

Contact Officer: Penny Bunker

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 18 September 2019**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Mumtaz Hussain) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Gulfam Asif	Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Richard Eastwood	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor Charlotte Goodwin	Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead
Councillor Nell Griffiths	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Steve Hall	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Erin Hill	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Christine Iredale
Councillor Paul Kane	Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Aleks Lukic
Councillor Terry Lyons	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Bernard McGuin	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Richard Murgatroyd	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Nigel Patrick	Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Mohammad Sarwar	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Anthony Smith	Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Kath Taylor	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Harpreet Uppal	Councillor Rob Walker
Councillor Lesley Warner	Councillor Michael Watson
Councillor Paul White	Councillor Habiban Zaman

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44 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Council observed a minutes silence in respect for Archie Bruce a Batley Bulldogs player who tragically passed away on 18 August 2019 after making his debut as a professional rugby league player.

Councillor Gwen Lowe paid a personal tribute to Archie Bruce.

On behalf of the Council the Chief Executive extended warmest congratulations to Olivia Barnden who had been named as Youth Librarian of the Year. Olivia who had been working with Kirklees Libraries since 2003, received the award from the Youth Libraries Group, in conjunction with the Enid Blyton Estate. The award recognises the innovation and dedication of a staff member working with children and young people in a public library.

45 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Charles Greaves and Councillor Darren O'Donovan.

46 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 July 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Eastwood within the list of attendees.

47 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Armer declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as his wife is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Firth declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as a member of his household is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Lowe declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as a family member is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Lowe also declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 11 as a family member is employed by Kirklees Active Leisure. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Lyons declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as he is entitled to a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Patrick declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as a member of his family is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Smaje declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as a member of her household is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Sokhal declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as he is in receipt of a free television licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

Councillor Zaman declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 19 as a member of her family is in receipt of a free TV licence. (Minute no. 62 refers)

48 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

Councillor Munro advised that she would be forwarding a petition requesting traffic calming measures in Almondbury. The petition was linked to the public deputation at 49 (ii).

49 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

Council received deputations from (i) Dr Andrew Smith in support of the motion on forgotten workers; (ii) Mr Ronald Berry regarding traffic problems in Westgate and Kaye Lane, Almondbury (a petition was also submitted); (iii) Save Greenhead Trees and Kirklees Climate Emergency Groups on the development of a Kirklees Trees Policy in response to the climate emergency; (iv) Cassandra Whittingham on information and support to parents following the closure of the secondary phase of Almondbury High School and (v) Mrs Beth Fry on the impact on admission areas in the closure the secondary phase of Almondbury High School.

The cabinet member for Corporate (Councillor Turner) provided a response to (i). The cabinet member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker) responded to (ii) and (iii). The cabinet member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Cllr Pattison) provided a response to (iv) and (v).

50 Public Question Time

Council received questions from;

- (i) Mr Mike Prior; regarding the Council's response to a call for a global day of strikes in support of the climate emergency.

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

- (ii) Mrs Beth Fry: pursuant to the deputation at Minute 49 (v)

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities - Councillor Pattison

- (iii) Heather Peacock: pursuant to the deputation at Minute 49 (iii)

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment – Councillor Walker

- (iv) Adrian Stygall; pursuant to the deputation at Minute 49 (iii)

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment – Councillor Walker

51 Council Petition Debate

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9A, Council debated the content of a petition which had previously been submitted and exceeded the 3,000 signatures petition threshold regarding Flockton bypass. Mr David Rawling made a representation on behalf of the petitioners.

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The content of the debate was received and noted.

52 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

53 Report of Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

It was moved by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor J Taylor, and

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Place Partnerships Lead Councillor role is paid at Band D (£5,009) and that this be backdated to the date of Annual Council, 22 May 2019, when the Lead Councillors were appointed.

(2) That the Parental Leave Policy be adopted.

54 Kirklees Active Leisure - Annual Update

Council received an annual update presentation from the Chief Executive of Kirklees Active Leisure, Alasdair Brown, the Chair of Trustees, Dawn Stephenson and Trustee Brian Stahelin on the work and performance of Kirklees Active Leisure. Following the presentation, Council were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions on the content of the presentation.

RESOLVED - The Council received and noted the Annual update presentation from Kirklees Active Leisure.

55 Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

56 Children's Scrutiny Panel - Call In of Cabinet Decision

Council considered the outcomes of the call in review meeting held on 7 August 2019 into the Cabinet decision on the future options for Almondbury Community School.

RESOLVED - That Council noted the outcomes of the call in review meeting of the Cabinet decision on the Future Options for Almondbury Community School – final decision.

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

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

58 Key Discussion - Children's Services

Following a presentation by Mel Meggs, Director for Children's Services, the Council held a key discussion debate on Children's Services.

59 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Proper Funding of Local Services

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

60 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Forgotten Workers

It was moved by Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Graham Turner and:

RESOLVED - That this Council notes;

- the content and recommendations of the “Forgotten Workers” report, carried out jointly between Durham and Bradford universities, and notes that it is an independent piece of work, carried out with due academic rigour and appropriate research methods
- that this report is the first of its kind into the issues of low pay and multiple employment in this region. The scale and nature of the issues it highlights should be cause for concern for all of us here in Kirklees
- that for the first time in history, the majority of people classed as living in poverty are also in work (55%). Most children in poverty now come from households where at least one adult is in work. The narrative put forward in recent decades by governments of all parties - that work is the best route out of poverty - is clearly now not the case. The social contract of “getting on if you work hard” has demonstrably failed
- with alarm, the kind of stories the report has unearthed, and the implications for the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable residents and their families. The researchers found workers with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and even 7 different jobs who are all struggling to make ends meet due to low-pay and limited working hours. They were typically employed in cleaning, catering, the care sector, security, social services, education, retail, public services, administration and IT services. These workers are employed on a combination of full-time, part-time, agency, temporary, seasonal, casual and zero hour’s contracts. They all reported high levels of stress and exhaustion, and deteriorating relationships with family and friends
- that people who do legitimately work in more than one low-paid job are largely absent from academic and policy coverage. We note our responsibility not only as a local authority with responsibility for nearly half a million people, but also as one of the largest employers and commissioners in the area

This Council has a duty to consider the practical recommendations of the Forgotten Workers report as an employer, to ensure as far as possible that our suppliers and commissioned services do so too. We also have a duty as a politically led organisation to represent our constituents who are in this situation, and to apply pressure where we can to move the issues which affect this group to the top of the local and national policy agenda.

This Council therefore:

- reiterates its commitment to paying all our employees the Affordable Living Wage, and where we commission and outsource work, to encourage the same commitment from those employers.

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- offers all Kirklees employees a guarantee of dignity and fair treatment at work, regardless of position, length of service, or wage.
- asks Cabinet to investigate the possibility of carrying out information gathering across the Kirklees area to find out how many people are currently in multiple employment.
- asks Cabinet to commission work to report on potential actions which would ameliorate the immediate impacts of multiple employment, e.g. poor mental health and diet.
- asks the Leader to identify the Cabinet Member responsible, and that the Cabinet Member reports back to Council on the information gathered and the work commissioned (and the combined findings of both) no later than the scheduled December Council Meeting.”

61 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Universal Credit

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

62 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Pension Credit

Item not considered (due to time constraints).

63 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Regional Support to Leeds Bradford Airport

Item not considered (due to time constraints).