

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Tuesday 11 July 2017**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Christine Iredale) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Gulfam Asif	Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Jean Calvert
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Richard Eastwood	Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead	Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor David Hall	Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor Lisa Holmes	Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Judith Hughes
Councillor Mumtaz Hussain	Councillor Paul Kane
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Terry Lyons
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Marielle O'Neill
Councillor Andrew Palfreeman	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Nigel Patrick	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Hilary Richards
Councillor Mohammad Sarwar	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor David Sheard	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Kath Taylor	Councillor Nicola Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Michael Watson
Councillor Gemma Wilson	Councillor Linda Wilkinson
Councillor Rob Walker	Councillor Jim Dodds

22 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor informed Council of the recent death of Fred Pickles, former Councillor and Mayor of Kirklees, and held a minute of silence. Tributes were paid by Councillors Sheard and Ahmed.

The Mayor advised of arrangements to have a break in the meeting and that during that time representatives of Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance and Carers Count, and the partnership Commissioning Manager for Older People, would be presenting information displays and would be available for discussions.

The Chief Executive provided a statement on matters arising in response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and also advised Council of the latest position in term so of the Children's Services Improvement Journey.

23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bolt, Lees-Hamilton, Light, K Pinnock, Sims and G Turner.

24 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Annual Council, held on 24 May 2017, be approved as a correct record.

25 Declaration of Interests

Councillor D Hall declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 20 (Minute No. 41 refers) on the grounds that he is employed by a Kirklees School.

Councillors Hill, N Turner, E Firth, Scott and Pandor also declared 'other' interests in Agenda Item 20 (Minute No. 41 refers) on the grounds that they have family members employed within Kirklees Schools.

26 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

27 Deputations/Petitions

Council received a deputation and petition from Mr Paul Graves which raised objection to the proposed demolition of the Edwardian Foundation Building at Whitcliffe Mount School, Cleckheaton.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

28 **Questions by Members of the Public**

Council received questions from:

- (i) Sarah Newton on behalf of 'Save Greenhead Trees' regarding tree felling in the Greenhead area

A response was provided by Councillor Khan

- (ii) Rebecca Gilmore on behalf 'Save Greenhead Trees' regarding the Kirklees strategy for tree maintenance.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

29 **Armed Forces Covenant**

It was moved by Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Dodds and;

RESOLVED –

That approval be given to the signing revised Armed Forces Covenant, and that the benefits that the Armed Forces Covenant had realised since its inception in 2012, as set out at Appendix 1 of the considered report, be noted.

30 **Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (Reference from Personnel Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Sheard, seconded by Councillor N Turner and;

RESOLVED –

That the appointment of Jacqui Gedman as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, including the roles of (Acting) Electoral Registration Officer and (Acting) Returning Officer be approved with immediate effect.

31 **Council Financial Outturn and Rollover Report 2016-2017 (Reference from Cabinet)**

RESOLVED –

That the item be deferred.

32 **Proposals for use of the new monies for Adult Social Care announced by the Chancellor in the Spring Budget 2017 (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor Kendrick, seconded by Councillor Sheard and;

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the proposed financial strategy, as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the considered report, be approved.
- 2) That the principles, and proposed areas of investment for 2017/18, as set out in paragraphs 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 of the considered report, be approved.
- 3) That officers be requested to develop the proposals further, taking into account the final guidance and allocations, and submit a report to a future meetings of Cabinet and Council as part of the Budget Strategy Update.

33 Corporate Plan 2017/2018 (Reference from Cabinet)

It was moved by Councillor Sheard, seconded by Councillor Pandor and;

RESOLVED –

That the Corporate Plan 2017/2018 be approved.

34 Written Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members

Question by Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor Mather)

“Can Cllr Mather let me know what the current rate of recycling is in Kirklees, how that performance compares with its peers and whether the trend is positive or negative?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“Could Cllr Khan please update Council on the delays to the Library Consultation and the consequent budgetary impact?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member – Adults and Public Health Portfolio (Councillor Kendrick)

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm that this Council has a robust evacuation plan in place which is capable of catering for the need to evacuate and accommodate hundreds of people?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“Can you advise me of the number of new Play Areas which have been built in the last 20 years and also the number of existing play areas which have been refurbished in that time frame?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Lawson to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Sheard

“Will Cabinet undertake to review its decision to demolish the oldest building at Whitcliffe Mount School?”

Will it also undertake to do everything in its power to explore ways of keeping part or the whole of the building, through negotiations with future developers?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“Will the Cabinet Member confirm that associations of friends of borough-wide open spaces will be consulted in the Play Review at the same time as Councillors, before the consultation with the public begins?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor Mather)

“Can the Cabinet Member please give the Council an update on fly tipping in Kirklees and tell us if there has been an increase since the tip changes were implemented?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor N Turner to the Cabinet Member – Adults and Public Health (Councillor Scott)

“Would the Cabinet member give us an update as to the safety of Kirklees buildings, in the light of the awful fire in Grenfell Tower, and what plans are in place to ensure something similar could not happen here?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“How many enquiries and complaints have there been about this year’s Council Tax ‘single persons allowance’ reminder letter?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor McBride)

“Can Councillor McBride confirm how the Council ensures social value and promotion of the local economy factor in selecting suppliers for catering and entertaining within Kirklees?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Holmes to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Sheard

“Why is there no route of appeal within the Community Asset Transfer process?”

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Holmes to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Sheard

“I am now being forced into making a formal complaint against the Council, regarding how the Gomersal Community Group Expression of Interest to take over Red House Museum was rejected.

Will the Cabinet review its approach before I am possibly also forced to take this to the Ombudsman?”

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Holmes to the Cabinet Member – Childrens Portfolio (Councillor Hill)

“What is the current position regarding Kirklees Council Children’s Services?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

"I am informed by an elderly widowed Kirkburton resident that she has received a letter from Welfare & Exchequer Service advising her that she is required to use the Council website to confirm her continuing qualification for single occupier discount on her Council Tax assessment. She is threatened with a penalty of £70 plus loss of her Council Tax discount if she fails to respond by 25th July.

In previous years she has been offered an option to do this by telephone, but this is not offered now. She is instead advised to have a friend or relative use the web service on her behalf or, despite her advanced years, make her way to a Customer Service Centre.

My resident does not possess any equipment capable of accessing the internet and does not have an internet service provider. She has no relatives living in the Borough and no friend she would feel comfortable with asking to do this. In desperation, she has asked me to complete the online form for her.

Does the Cabinet Member think that this menacing missive is an acceptable standard of service provision?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

"I recently attended a training session on safeguarding for councillors which was run at Dewsbury Town Hall. The session was an afternoon one with refreshments provided and this included bottles of mineral water. Does the council purchase mineral water centrally and if so how much is expected to be spent on mineral water during this financial year?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor Mather)

"There is a domestic recycling point at Leys Lane at Emley. This is a site where containers are placed for recycling bottles and so forth but the site is now being used as a dump with waste simply being piled up at the side of the road. Much of this appears to be waste of a commercial nature. Should this site be used for this purpose and if not what should be done to prevent this?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor Mather)

“There is a textile factory in Scissett by the name of Phoenix Textiles in respect of which there have been a number of complaints locally about smells emanating from the site. There is currently work under way to remediate this problem by way of the installation of a new chimney. Does the regulation of emissions from a site such as this fall within the council’s remit and in any event does the council know what chemicals are emitted from the site and causing the smell?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member – Childrens Portfolio (Councillor Hill)

“The OFSTED report on Services for Children in Kirklees which was published in November of last year recorded that;

“Current placement sufficiency arrangements are not meeting the needs of all children looked after. A very high percentage – 42.5% (277) – of the looked after population is placed outside Kirklees.”

The report went on to state with regards to foster carers:

“not enough potential carers are being identified and recruited to meet identified need.”

Foster care can be a challenging vocation and therefore it is understandable that it may be difficult to recruit carers and this leads to out of area placements but nevertheless the inspectors considered Kirklees to be inadequate in this regard. Is the team responsible for recruiting foster carers sufficiently resourced and is the situation improving?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Watson to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

“At one of the meetings of council recently, April I think, a briefing was presented by the deputy leader to the Council on the Key Cities group. The Key Cities Group is about providing our cities with more opportunities to boost the economic prosperity of the country.

Can the Deputy Leader please give some examples of how membership of the group has helped boost economic prosperity in Kirklees?

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question by Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“Can the Council assure me that the problems with bin collections in the Almondbury Ward area are being sorted out?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member – Corporate Portfolio (Councillor Khan)

“Has the Council got any nearer to identifying a building to replace Tolson Museum?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question by Councillor McGuin to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sheard)

“Will the money left over from District Committees be passed to Ward Councillors?”

The Leader replied thereto.

Question by Councillor Wilkinson to the Cabinet Member – Economy Portfolio (Councillor McBride)

“Is there any progress regarding the future of the Co-op Building on New Street?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

35 Minutes of Meetings of Cabinet

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

36 Holding the Executive to Account

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

37 Minutes of Other Committees

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

38 Written Questions to Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

39 Oral Questions to Committee Chairs and nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

40 Response to Motion - Funding of Adult Social Care

Item not considered (due to time constraints)

41 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Real Term Cuts to England's Primary and Secondary Schools

It was moved by Councillor Marchington, seconded by Councillor Lawson and;

RESOLVED –

‘This Council:

- 1) Recognises that the financial outlook for local schools is likely to deteriorate as cost pressures increase;
- 2) Regrets the phasing out of the Education Services Grant and its impact on schools and the Council;
- 3) Recognises that the Government will push ahead with a major overhaul of school funding with the introduction of a new school funding formula, but is concerned by the failure of the Government to guarantee additional school funding to ensure schools don't lose out as a result of the new funding changes;
- 4) Calls upon HM Government to increase the schools budget in order to prevent a serious detrimental impact on class size, support for pupils with special needs or valuable extra-curricular activities;
- 5) Asks the Chief Executive to write to all local MPs, urging them to raise the Council's concerns with the Secretary of State for Education.'