

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 17 January 2018**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Christine Iredale) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Bill Armer	Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Jean Calvert
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Jim Dodds	Councillor Richard Eastwood
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Steve Hall	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Judith Hughes	Councillor Mumtaz Hussain
Councillor Paul Kane	Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Fazila Loonat	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Terry Lyons	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Bernard McGuin	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Hilary Richards	Councillor Mohammad Sarwar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Ken Sims
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner	Councillor Kath Taylor
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Nicola Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Rob Walker
Councillor Michael Watson	Councillor Gemma Wilson
Councillor Linda Wilkinson	Councillor Habiban Zaman

Council - 17 January 2018

121

Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor advised of a change in the order of the Agenda Summons, and that Agenda Items 10 and 11 would be received in reverse order (Minute No's 130 and 131 refer).

The Chief Executive advised of the following changes to Cabinet Portfolio responsibilities;

- Councillor Sheard - Leader of the Council
Cabinet Lead on Democracy Commission
Portfolio – Strategy and Strategic Resources, New Council and Regional Issues
- Councillor Pandor - Deputy Leader of the Council
Portfolio – Strategy and Strategic Resources, New Council and Regional Issues
- Councillor Ahmed - Children's Portfolio
- Councillor Scott - Adults and Public Health Portfolio (Statutory Responsibility of Adults and Public Health)
- Councillor Kendrick - Children's Portfolio (Statutory Responsibility for Children)
- Councillor Mather - Economy Portfolio (Strategic Housing, Regeneration and Enforcement)
- Councillor McBride - Economy Portfolio (Strategic Planning, Regeneration and Transport)
- Councillor Khan - Corporate Portfolio (Place, Environment and Customer Contact Services)
- Councillor G Turner - Corporate Portfolio (Place, Environment and Customer Contact Services)
- Councillor Hill - (Maternity Leave)

In regards to Agenda Item 9 (Minute No. 129 refers), Council were reminded of the requirements of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in regards to voting.

122

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Akhtar, D Firth, Hill, Lawson, O'Neill, Palfreeman, Patrick, J Taylor, Sheard and Smaje.

Council - 17 January 2018

123 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018 be approved as a correct record subject to the deletion of Councillor Gemma Wilson from the list of attendees.

124 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Ahmed, N Turner, Scott, Smith, Lowe, Marchington, Pandor, O'Donovan, D Hall, Light, Khan, AU Pinnock, E Firth, Calvert and Bellamy declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 13 (Minute No. 133 refers) on the grounds that either they, or a family member, are employed within the public sector.

Councillor Hughes declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 13 (Minute No. 133 refers) on the grounds that she is a Member of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillors E Firth and Pandor declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 131 refers) on the grounds that they have relatives living within a KNH property.

Councillor Marchington declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute no. 131 refers) on the grounds that he is a Board Member of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing.

Councillor Scott declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 14 (Minute No. 134 refers) on that a relative is employed within the NHS.

Councillor Lowe declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 131 refers) on the grounds that a relative is employed by Kirklees Active Leisure.

Councillor Bellamy declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 131 refers) on the grounds that she is a KNH tenant.

Councillor Calvert a declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Items 11 and 15 (Minute No.s 131 and 135 refer) on the grounds that she has a relative who is a tenant of a KNH property.

125 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

No petitions were received.

126 **Deputations and Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Kath Middleton and Jimmy Paxton gave a deputation and submitted a petition requesting a bypass for Flockton due to traffic congestion and highways concerns in the area.

Council - 17 January 2018

127 **Public Question Time**

Council received questions from (i) Caroline Goodwill regarding the demolition of the Whitcliffe Mount Foundation Building, Cleckheaton and (ii) Kath Middleton regarding the provision and allocation of highways funding.

Responses were provided by Cabinet Portfolio Holders, Councillors G Turner and McBride, respectively.

128 **West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

The Minutes of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, held on 5 October 2017, were received and noted for information.

129 **Calculation of Council Taxbase 2018/2019 (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor G Turner, seconded by Councillor Pandor, and

RESOLVED –

(i) That the Council Taxbase 2018/2019 for Kirklees, and the five Parish and Town Council areas, be approved as follows;

- Whole of Kirklees £117,770.00
- Denby Dale £5,732.57
- Holme Valley £9,960.21
- Kirkburton £8,861.25
- Meltham £2,761.79
- Mirfield £6,599.19

(ii) That approval be given for the full Government Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant to be passed to Town and Parish Councils at the same level as previous years and that it be noted that a review will be undertaken in advance of next year's budget to ascertain the appropriate level of funding.

(iii) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Finance, IT and Transactional Services) to adjust the taxbase to reflect any changes that may be agreed by Members, and to recalculate the taxbase pursuant to Section 3 1B (1) and S67 (1) and (2A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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

(During the consideration of this item it was moved by Councillor E Firth, seconded by Councillor Bolt, and resolved that The Procedure Rule regarding the application of the time limit for written questions be suspended (CPR 12(7) refers)

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(12)(1):

(1) Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Shabir Pandor)

“How much influence do you have on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority?”

The Deputy Leader to replied thereto.

(2) Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Corporate (Councillor Khan)

“Will you review your decision not to allow permit parking for residents in Lockwood?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(3) Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Naheed Mather)

“Since our last Full Council meeting, what action have you taken to ensure the Council’s policy on flying lanterns is properly promoted?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(4) Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Naheed Mather)

“A number of Council’s have introduced policies to end the use of single use plastic. Is this a policy the administration would support?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(5) Question by Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“In your role as a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, what is the importance of the Upgrade of the Trans-Pennine railway route, either for Kirklees or the Region as a whole?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(6) Question by Councillor Jean Calvert to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Viv Kendrick)

"Could Councillor Kendrick remind Council when the Child Sexual Exploitation Multi Party Panel was first set up and when was its first meeting?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(7) Question by Councillor Bill Armer to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Cathy Scott)

"Certain residents of Bedford Avenue, Grange Moor, were offered an option of purchasing (a) the land between their houses and Bedford Avenue or (b) an easement to allow their passage over this land.

What are the all-in costs (legal/admin fees plus cost of land/easement) of each of these options?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(8) Question by Councillor Bill Armer to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Cathy Scott)

"In relation to 25-30 Bedford Avenue Grange Moor, it was reported in the Huddersfield Examiner that 'the option to consider alternative sources of funding was offered to ward councillor'.

What alternative sources of funding were identified, and to which councillors was the offer made?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(9) Question by Councillor Michael Watson to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Viv Kendrick)

"The letter written on 8 December 2017 by Rachel Holden, the OFSTED inspector, following the Monitoring visit of Kirklees Children's services reports:

"The focus of this visit was agreed with the director of children's services, six weeks prior to fieldwork, as an area in which it was hoped that progress could be demonstrated, as plans were already being actioned in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, which was identified as ineffective in the inspection in 2016. However, the action taken during this time has not led to the improvements anticipated, and children are being left in situations of unacceptable and unassessed risk. The pace of change in Kirklees is too slow, and widespread and serious failures remain in the first response to children in need of help and protection. Inspectors identified deterioration in

Council - 17 January 2018

the management of risk to vulnerable children and in the quality of decision-making and assessment.”

Does the Cabinet Member accept that the inspectors identification of a deterioration in the management of risk to vulnerable children indicates that matters are getting worse rather than better so far as our children’s services are concerned with the consequence that children are more at risk now than they were at the time of the original damning OFSTED report in November of 2016?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(10) Question by Michael Watson to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“In the Huddersfield Examiner from 2013 Cllr McBride is quoted as saying:

‘I am delighted to announce this year’s parking concessions to tempt Christmas shoppers to spend more time in local town centres during the festive season. We have provided this in previous years and it is appreciated by both shoppers and town centre businesses alike and will help to provide a boost for the local economy.’

Were parking concessions put in place this year for the same reasons and if so did they achieve the aim?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(11) Question by Councillor Michael Watson to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Naheed Mather)

“In relation to glass recycling sites in the area;

Which Ward has the most, and how many?
Which ward has the fewest, and how many?
What is the average number per ward?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(12) Question by Councillor David Hall to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Shabir Pandor)

“Have you read the Deloittes report into council savings?”

The Deputy Leader replied thereto.

(13) Question by Councillor David Hall to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Shabir Pandor)

“Are you happy with this year’s budget process?”

The Deputy Leader replied thereto.

(14) Question by Councillor Robert Light to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Cathy Scott)

“The Kirklees Help and Support Service provides essential support for rape victims. How long do victims have to wait for full counselling support?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(15) Question by Councillor Robert Light to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Viv Kendrick)

“This December the Council received its third monitoring report since Ofsted first judged Kirklees Children’s Services as inadequate in 2016. Two years on Ofsted still judged Kirklees Children’s Services as inadequate.

Given that all opposition Groups lent their support to the Children’s Services improvement plan will the Cabinet member inform this Council when we will see quantifiable improvement in Kirklees Children’s Services?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(16) Question by Councillor Robert Light to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Shabir Pandor)

“Will the Deputy Leader outline his priorities for the next years Council Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan?”

The Deputy Leader replied thereto.

(17) Question by Councillor Robert Light to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“As an important member of the WYCA investment panel the Deputy Leader will be aware that economies of Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford are now showing significant growth and this is also clear in the retail sector (even in Bradford). Yet in Kirklees our economy is not thriving and our retail sector in our town centres are in significant decline. Why is Kirklees different?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(18) Question by Councillor Gemma Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“Do you think the letters that have gone to residents in the Birchencliffe and Edgerton area regarding compulsory purchases have been thought through properly. In my view they are heavy handed, have scared residents for whom many this has come out of the blue, and the language and tone is very distressing and has left some of the Lindley residents I represent, and some Greenhead residents distressed and worried about their home, any effects on the value of their homes and whether the compensation will take this into account and be adequate to fully recompense these residents?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(19) Question by Councillor Andrew Marchington to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“Recent figures have shown that there are over 2000 properties across Kirklees which have been empty for 6 months or more. There are 722 properties which have been empty for 2 years or more. However, the Council has declined to make to use of Empty Dwelling Management Orders in the last 5 years, despite a rise in the number of homeless. Can the Cabinet member advise what actions the Council is taking to bring empty homes back in to use?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(20) Question by Councillor Nicola Turner to the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Peter McBride)

“What do you think is the best devolution deal for Kirklees?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(21) Question by Councillor Nicola Turner to the Nominated Spokesperson for the West Yorkshire Pension Fund Joint Advisory Group and West Yorkshire Pension Fund Investment Panel (Councillor Hilary Richards)

“What actions has the Council taken to implement the recommendations of the fossil fuel divestment pension motion, which was passed at Council in October 2015?”

The Nominated Spokesperson replied thereto.

(22) Question by Councillor Nicola Turner to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Shabir Pandor)

“What further support could this Council give to the HRI campaign?”

The Deputy Leader replied thereto.

- 131 Key Discussion - Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing/Kirklees Active Leisure**
Council received presentations from (i) Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and (ii) Kirklees Active Leisure, which were followed by questions and comments.
- Arising from comments and discussion relating to Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing it was noted that a future key debate would be scheduled to enable further discussion of housing issues.
- 132 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption**
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 133 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to address Public Sector Pay**
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 134 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Access to NHS Dentistry in Kirklees**
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 135 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Housing in Kirklees**
Item not considered (due to time constraints).