that, at the last update, the process had been paused until the new financial year. However, in November 2025, the ICB was notified that the pause had been lifted and that the government expected the work to move forward.

The update will outline that the intention is not only to outline the changes taking place within the ICB but also to report on progress with ongoing work, alongside the continuation of business-as-usual activity. It was highlighted that although the organisation is undergoing significant change, work continues.

The Board was advised that the update would cover four key areas:

1) <u>Organisational change</u>
In relation to organisational change, this forms part of a much wider programme of change across the NHS, including NHS England and the Department of

Health and Social Care. Although these wider changes will take place in due course, the ICB was required to go live and progress at pace.

As previously reported, across West Yorkshire, the organisation currently employs approximately 1,200 staff. The forthcoming changes will reduce this to around 600 posts, illustrating the scale of the organisational change required for the new structure.

Following the instruction in November that plans were to proceed, West Yorkshire took the decision to offer a voluntary redundancy scheme to all staff. This enabled the organisation to support colleagues while finalising the consultation documents for the proposed new structure. The voluntary redundancy scheme opened in November and closed at the beginning of December. In response, there has been a significant number of staff who have applied for voluntary redundancy and there are a significant number of staff who have been recommended for approval for voluntary redundancy. If those people take redundancy they will start exiting the organisation from next month.

Major organisational changes are expected to begin from next month. Some staff are still finalising their decisions regarding voluntary redundancy, and there are currently no firm figures available on the final impact. There remains however, a significant gap between the organisation's current staffing position and the level required for the new structure.

On 14 January 2026, the organisation opened the formal consultation on the proposed new structure for staff. A dedicated webpage has been created to support this process, providing access to the full consultation documentation, including the proposed organisational structures and draft job descriptions.

A wide range of support and information has been provided to staff through the dedicated consultation webpage. The organisation is now partway through a 45-day consultation period. In parallel with this, any staff who were not successful in the first round of voluntary redundancy have the opportunity to appeal.

The ICB will have three core functions. It will be the Strategic Commissioner for West Yorkshire, Convenor of the Integrated Care System, and Integrator of providers and services:

Strategic Commissioner - the ICB will ensure that services are planned and delivered in a way that meets the needs of the population both now and in the future understanding inequalities and how they impact on service needs and utilisation. It involves a systematic approach to defining and measuring outcomes, using data and intelligence to make informed decisions about resource allocation and service delivery.

Convenor - the ICB will bring together all partners in the Integrated Care System to agree and deliver its five-year strategy and ensure delivery of local and national priorities by working together effectively and taking mutual responsibility for the results. It will co-ordinate the governance of the partnership and its wider arrangements for collaboration, within a framework of distributed leadership.

Integrator - Place-based integrator teams will assess population health risk and facilitate place provider partnerships to co-design new integrated models of care.

The Board was informed that the intention is to begin interviews from April this year. The formal consultation period will conclude at the end of February, followed by a two-week period of deliberation in early March. The final organisational structures will then be published, after which the executive team job descriptions will be advertised.

Recruitment to executive posts is expected to commence from the beginning of April, with subsequent recruitment for other staff groups taking place in stages through to the end of June. Each recruitment phase will have an approximate two-week application window; however, the executive director posts will have a shorter window of around one week, while bands 6 and 7 will have longer application periods due to the larger number of staff in those grades. The intention is for all interviews to be completed by the end of June. This timeline means that final staff exits whether through voluntary or compulsory redundancy will take place from July onwards.

From October, the new organisation will be fully implemented and will begin operating under the revised arrangements.

2) <u>Place Provider Partnerships</u>
The intention is that through 2026/27 the Place Provider Partnerships will operate in a shadow form. This will allow the system to establish the necessary governance arrangements, manage the transition of staff, and ensure that memoranda of understanding, contracts, and other required agreements are properly transferred and robust. This will support appropriate governance and due diligence with the providers who may ultimately lead these functions, recognising that final guidance from NHS England on the operating framework is still awaited.

From April 2027, the intention is for the new entities to be fully established, with contracts formally awarded to the relevant providers to enable the new arrangements to go live.

This work will also include close collaboration with local authorities and wider partners, with the intention of building on the strong partnership working already in place.

Alongside these developments, significant changes to governance arrangements will be required. Work is therefore underway to revise the current governance structures at both the West Yorkshire ICB level and at place, to ensure they remain fit for purpose within the new organisational framework.

At the West Yorkshire level, the Board will move to a smaller membership with a more streamlined committee structure. The intention is for these revised arrangements to come into effect from April 2026. Further changes will then be required between late 2026 and early 2027 to formalise the final constitutional elements, meaning the governance transition will follow a two-phase process.

In parallel, work continues on developing the place-based provider partnerships. As previously referenced, there is an intention to establish a Place Provider Partnership for Kirklees. Current providers within Kirklees are already working closely together to support the development of this model and to ensure readiness for the new arrangements.

3) Operational Planning 2026/27

The Board was informed that as in previous years, the organisational planning process from NHS England commenced over the Christmas period. Although it began a few weeks earlier than usual which offered some initial benefit, the process is still ongoing. Despite the earlier start, it is not expected to conclude any sooner, largely due to further changes introduced by NHS England to the planning requirements and approach for this year.

Providers are required to submit their organisational plans directly to NHS England this year, while ICBs must also produce their own separate plans. A key challenge identified is that ICBs are no longer receiving provider plans in advance, which prevents the usual triangulation of finance, activity, and capacity to ensure alignment across the system.

To mitigate this, the system has put its own mechanisms in place to maintain oversight and ensure plans are coherent. It was emphasised that, although submissions will go separately to NHS England, the system must still ensure internal alignment; otherwise, there is a risk of significant discrepancies emerging when plans are reviewed collectively by NHS England or in partnership discussions.

Work is ongoing to meet the required deadlines, and partners across the system continue to collaborate closely as this year’s approach carries a real risk of fragmenting long-established ways of working, particularly in how services are planned, delivered and coordinated. Without strong joint working, there is a potential to revert to siloed behaviours, however, partners have demonstrated continued commitment to working collectively, recognising the importance of maintaining cooperation and alignment during this period of significant organisational change.

4) Neighbourhood Health Plan

In relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Health Plans, The Board was informed that the intention remains for all nine planned Neighbourhood Health Teams to be operational by the end of the summer. Two additional teams went live in December, ahead of schedule, which was welcomed as a positive development. The programme continues to benefit from strong collaborative working across the system, supporting the effective implementation of the neighbourhood model.

The Board was informed that the neighbourhood teams are actively sharing learning across the different areas, which is helping to strengthen and accelerate progress. As a result, the programme remains on track to meet the planned timeline and may even progress ahead of schedule, reflecting both the pace at which teams wish to move and the commitment across the system. Non-recurrent funding has been allocated to support this development.

Organisational development support is also being provided to the neighbourhood teams to enable them to take the work forward sustainably. This continues to be a highly collaborative programme, with funding contributions drawn from a range of partners, not solely the ICB. For example, some of the case worker roles referenced are being supported through partner-secured funding.

This work has been delivered in close partnership with local authorities and community services, ensuring it is genuinely collaborative in approach. Further updates will be shared with the Board over the coming year, and more detailed information will be included in the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

RESOLVED:

That Vicky Dutchburn be thanked for providing an update on changes to the Integrated Care Board landscape and will continue to provide timely updates.

33 Update on of the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Lucy Wearmouth, Head of Population Health, provided the Board with an update on the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Board was informed that the information being presented would provide background to the refresh process and, at a high level, set out the distinctions between the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Health and Care Plan, and the emerging Neighbourhood Health Plans, to ensure clarity about the role and purpose of each. The update would also set out the proposed timeline for developing the refreshed strategy and explain the approach to stakeholder engagement.

The Board was reminded that the current Health and Wellbeing Strategy runs until 2027, and Rachel Spencer-Henshall presented the midpoint review to the Board in September 2025. The Strategy remains a statutory requirement, with the Health and Wellbeing Board responsible for its oversight and implementation. It also continues to be one of the partnership's four key strategic documents.

The Board was informed that the update was being set within the context of the wider system changes outlined by Vicky Dutchburn. The refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will need to be carefully managed to ensure alignment with those developments.

Informal conversations have already taken place with several Board members to gather early feedback on the current strategy. This included reflections on opportunities for improvement, experiences of how the Strategy has functioned over the past three to four years, and views on how members would like to shape the next phase and how it could potentially change for the future.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy sits at the highest level, providing the overarching strategic vision for Kirklees. It sets out the long-term direction for improving population health and defines the core priorities for the system setting out the long-term priorities for improving health and wellbeing in Kirklees. It is intended to be a short and focused document that provides overarching direction, sitting above the more detailed operational plans. Alongside this, the Health and Care Plan will continue to be developed and will ultimately evolve into the Neighbourhood Health Plan.

The Board was provided with the proposed timetable for developing the refreshed Strategy:

- Stakeholder engagement is scheduled to take place from September this year through to January 2027. This engagement will include Board members.
- The refreshed Strategy will then be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration and approval at the appropriate stages.
- Findings from the engagement activity undertaken in March and April 2027 will be used to inform the development of the revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy in June 2027.
- The final version of the strategy will then be presented to the Board in October 2027 for approval.

In terms of next steps, the first stage will focus on engagement with partners. This is expected to include gathering partners' feedback on the current Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including views on its strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities for development. Input from the Board on these proposed areas of focus is welcomed.

Feedback will be sought on the existing strategy, including views on where changes could be made to strengthen and improve it, supported by the intelligence already available. It would be beneficial to establish a set of key principles to guide the development of the revised strategy, and these principles will be developed in collaboration with the Board.

Consideration will be given to the known challenges within Kirklees, as well as the strengths, assets, and existing gaps. Board members are also asked to reflect on their own organisational strategic priorities and those shared across the wider partnership. Stakeholder engagement will include Health and Wellbeing Board members, key partners, other relevant forums, and identified groups. Further feedback will be sought from the Board on any additional stakeholders who should be included in the engagement process."

RESOLVED:

That Lucy Wearmouth be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 16th January 2026

Present:	Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair) Councillor Itrat Ali Councillor Zarina Amin
In attendance:	Councillor Carole Pattison Councillor Moses Crook Councillor Beverley Addy Councillor Nosheen Dad Councillor Tyler Hawkins Councillor Viv Kendrick Councillor Jane Rylah Councillor Graham Turner Steve Mawson, Chief Executive Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive Tom Brailsford, Service Director Children and Families Michelle Cross, Service Director Adults and Health Michelle Hope, Corporate Planning and Coordination Manager Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance David Shepherd, Service Director Place
Observers:	Councillor Karen Allison Councillor Charles Greaves Councillor John Lawson Councillor Susan Lee-Richards Councillor Harry McCarthy Councillor Imran Safdar Councillor Elizabeth Smaje Councillor John Taylor Councillor Alex Vickers
Apologies:	Councillor Andrew Cooper Councillor Jo Lawson

59 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Andrew Cooper and Councillor Jo Lawson.

60 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 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 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

65 Budget 2026/27 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive introduced the draft budget proposals for 2026/27, as agreed by Cabinet on 2nd December 2025, and the Council Plan. The following points were highlighted:

- The Council Plan was in the final stages of development but there was still an opportunity for comments and feedback to be put forward.
- The importance of the Council Plan was emphasised; the priorities established within it guiding decision-making on the budget.
- The new three-year financial settlement from the Government allowed for improved long-term planning.
- The four headline Council Priorities remained consistent:
  1. Getting the basics right.
  2 Protecting the vulnerable.
  3. Enabling everyone to thrive and have successful lives.
  4. Economic growth.
- Public consultation on the Council's proposed budget had taken place, with early feedback appearing constructive.
- Scrutiny formed part of the wider consultation process before the final decision was taken in February.
- Additional revenue funding was proposed for priorities identified by residents and businesses, such as planning services, addressing fly-tipping and support for community organisations.
- The updated Capital Plan included £35.1 million towards a new sport and leisure facility in North Kirklees to replace Dewsbury Sports Centre. It represented the continuation of the programme of investment into the local economy and infrastructure.
- The Council's financial position was improving, though there were still challenges and difficult decisions to be made.
- It was important to maintain a focus on prevention to mitigate long-term pressures particularly in children's and adult social care and close partnership working was taking place with providers and NHS colleagues.

- A lot of work had been done in terms of reviewing the Capital Plan.
- Most discretionary fees and charges had increased by 3% to reflect inflation.
- Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness of services. Assessments had been undertaken of vacant posts and work was being undertaken to establish how digital solutions could improve and support productivity and also maximise income for local residents.
- The maintenance of appropriate risk management and governance practices, balancing risk awareness with enabling community-led activity.
- The level of savings required had reduced over the last three years.
- The level of engagement on the budget consultation had reduced compared to the previous year; this may be due to the controversial nature of some of the proposals for that year.
- Initial analysis indicated that the key themes from residents related to highways and infrastructure, town centre regeneration and Council Tax affordability.
- The financial implications of not applying an increase in Council Tax of 4.99%.
- The strengthening of engagement with political groups and their leaders and the production of a detailed 'budget book'.
- The emerging themes informing the preparation of the Cabinet report scheduled for early February:
  - The continued need for a strong focus on prevention and early intervention. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision was an ongoing challenge, and a White Paper was expected imminently, which would impact on responsibilities and funding arrangements.
  - Workforce capacity; with most post deletions proposed being vacant posts; the Council continued to rely on natural turnover/wastage rather than compulsory redundancies.
  - Pressures relating to housing supply and homelessness. Regular updates had been provided to the Council by the Deputy Leader, which reflected the scale and urgency of such challenges.
  - Outdoor and community space maintained by the Council. Benchmarking indicated that Kirklees managed almost double the provision of comparable authorities, which created ongoing pressures across both capital and revenue budgets.
  - Positive progress on digital transformation and service efficiency, whilst noting the importance of ensuring that digital approaches did not exclude residents who were unable to access services online.

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

- It was not possible to pick out one, top, priority. Protecting the vulnerable, both adults and children, was very important and resources had been put into the budget to ensure the demand was met. There was also a wish for residents to be able to see and feel the difference that the Council made to their lives.
- Fly-tipping was a persistent and costly issue; with sites being cleared only to be re-tipped within hours or days. Suggestions included using CCTV, increasing prosecutions, and re-purposing land to deter fly-tipping.
  There were two types of fly-tipping: commercial (e.g., unlicensed waste carriers) and community-based disposal within local areas. In terms of the commercial element, actions were being taken including vehicle seizures, prosecutions,

naming-and-shaming and publicising enforcement action. In respect of the other element. work was being undertaken to raise awareness in communities about the best ways to dispose of waste and the costs to them of repeated clearance operations. Additional resources had been dedicated to clearing hotspots and backlogs in clearance had improved.

- The consultation methodology had been altered to allow broader responses compared to previous years' proposal-specific approach. In terms of the level of response, it was considered that this was not unusual for a place like Kirklees and a small sample could be representative.
- The formal consultation process had been supplemented through ongoing engagement with businesses, community groups, and service users throughout the year and the initial budget proposals reflected the outcomes from this. There was a desire to increase the amount of local engagement but there was a balance to be achieved on the level of resources used for this and the added value.
- Feedback on the consultation process itself had been generally positive.
- The proposed £35.1m investment into replacing Dewsbury Sports Centre was welcomed. The Administration was committed to this but noted that it would be subject to approval by the Council.
- Programmes of activity were to be introduced, led by Kirklees Active Leisure, with the aim of improving the health of residents, particularly in North Kirklees.
- Additional Government funding for youth and leisure improvements was anticipated, with details pending and the Council was preparing to identify local priorities for such resources.
- Maximising the use of existing facilities and resources such as parks, green spaces, and leisure facilities would be beneficial; ensuring that they were maintained, with equipment being fit for purpose and providing support to community groups that organised sport and recreational activities.
- Innovative ways of making sports and recreational facilities accessible, particularly for children and young people, should be explored.
- Regeneration plans needed to include support for local businesses in addition to buildings and infrastructure.
- In response to a request for clarification in respect of 'support for community organisations' it was explained that it was considered that it would be helpful to map all existing support to voluntary groups, and that there was a recognition that support could take different forms, noting that this was not necessarily about finance but about how things were done.
  The view was expressed that the Council tended to work better with large anchor organisations rather than smaller groups, with grassroots groups struggling with Council policies, procedures and rules and bureaucracy; having to deal with a number of different departments. It was noted that supporting the larger organisations was important so that they could continue to support the smaller ones.
  The three-year financial settlement should assist the Council in being able to improve stability for the voluntary sector.
  Noted that local ward members were not as involved in decision-making on local funding as in the past but had excellent knowledge of what support was needed for groups in their area. Ward budgets had been helpful in addressing this.

- In terms of budget assumptions related to council tax collection rates, it was explained that the 2026/27 budget assumed an ultimate collection rate of 98.25%, which was marginally lower than the previous assumption of 98.5% although efforts would be made to achieve more than this.
- Noted that ‘council tax equalisation’ had been introduced by government, which recognised the differences in tax-base strength between regions. Kirklees had gained from this adjustment.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration and the Service Director – Finance gave a presentation which highlighted:

- A proposed revenue budget of £465 million for 2026/2027.
- A capital programme (General Fund) of £269.6 million, with a total capital borrowing of £131.7 million.
- A Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget of £115 million, with a capital investment of £73.8 million and £30.6 million of capital borrowing for 2026/2027.
- Rising demand across Children’s Services and Adult Services, alongside wider inflationary impacts, affected the budget. An additional £40 million was proposed to be invested in services, with £24 million for Adults and Children’s Services.
- To achieve a balanced budget, proposed new savings of approximately £7 million had been identified, which included the removal of vacant posts, efficiency measures and productivity improvements.
- Proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99% for 2026/2027, with an additional 2% to fund adult social care which was in line with Government assumptions expectations within the final settlement and would generate approximately £13 million in additional income to support local services.
- The final Local Government Finance Settlement was expected in the second week of February.
- The final budget report would be considered by Cabinet on 10th February and Council on 25th February.
- The significance of the three-year financial settlement, which supported better long-term planning for both the Council and partner organisations. The changes to the approach in terms of Council Tax equalisation, which had benefited Kirklees, was also welcomed and the hope expressed that this would continue and support reductions in deprivation and improvements in residents’ quality of life.
- The proposed budget had been drafted prior to the publication of the draft Local Government Finance Settlement.
- An additional £23.1 million of funding had been assumed for 26/27.
- An additional £39 million had been allocated to service areas, further to the circa £50 million added in the current year.
- A reduction in employer’s superannuation rate which was expected to save £7.1million, subject to final confirmation in March.
- Total savings of £10.7 million, comprising approximately £6.8 million of new proposals.
- In relation to funding changes Council Tax income was to rise from £252.9 million to in the region of £267.8 million, driven by the 4.99% allowable increase, tax base adjustments and a revised collection rate of 98.25%.
- Business rates retained income assumed an inflationary uplift of 0.8%.

- The prudent view taken in relation to government funding, based on information presented in the summer, which equated to £6.8 million increase.
- A reduced contribution to the collection fund deficit from £3.8 million to £3.2 million.
- Planned contribution to reserves totalling £8.3 million, and an uplift in the annual contribution to the General Reserve of £1 million, with the strategy being to build them over a five-year period.
- The changes since the presentation of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in September 2025.
- The figures for directorate savings proposals for 2026/27.
- The Capital Plan and funding, 2025/26 to 2032/33 including additions and reductions.

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

- In respect of assessment of impact on staff from deletion of vacant posts it was noted that those that were to be deleted had been vacant for some time. Efforts had been made to avoid additional pressure on services without some sort of mitigation and assurance was given that posts had been filled where necessary. Going forward the aim was to consider productivity through the use of digital technology and achieving better output from the available resources.
- The size of the Capital Plan, which had been raised by the external auditors, and it was questioned how the budget reflected this. The £960 million in the General Fund was affordable in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. A prudent view had been taken on interest rates over the period. Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) reserves were to be built up significantly over the next five year few years that could be called upon in future years when the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs increased. It was noted that the view of the auditors had been questioned as it was considered that the Council's programme and borrowing was not out of balance when compared with other local authorities.
- In relation to risk in the context of macroeconomic events; there was always some element of risk and challenge. Contingencies were built into the capital programme and monitoring was very important. Borrowing was taken at regular intervals over the short, medium and long term, at different rates, to achieve a balance and mitigate the risk. A prudent approach was adopted but the commitment to investment into the district's towns, villages and infrastructure needed to continue.
- The three-year settlement was welcomed; the Service Director would address the level of additional funding in a presentation later in the meeting.
- There was an appendix to the budget report which illustrated how the desirable level of reserves was calculated and this was currently £29 million. This took account of the corporate risks. It was considered that the Council was taking a prudent and pragmatic view on what the level should be. It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have a higher level of visibility around the assumptions used to provide reassurance.
- £5 million of borrowing had been removed in respect of highways as there was an assumption of grant funding; the money remained within the Capital Plan and borrowing would be reinstated if the grant funding did not come to fruition. The

view was expressed that this money should still be borrowed to invest in the district's roads to supplement the grant funding and address the backlog of repairs and maintenance to the highway network. This was an issue that had been raised during the budget consultation. It was noted that £9 million had been included in the budget as an amendment last year, for local community roads, and that remained in place and there was a need to balance ambition with what was/could actually be spent

- The challenge in terms of the Capital Plan and matching delivery and ambition was acknowledged and the potential impact on the revenue budget if this did not happen. It was noted that a significant amount of the Capital Plan was to be achieved by funding other than Council borrowing, such as from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) or the Government.
- The Public Works Loan Board rates changed twice a day and the current rates for five, ten and twenty years were given.
- It was suggested that announcements were sometimes made too far in advance of delivery. Assurance was given that announcements were not made until the necessary background work had been undertaken and arrangements to deliver in place.

The Portfolio Holders and Executive Directors for Adults and Health, Children and Families, Place (including the Housing Revenue Account) and Corporate presented the key issues and key pressures affecting their work for 2026/27, the draft savings proposals for the year and the key borrowing for capital schemes.

At each stage, questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

<u>Adult Social Care and Health:</u>

- In respect of prevention to help address rising demands/cost of adult social care. A significant service re-design had taken place on front door services in 2025 to ensure people got an immediate response, and the 'waiting well' policy was also now well embedded. Internal targets were in place to manage demand. Investment had gone into Community Plus services to undertake preventative work and divert demand from the 'front door' and ensure support for individuals within their community; the library hubs also assisted residents in accessing the right support.
- It was queries how realistic the savings proposals were, with particular reference to those areas delivered alongside partners and in light of the current pressures on the Integrated Care Boards (ICB). Significant savings had already been achieved through the transformation change programme and there was confidence that this would continue. Work was being undertaken in respect of ensuring the proportion of ICB funding, for the two intermediate care provisions, was appropriate. The Council worked very closely with, and had a strong partnership with, the ICB and this would ensure that there was an awareness of any implications and complexities arising.
- In relation to the move towards more out of hospital care there had been a significant amount of investment into community provision. The model being used, across the system, was 'home first' with the right adaptations and support, and the reablement offer had grown.

Children's and Families:

- The continued progress and improvements were welcomed despite the demand and complexities.
- In relation to the work being done to increase the numbers of foster carers and Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs); the number of fostering households had increased and the split between the numbers of those provided by the Council and those by independent fostering agencies had improved. The diversity of carers had also improved. The Council was performing very well in respect of the number of SGOs. The importance of wrap-around support for foster carers was emphasised.
- The review of the back-office functions would include consideration of any efficiencies or rationalisation that could take place in the light of the reforms expected over the next three years.
- The minimal use of agency social workers was commended.
- There was clear oversight of those children who were in placements external to Kirklees and each case was reviewed on a fortnightly basis to assess whether it was in the best interests of each child to return to the district. Education was a major element of this and the increased provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs would assist in this.
- There were no changes in the Safety Valve Agreement contributions.
- In relation to working in clusters and the impact of this on dealing with demand, funding was being put into the schools, and early intervention approaches being taken and there appeared to be a stabilisation in the numbers requesting an Educational Health and Care Plan. The next stage would be to look at the impact and outcomes from this. The upcoming White Paper would determine the future direction of travel.
- The most significant risk would always be the impact of significant regional or national issues affecting the number of children entering care.

Place:

- It was noted that Kirklees had a large number of play areas in comparison with other local authorities. The money in the budget was to enable the expansion of play areas across the district. Developers would make a contribution for provision within new housing developments.
- The Council had a responsibility for the maintenance of play equipment in its play areas and this would be inspected to ensure that it was fit for purpose. There was a maintenance schedule for green spaces but they were not all dealt with in the same manner, the schedule had been reviewed in recent years to take account of the available resources but also with consideration of biodiversity responsibilities.
- The increase in funding for the Green Space Action Team was to build on the previous investment in dealing with fly tipping, to ensure timely removal but also to progress work in respect of working with communities to effect behaviour change.
- The budget provision for the Development Plan was for the activity necessary to prepare for the new Local Plan and also improve the enforcement response.
- The funding for improved enforcement capacity was welcomed.

- In respect of the transformation work on school transport; individual children would be assessed on the basis of their needs and the transport arrangements would then be discussed with parents who would have a choice in the solution. In terms of dedicated transport, the move was towards more efficient arrangements than individual taxis, and investments had been made into the fleet to facilitate this. There was also an element in terms of helping prepare children for independence. It was acknowledged that there was a need to work with families to ensure that any impact was minimised as far as possible.
- The budget needed to be sufficient to deal with damaged equipment even if it was deemed safe so that play areas did not look neglected which discouraged use.
- Developers should be asked to make a contribution towards existing nearby play provision rather than providing another new play area. This also avoiding residents having to pay a maintenance charge.
- More money should be put into maintenance overall, including roads, pavements, weeding etc to foster pride in the towns and villages.
- It was considered that to effectively transform the operation of planning, it was necessary to have an experienced planning officer to work alongside the team and focus on this. It was noted that such a proposal would be included within a bid for funding from the transformation budget. It was noted that consideration was being given to the use of technology to assist in speeding up processes where appropriate.
- The additional funding to deal with seasonal weather was welcomed but there was concern that it was not enough to deal with the planned growth in housing in the district and the extension of the gritting routes to include secondary link roads should be considered. Assurance was given that if additional funding was needed during the year then additional budget provision would be considered. It was noted that the budget for gritting was to ensure key roads and routes remained moving. In comparison with other local authorities Kirklees performed well in this activity.
- The use of patching of highways was considered to be ineffective and inefficient and the use of sectional repairs, that had been undertaken in previous years, was believed to be superior.
- Residents were concerned about the capacity for clearing gullies and drains. The aim was to return to pro-active/cyclical maintenance.
- The budget for car park meters in the Capital Plan was for the maintenance and replacement of older equipment.
- Capital provision for Town Halls was associated with maintenance for these four buildings.
- The additional resource into addressing fly tipping would be focused on enforcement as well as clearance. There had been investment previously into mobile CCTV equipment and this would be deployed in light of the available data. There would also be a focus on the educational aspects to try and prevent it from happening in the first place. Officers had liaised with colleagues in adjoining, and other local authority areas, on operational services provision.
- The continued investment into town centres was welcomed.
- In respect of work to deal with the effects of climate change; there were a number of budgets associated with climate activity and reducing carbon

emissions and a significant amount of external income. There were core staff despite recruitment for local authorities in this area being challenging. Ongoing initiatives and core activities also contributed to this work, such as investment in Council properties making them more efficient and the procurement of a greener fleet.

HRA:
- The Council had been mindful of the impact of the rent increase on tenants, notwithstanding it reflected inflation in the main. Two thirds of tenants were on some form of benefit which may mean that the increase would not have a direct impact. The money advice teams also worked with any who were vulnerable to financial hardship. Arrears levels were low and had dropped. It was noted that the investment into the housing stock would, over time, reduce the cost burden for tenants.
- Work was undertaken with the private rented sector and this had proved to be effective; with reductions in homelessness presentation and better standard temporary accommodation.

Corporate:
- The Council had a contract with voluntary sector providers which had not changed; how it was funded had altered.
- A digital transformation programme was in progress and would be looking at opportunities to use technology, including AI, to increase effectiveness and efficiency whilst complying with statutory duties. The risks associated with the use of AI were acknowledged as well as the need for training to ensure appropriate use.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration and the Service Director, Finance then gave a presentation on the impact of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement followed by questions and comments covering:
- The level of additional funding; anticipated as approximately £6 million un-ringfenced and £4.5 million ringfenced for 26/27 above the figures in the budget report.
- The increase in Core Spending Power of £146.3 million 2026-28 and how this was calculated and the impact on Council Tax rates.
- The additional government funding was welcomed, noting that Kirklees had fared better than some other parts of the country.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Leader and Cabinet Members, Executive Directors, and Service Director, Finance be thanked for attending the meeting to present the budget proposals for 2026/27 and that the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny be welcomed.

(2) That the comments made by the Committee be considered in taking the budget forward and be reported to Cabinet and Council at the meetings where the final decisions are taken.

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 13th February 2026

Present:	Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair) Councillor Zarina Amin Councillor Andrew Cooper Councillor Jo Lawson
In attendance:	Councillor Nosheen Dad – Portfolio Holder, Adult Social Care and Corporate Councillor Amanda Pinnock – Portfolio Holder, Communities and Environment Jill Greenfield, Service Director for Communities and Access Services Samantha Lawton, Service Director, Legal, Governnce and Commissioning Deborah Nicholson, Councillor Support and Liaison Manager Mags Rogerson, Head of Local Integrated Partnerships Leigh Webb – Head of Governance
Apologies:	Councillor Itrat Ali

66 Membership of the Committee
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Itrat Ali.

67 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

68 Admission of the Public
All agenda items were considered in public session.

69 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

70 Public Question Time
No public questions were received.

71 Integrated Library Hubs: Early Learning, Community Engagement, and Place-Based Support for the Future
The Committee considered a report in relation to early learning from the ten integrated Library Hubs across Kirklees and how this was informing the future development of the service model.

Councillor Amanda Pinnock, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Environment introduced the item and explained that the report set out how the traditional libraries had developed into community integrated Library Hubs and their purpose in providing place-based access to support, and outlined future development priorities. It was noted that each hub was tailored to meet the specific needs of its locality. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers, with particular emphasis on their integral role in the success of the model.

Jill Greenfield Service Director for Communities and Access Services and Mags Rogerson, Head of Local Integrated Partnerships were in attendance to present the report, and a presentation was given which highlighted that:

- The model had consolidated customer service and library functions. It had been piloted in Dewsbury and Huddersfield before expanding to ten locations, and had been designed to be adaptive, inclusive, and community-focused.
- The hubs offered a range of support levels, from unassisted self-serve to full staff-led assistance for more complex enquiries. Services and partners played a wider, integrated role within the Library Hubs.
- Early learning from the ten hubs included typical enquiry durations and common complex customer issues, such as Blue Badge applications, council tax and benefits, housing solutions, local welfare provision, and disabled travel support.
- Future developments included increased joint working with wider services, the creation of a new webpage and support clinics, exploration of opportunities to extend the model and building on lessons learned.
- Volunteer support remained a key component, with more than 400 volunteers across 24 sites and there were plans to expand roles and diversify the volunteer base.
- Volunteers received consistent, high-quality induction and training opportunities, and volunteer retention remained consistently strong.
- As the programme moved into its operational delivery phase, the recommendations asked members of the Panel to note the progress of the Integrated Hubs and Early Learning Programme and to support its transition into an operational delivery phase, with appropriate governance and performance monitoring.

At the close of the presentation, questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In response to questions in relation to safety and support for volunteers, it was explained that volunteers were supported by a paid member of staff and were guided by established policies and training.
- In relation to the opening hours of the ten hubs, it was noted that opening hours had been informed by public consultation, resulting in a range of operating hours across the hubs based on the needs of that locality.
- In relation to raising awareness of the activities and services offered by libraries, it was advised that work was ongoing to raise awareness, including through an expanded social media campaign.
- In relation to how effectiveness was measured, particularly for vulnerable people, it was highlighted that previously support had not always been specialised and

often relied on signposting, and there was no baseline demand data. The current model had been built to work with the strengths and capacity within communities by widening access to support and helping residents navigate systems. Libraries provided approachable community spaces that enabled follow-up. It was also explained that data development work continued, with enquiry patterns showing the hubs were able to absorb current demand. A holistic approach had been taken to provide wrap-around support, whilst also enabling people to become more self-sufficient over time.

- In relation to signposting and upskilling staff to enhance the quality of support and advice, it was explained that a development pathway had been co-produced with staff and partner services to ensure consistent support across all ten hubs. Staff development across all roles aimed to ensure strong knowledge of wrap-around services. It was also noted that though the library staff were positioned to enable access to information, rather than providers of specialist advice, social prescribing link-workers and other services were also based in some libraries, delivering regular clinics to offer specialist support where required. This approach enabled each hub to be increasingly tailored to the needs of its specific local community. It was important that, as part of this work, any unmet demand was recognised and part of the data development agenda, was around flagging and sharing emerging issues with services and partners to inform support provision.
- In relation to the position of other libraries, it was explained that as the programme transitioned into business-as-usual, community needs would continue to be assessed through needs assessments and conversations with partners. Consideration of the staffing resources and the physical environment would be considered as part of this process, each library aimed to provide a vibrant, safe community space offering a wide range of activity.
- No formal feedback process had been undertaken with staff and volunteers at this point, but informal sessions had been undertaken during the development process.
- It was confirmed that the model included the use of the libraries as a base for clinics on particular issues such as benefits advice informed by the needs of the local community.
- In relation to promotion within schools, it was confirmed that engagement work was taking place with younger children. The services was also a strong advocate for work experience opportunities to engage high-school age children.
- The Portfolio Holder and the officers were thanked for the report and the engagement with scrutiny welcomed.
- Appreciation was expressed for the staff and volunteers and the added value they contributed.

It was noted that, following the meeting, the Committee was to undertake a visit to the Huddersfield Library Hub.

RESOLVED –That progress made on the Integrated Hubs and Early Learning Programme be noted and the planned roll-out be supported, recognising that the programme is now moving into its operational delivery phase, where ongoing monitoring will be managed through established performance and governance frameworks, as well as continuing to inform the customer and access programme of work.

72 Member Development Framework

The Committee considered a report, which set out the detail of the draft Member Development Framework, presented by Leigh Webb, Head of Governance. Samantha Lawson, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning and Deborah Nicholson, Councillor Support and Liaison Manager were also in attendance.

Councillor Nosheen Dad, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Corporate was in attendance and expressed thanks to officers for producing the framework, highlighting the importance of engagement on the proposals, including with this Committee.

The framework sought to support the development of all Councillors, providing them with the skills and knowledge to carry out their roles effectively and deliver the Council's strategic priorities. The Committee was invited to provide feedback in advance of it being submitted to Council for approval.

The presentation explained that:

- The framework built upon and enhanced the work already undertaken to support Councillors.
- The Corporate Peer Challenge had recommended continued work on strengthening governance, including clearer reports, Member development programmes and Councillor behaviours.
- Officers, Cabinet, OSMC, and Group Leaders had provided feedback, which supported an improved Councillor training and development offer and emphasised the need for Councillor involvement in shaping it.
- Feedback had highlighted the need to include mentoring, peer support, and consideration of making training mandatory for being on certain committees.
- The mandatory element was proposed to be expanded to the Appeals Panel and the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.
- The importance of promoting and communicating the Councillor–Officer protocol to ensure consistent adherence.
- Opportunities to create ways for Councillors and frontline staff to build stronger working relationships had also been identified for further exploration.
- Meetings had taken place with all political Groups in August 2025, with additional input gathered from the Standards Committee and Independent Persons.
- Groups had been asked what they wanted to see in the development programme, how engagement and attendance could be improved, and how monitoring and reporting should take place.
- The approach was intended to be fluid to ensure that the support was developed according to Members' needs and feedback was encouraged as the programme developed.
- All feedback would be incorporated into the final Councillor Development Framework.
- The framework was scheduled to be taken to Council on 11 March 2026 for approval with a planned launch at the 2026 Councillor Induction.
- It was emphasised that attendance was encouraged from experienced Councillors as well as those new to the role.

- Ongoing development of the training and development programme would then continue after the initial launch.

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

- All Group Leaders and their deputies had been invited to contribute, and contact had been made with independent Councillors, the framework had also been considered by the Standards Committee and a meeting of Group Business Managers. It was noted that the final decision would be taken by Council, giving all 69 Members the opportunity to be sighted on the framework and to provide input.
- The view was expressed that engagement via Group Business Managers and Leaders may not reflect a true picture of Members' development needs, and it was recommended that officers engage with all 69 Councillors prior to finalising the framework. This was taken on board. Suggestions for doing so included use of an anonymous form, sending an email to all Members, or offering drop-in opportunities.
- The proposed approach was welcomed as it was considered it would be helpful, particularly for new Members. The proposal to hold weekend sessions was also a good idea.
- In response to concern in relation to Member attendance at committee meetings, it was advised that attendance was monitored, with informal follow-up undertaken where patterns emerged. The role of Group Business Managers in supporting and encouraging attendance was highlighted and it was further noted that six months of non-attendance would result in a formal process which may result in the individual ceasing to be a Councillor.
- In response to a question in relation to the potential to include information on the purpose and remit of committees within the induction, it was advised that information on committees was provided, but that it was important to deliver the right level of information at the right time to avoid overwhelming new Members. Inductions would therefore start with the basics and essential information from day one, followed by structured sessions offering more detailed guidance where necessary. The role of Governance Officers in supporting committee-related knowledge was noted, and it was confirmed that more experienced Councillors would be involved in some of the training sessions.
- In relation to supporting Member development needs, it was reported that the introduction of a Member Development Champion was being considered, noting that while Group Business Managers may be best placed to undertake this role in some circumstances, that this would vary by group.
- In respect of engaging with Members who may be reluctant to participate in training, these concerns were acknowledged and the importance of supporting realistic expectations of the role and the services provided to Councillors was noted. The Member–Officer Protocol was important in terms of behaviour and the aim was to provide scenarios and examples to support improved understanding.
- It was noted that the Local Government Association (LGA) could provide peer support which could be helpful.

- In response to questions about monitoring and review of the framework, Councillor Dad advised that the framework would remain flexible, with updates made as recommendations and feedback were received.
- In relation to the allocation of committee places, it was noted that Group Business Managers were responsible for this. It was suggested that alignment with Members' interests or preference may support more engaged committee memberships.

The Committee noted the report and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity for engagement.

RESOLVED –
That the feedback from the Committee be used to inform the final document prior to submission to Council for approval.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 27th March 2026

Present:	
	Councillor Itrat Ali Councillor Andrew Cooper Councillor Jo Lawson
In attendance:	Councillor Carole Pattison, Leader of Council Councillor Graham Turner, Portfolio Holder for Finance Alice Carruthers, Senior Finance Officer Sonya Daines, Data and Insight Enablement Lead Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance Andy Simcox, Service Director, Strategy and Innovation
Apologies:	Councillor Zarina Amin

83 Election of Chair
RESOLVED -
That Councillor Andrew Cooper be appointed Chair for the meeting

84 Membership of the Committee
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Zarina Amin.

85 Minutes of Previous Meeting
RESOLVED –
That the Minutes of the meetings held on 16th January 2026 and 13th February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

86 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

87 Admission of the Public
All agenda items were considered in public session.

88 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

89 Corporate Financial Monitoring - Quarter 3 Report 2025-2026
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance presented the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report for Quarter 3 2025-2026, with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 24th March 2026.

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

The presentation set out:

- Revenue headlines
- Revenue monitoring, with a breakdown across each directorate.
- Key pressures on each directorate.
- Council Reserves
- Housing Revenue Account position and variances.
- Capital Headlines.
- Direct Schools Grant (DSG) Headlines.
- Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

Highlighted points included:

- The revenue outturn position at Quarter 3 was a forecast overspend of £4.1m, which was an improved position from Quarter 2 (£5.1m) and was expected to improve further by the year end.
- Pressures in respect of children' social cares and adult social care remained associated with demand, complexity of cases and cost of placements.
- Overspends were also projected in respect of home to school transport, parking and adverse weather budgets.
- Assurance was given that significant budget provision had been made in the 2026/27 budget in relation to social care demand, home to school transport and parking and there was also a contingency reserve of £3.8 m.
- Savings were projected within corporate resources and central budgets relating to energy rebates and treasury savings from slippage in the capital plan plus additional investment income.
- The projected deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £17.5m this year with the cumulative deficit standing at £81.3m. The Government had confirmed an intention to fund 90% of this historic deficit subject to the authority completing a satisfactory plan. The remaining deficit would need to be addressed by March 2028.
- Spend on the Capital Plan was currently £173 million, which was higher than in previous years and reflected the investment in 'our cultural heart' and the special schools.
- Attention was drawn to the future potential impact of the rises being seen in the cost of borrowing and inflation. It was noted that the Council was tied into energy contracts so it was anticipated that any impact in respect of fuel prices would be seen in 27/28 rather than 26/27.

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

- In respect of the DSG deficit, aside from the Government commitment to clear 90% of the historical deficit an indication had also been given that local authorities would receive proportionate funding associated with the 2026/27 deficits, which would mitigate some cost to the Council. In addition, two new special schools were being built which would assist in bringing down the costs of placements and reduce the in-year deficit. The Government were undertaking consultation on a White Paper in relation to Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities (SEND) which was anticipated to contain a wide range of reforms and post 2028 the intention was that the Government would take responsibility for the cost of SEND.

- The Council had budgeted for all new borrowing and re-financing of existing borrowing at a rate of 4.69%. It was not possible to predict what might happen with interest rates. A mix of short-term and long-term borrowing was utilised to reduce and mitigate risk.
- An explanation was given in respect of how demand was forecast but this was difficult to so. There was a budget contingency reserve to assist if needed.
- There continued to be pressure in adult and children's social care in the last quarter so that remained a risk if the numbers continued to rise into 2026/27. There were likely to be further underspends in Treasury and the finance team would also explore other accountancy tools that could help mitigate the position.
- The delay in the transfer of the care homes had cost £867k in budget terms. And had been funded by use of the budget contingency reserve.
- Discussions were ongoing with the NHS in terms of funding of placement costs at care homes.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Regeneration and the Head of Commercial Services be thanked for attending the meeting and updating 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 are kept informed and can pick up any items within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.

90 Corporate Risk - Quarter 3 Report 2025-2026

Councillor Graham Turner, the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, introduced the Corporate Risk Report for Quarter 3 2025/26 with reference to the report submitted to Cabinet on 24th March 2026.

Alice Carruthers, Senior Finance Officer presented the report, highlighted the following points:

- One new risk had been raised in Quarter 3 in respect of the sufficiency of care for looked after, or children in need including fostering, special guardian relationships and residential home provision. This had been highlighted as part of the annual review of the two safeguarding risks.
- One risk had increased associated with data processing an access to information to reflect the increasing volume of subject access requests. The position had improved in Quarter 4, to date, and this would be shown in the next quarterly update. The controls and actions to mitigate were explained.
- Eight scores had decreased, including three related to Council finances; budget monitoring and management, medium-term financial stability and capital plan management.

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

- In respect of the measures being taken to respond to the issues around looked after children and placements, there was a programme of recruitment for foster carers and the importance of retention was recognised. The purchase of an additional small group residential home would also assist in reducing the cost of external placements.
- The improvement in staffing resources in the climate change team was welcomed and the hope expressed that more external funding could be achieved.
- In relation to any changes in political structure further to the elections in May there was a clear, documented and established governance framework in place.
  It was noted that it was important that there was a focus on the understanding of roles and responsibilities of elected members and officers.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Senior Finance Officer 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.

91 Council Plan and Performance Update - Quarter 3 Report 2025-2026

Councillor Carole Pattison, the Leader of the Council introduced the report in respect of the Council Plan and Performance for Quarter 3 of 2025/26, supported by Andy Simcox, Service Director for Strategy and Innovation and Sonya Daines, Data and Insight Enablement Lead.

The report had been submitted to Cabinet on 24th March 2026 and included:

- Details on activity and delivery against the four priorities within the Council Plan and planned activity for Quarter 3.
- 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 3.
- Benchmarking data to contextualise the demand and performance trends and enable comparison of Kirklees with regional and national rates.

The following points were highlighted:

- Smoking in pregnancy rates were down and were below the national average.
- Sickness absence was improving.
- 87% of Freedom of Information requests had been completed on time, which was an improvement on the previous year, despite an increase in demand.
- Council Tax and Business Rate collection rates were down in comparison with last year and were below those of statistical neighbours.
- There had been a reduction in the number of Education Health and Care Plans completed within the 20-week deadline, associated with rising demand.
- Demand had risen for home to school transport.

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

- Analysis of Councillor Enquiries data was being undertaken and this information would be brought forward in due course. The aim was to try and reduce the number of repeat queries.
- It was suggested that it would be helpful for Councillors to be able to check outstanding enquiries online, perhaps through a dashboard tool, to help them manage their casework.
- In relation to measuring performance in terms of protecting the vulnerable such as supporting/advising those residents who were eligible for benefits, it was explained that this was one of the key priorities within the Council plan and there were a number of measures associated with it, a number of which would be service specific. It was accepted that it might be useful to bring all the relevant information together in order to assess the progress being made and inform the anti-poverty strategy. This could include data such as the number of face-to-face advice sessions held, the number of appeals supported, foodbank use, the amount of money that had been brought into the local economy as a result of such action by the Council, as well as the services being provided by other partner organisations in this field.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Leader of Council and officers be thanked for attending to present the update.

(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.

92 Work Programme 2025-2026

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

Thanks were expressed to the Governance Team for their support of the Committee and the Scrutiny Panels during the last twelve months.

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Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday 13th November 2025

Present:	Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair) Councillor Andrew Cooper Councillor John Lawson Councillor John Taylor Councillor Graham Turner
Apologies:	Councillor David Hall Councillor Viv Kendrick Councillor Cathy Scott

10 Membership of the Committee

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

11 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

12 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

13 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

14 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

15 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

16 Update on Senior Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the senior management structure and sought agreement to commence permanent recruitment to the role of Service Director – Highways and Streetscene.

The report advised that, pursuant to the previous meeting of the Committee, appointments had now been made to the roles of (i) Service Director – Skills and Regeneration and (ii) Service Director – Commissioning, Quality and Health Partnerships.

The Committee were advised of the retirement of the Service Director – Highways and Streetscene and were asked to agree to commence permanent recruitment to the post, which had been subject to interim leadership arrangements.

The Committee noted the appointments that had taken place and were agreeable to undertaking permanent recruitment to the post of Service Director – Highways and Streetscene.

RESOLVED

1) That the recent appointments to the posts of (i) Service Director – Skills and Regeneration and (ii) Service Director – Commissioning, Quality and Health Partnerships be noted.
2) That approval be given to the commencement of a permanent recruitment process for the post of Service Director – Highways and Streetscene, in accordance with the Council's established and approved chief officer recruitment practices.
3) That, pursuant to (ii) above, a Member Appointment Panel be appointed.

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 24th September 2025

Present:	Councillor Bill Armer (Chair) Councillor Eric Firth Councillor Cathy Scott Councillor Mohan Sokhal
In attendance:	Michael Stow (Independent Person)
Apologies:	Councillor Martyn Bolt Councillor Alison Munro Councillor Imran Safdar Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person)

3 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bolt, Munro and Safdar and Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person).

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 March and 21 May 2025 be approved as a correct record.

5 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

6 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all items would be considered in public session.

7 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

8 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

9 Cases and News Update

The Committee received a report providing an update on recent developments in local government ethics and standards cases since the last meeting in March 2025. Several notable cases had been reported in the Local Government Lawyer, including a finding of improper influence by a planning committee member at King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, and a councillor in Tameside found in breach of the code following social media comments. The report also referenced a case in Durham where a newly elected councillor had to step down due to being an employee of the authority, and a former councillor referred to the police for failing to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest. Additionally, the committee noted the outcome of the trial of former councillor Ricky Jones, who was acquitted of encouraging violent disorder.

The report also summarised recent published decisions from standards bodies across the UK. The Standards Commission for Scotland had considered six cases, with breaches found in five, resulting in suspensions or censures. In Northern Ireland, two cases were heard, both resulting in suspensions. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales investigated 13 cases, none of which were upheld. The Committee was also updated on the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), including its March 2025 report on early warning signs in public sector bodies and its June 2025 annual report, which revisited the 2019 review of local government ethical standards. No feedback had yet been published on the government's consultation on local standards and conduct.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10 Code of Conduct Complaints Update

The Committee received an update from the Monitoring Officer on complaints made under the Members' Code of Conduct between 1 March and 31 August 2025. The Committee was informed that 11 complaints had been received during this period, 10 of which related to Kirklees Councillors and one to a Town or Parish Councillor. Of these, two were not pursued, four were not progressed beyond initial assessment, one was resolved informally, and one resulted in a finding of breach. Three complaints remained under investigation at the time of reporting. The Committee also noted that of the nine complaints carried forward from the previous reporting period, five resulted in findings of breach, three were dismissed at the initial stage, and one was resolved informally.

A comparison with the previous reporting period revealed a significant decrease in the number of complaints, from 22 to 11, continuing a downward trend. The nature of the complaints in the current period primarily concerned social media conduct, correspondence, and failure to comply with previous sanctions. It was noted that most complaints were submitted by members of the public, with only one from an officer and none from councillors. The committee was also updated on published decisions, which now only include upheld complaints. The Committee acknowledged the potential influence of the absence of elections in 2025 on the reduced volume of complaints.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Present:	Councillor Bill Armer (Chair) Councillor Eric Firth Councillor Mohan Sokhal
In attendance:	Michael Stow (Independent Person)
Apologies:	Councillor Martyn Bolt Councillor Alison Munro Councillor Cathy Scott Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person)

11 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bolt, Munro and Scott and Craig Ainsworth (Independent Person).

12 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

13 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

14 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

15 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

16 Code of Conduct complaints update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on Code of Conduct complaints that had been submitted since the previous meeting in September 2025. The current period under review showed a total of 11 complaints, with 5 complaints relating to Kirklees Councillors and 6 complaints relating to Town or Parish Councillors. A total of 3 Kirklees members and 7 Town or Parish Council members had been the subject of complaints in this period. The report and appendices outlined the detail regarding the nature of the allegations, any preliminary assessments that had taken place, and the outcomes or actions that had followed where cases had progressed.

Members noted the pattern of complaints reported and the themes that had emerged. In terms of any discernible trends, the numbers of complaints being made in respect of Kirklees Councillors had fallen, whereas there had been a sharp increase in the complaints relating to Town and Parish Councils. Therefore, whilst the overall number of complaints remained the same, the make up of those complaints had shifted towards Town and Parish Councils. It was acknowledged that the monitoring of complaints provided valuable insight into areas where training, clarification or further support for councillors might be beneficial.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

17 Cases and News Update

The Committee received a report summarising recent national developments in local government standards, case law and investigation outcomes. Members noted the continuing rise in complex conduct issues being reported across the sector, and the report's reflected on several high-profile cases that illustrated the challenges authorities face in maintaining public confidence. The report addressed the significant strain that large volumes of complaints could place on council resources, as well as the risks posed by prolonged, unresolved disputes to the effective functioning of local governance.

The Committee noted the emphasis placed on promoting constructive and preventative measures among councils, including the use of mediation, training and broader governance reviews. These approaches were acknowledged as increasingly important in reducing dependency on formal complaints processes and encouraging early intervention to prevent escalation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

18 Update on Government Consultation 'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England'

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Government's consultation on proposals to strengthen the standards and conduct framework for local authorities. Members were reminded of the background to the consultation, including the Government's intention to improve ethical governance arrangements nationally and to ensure councils had clearer, more consistent tools for addressing misconduct. The Committee noted the drivers behind the proposals, including the desire to reinforce accountability, raise behavioural expectations, and improve transparency across the sector.

The Committee discussed potential areas where changes may be required within the Council, particularly regarding the need to review existing procedures once the Government's final proposals were confirmed. Members recognised the importance of preparing for possible updates to local processes covering investigations, sanctions, reporting and support for councillors. The report indicated that councils may need to strengthen training provision and ensure that mechanisms for promoting good conduct remain robust, accessible and aligned with national expectations.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 19th February 2026

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

52 Membership of the Committee
No apologies for absence were received.

53 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

54 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying
Councillors Armer, Homewood, A Pinnock, Lee-Richards, Scott and Sokhal advised that they had been lobbied on Application 2024/93494. Councillors Armer, A Pinnock and Scott also advised that they had been present when the previous application had been considered in 2020.

55 Admission of the Public
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

56 Public Question Time
No public questions were received.

57 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

58 Site Visit - Application No: 2024/93494
Site visit undertaken.

59 Cooper Bridge Improvement Scheme - Acceptance of delegated non-executive functions from Calderdale MBC to Kirklees MBC (Reference to Council)
The Committee received a report which sought approval for non-executive powers to be delegated by Calderdale Council (CMBC) to Kirklees Council (KMBC) (the Authorities) to enable the delivery of the A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme (the Scheme).

The report advised that the specific powers KMBC required to deliver the Scheme within the administrative areas of both Authorities were within the Town and Country

Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) and the Highways Act 1980 (HA 1980). This report related solely to the delegation of the functions and powers within those Acts deemed to be 'non-executive powers'.

The Committee were asked to note the report prior to its submission to the meeting of Council on 11 March 2026. It was noted that, subject to the approval of Council, the Authorities had agreed to enter into a legal agreement (the Agreement) to affect the delegation.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted and referred to the meeting of Council on 11 March 2026.

60 Planning Application - Application No: 2024/93494

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2024/93494.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Linda Beever, Janine Riley, Martin Kilburn, Gillian Starling, Mike Waters, Ann Denham, Donna Wright, John Mitchell and Barbara Lockwood (local residents), Indy Thandi (applicant) and Malcolm Sizer (applicant's agent).

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(3), the Committee received a representation from Councillors Munro and Cooper.

RESOLVED –

1) 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.
2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to secure a S106 Agreement to cover (i) sustainable transport - measures to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, including the submission, approval, and implementation of a Travel Plan, and monitoring fees of £10,000 (ii) public benefits package of obligations to provide certainty that the identified public benefits are delivered, including confirmation of the arrangement and agreement of funding for the development to take place and reassessment clauses, after a given time, of the business case and (iii) management - implementation of a management plan for the exhibition/interpretation room and WCs (including the securing of public access without charge), and management of any new infrastructure (including surface water drainage until formally adopted by the statutory undertaker).
3) That, pursuant to (2) above, in circumstances where the S106 Agreement has not been completed within three months of this decision, the Head of Planning and Development shall be authorised to 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 would therefore be permitted to determine the Application and impose appropriate reasons for refusal under delegated powers.
4) That the draft conditions, as set out at Paragraph 12 of the report, be noted.

A Recorded Vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42 (5) as follows;
For: Councillors Homewood, Scott and Sokhal (3 votes)
Against: Councillors Armer, Lee Richards and A Pinnock (3 votes)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(2), the Chair applied their entitlement to a casting vote, and voted in favour of approving the application.

61 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92728

The Committee gave consideration to Application 2025/92728 – Erection of 33 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping land at Dowker Street, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

RESOLVED –

1) 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;

    - Three years to commence development
    - Development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and documents
    - Samples of all walling materials
    - Notwithstanding the submitted plans, plots 1-3 to be developed from natural stone to the front and gable elevations
    - Notwithstanding the submitted plans, the roofing materials to include artificial or natural blue slate, including samples
    - Details of windows and doors
    - All windows to be set back into the reveal by 100mm
    - Full details/locations of PV panels
    - Full details/locations of the air source heat pumps
    - Full details of boundary treatments
    - Details of measures to deter crime and anti-social behaviour
    - Submission of a CEMP
    - Management and maintenance of green space
    - Submission of full drainage details
    - Management and maintenance of drainage features (crate storage/attenuation)
    - Bin store details
    - Details of temporary waste storage and collection (during construction)
    - Submission of Phase 1
    - Submission of Phase 2
    - Submission of Remediation Strategy
    - Implementation of Remediation Strategy
    - Submission of Validation Report
    - Submission of a Noise Assessment and Mitigation Scheme
    - Details of EVCP’s
    - Permeable surfacing to all vehicle parking areas
    - Details of any new retaining walls/ building retaining walls adjacent to the proposed adoptable highway

- Proposed design and construction details for the reconstruction/strengthening of culverted section of Longwood Brook within the highway footprint
- Details of any drainage in the highway
- Submission of an up to date survey of Longwood Brook
- Development in accordance with Affordable Housing Statement.

2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to secure a S106 Agreement to cover (i) management and maintenance (the establishment of a management company for the purpose of maintaining the shared green open spaces (including ecological management), the private parking areas and infrastructure (including surface water drainage until formally adopted by the statutory undertaker) and (ii) facilitate the implementation of a TRO for the sum of £10,000.

3) That, pursuant to (2) above, in circumstances where the S106 Agreement has not been completed within three months of this decision, the Head of Planning and Development shall be authorised to 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 would therefore be permitted 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 follows;
For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lee Richards, A Pinnock, Scott and Sokhal (6 votes)
Against: (no votes)

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 2nd April 2026

Present:	Councillor James Homewood (Chair) Councillor Bill Armer Councillor Andrew Pinnock Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Apologies:	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards Councillor Cathy Scott

62 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Scott and Councillor Lee-Richards.

63 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

64 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

No declarations of interest or lobbying were received.

65 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

66 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

67 Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92335

The Committee gave consideration to Planning Application 2025/92335 - Discharge of details reserved by Condition 5 (retaining walls) of previous Reserved Matters approval 2022/91047 for the development of 91 dwellings, pursuant to outline permission 2019/90527 (for erection of up to 127 dwellings, with details of access) at land at Blue Hills Farm, Whitehall Road West, Birkenshaw.

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

RESOLVED -

That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve the application and issue the decision notice.

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

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, A Pinnock and Sokhal (4 votes)
Against: (0 votes)