

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Virtual Meeting - online on Wednesday 9 September 2020**

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 Donna Bellamy
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Richard Eastwood	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Charlotte Goodwin
Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead	Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor David Hall	Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor Lisa Holmes	Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Christine Iredale	Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Aleks Lukic	Councillor Terry Lyons
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Richard Murgatroyd	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
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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1 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Mayor conveyed the thanks of Council to all NHS and emergency services workers and volunteers in recognition of Emergency Services Day.

The Mayor advised that the content of the agenda had been agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders, and that procedures as set out at CPR 13, would not be applied.

2 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dad, Loonat and Munro.

3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

5 **Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (MAIRP) 2020/2021 (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor K Pinnock and

RESOLVED - That the recommendations as out in the report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel 2020/2021, and the Members Allowances Scheme for 2020/2021, be approved.

6 **Pay Policy Statement 2020/2021 (Reference from Personnel Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor Lawson and

RESOLVED - That the Annual Pay Policy Statement, as attached at Appendix Ai of the report, be approved.

7 **Financial Outturn and Rollover 2019-2020 incorporating General Fund Revenue , Housing Revenue Account, Capital and Treasury Management Report (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor McBride and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That, in regards to General Fund; (i) the revenue outturn position 2019-2020 be noted (ii) the year end position on corporate reserves, including financial resilience reserves be noted (iii) the arrangement for regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2020-2021, to be reported to Cabinet within the quarterly financial monitoring cycle, be noted (iv) the use of the Council's flexible receipts strategy for the year end capitalisation of £2.4m transformation related costs in 2019-2020 be noted.

- 2) That the year-end position on the Collection Fund be noted.

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- 3) That the Housing Revenue Account outturn and reserves position 2019-2020, be noted.
- 4) That, in regards to Capital; (i) the outturn position 2019-2020, be noted (ii) approval be given to the £17.8m capital rollover from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021 (iii) approval be given to the revised capital plan for the period 2020-2025, having taking into account rollover, the re-phasing of schemes and changes to grant assumptions (iv) it be noted that officers will continue to review 2020-2021 in-year budget profiles with a view to transfer budget into future years to ensure a more realistic monitoring profile (v) approval be given to the detailed 2 year Highways capital plan 2020-21 and 2021-22 which incorporates the large scheme road resurfacing programme and (vi) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Children in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Children's Services, along with the head of Corporate Landlord and Head of Legal services, to negotiate and to procure identified properties to meet service needs within the £2m programme total. (para 1.10.20)
- 5) That, in regards to treasury management, the review of treasury management activity for 2019-2020 be noted.

8 **Devolution Deal for West Yorkshire - Consultation Outcomes (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor McBride and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the decision of the meeting of Cabinet held on 1 September 2020 to approve the recommendations as set out on pages 136 and 137 be endorsed.
- 2) That the updated timetable, as set out at Appendix 3, and the next steps which are subject to the consent being given by the constituent councils and WYCA to the draft order in November 2020 so that a mayoral combined authority model and associated changes may be adopted and implemented by May 2021, as set out in the Mind-to Deal, be noted.

9 **Minutes of Cabinet**

Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of Cabinet which had been held on 25 February 2020, 1 May 2020, 21 May 2020, 26 May 2020, 2 June 2020, 16 June 2020, 29 June 2020, 13 July 2020 and 28 July 2020.

10 **Oral Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members**

Cabinet received the following oral questions;

Question from Councillor R Smith

“Can you clarify please when is the Mayor Making Ceremony going to take place for this municipal year?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

Question from Councillor Burke

“In relation to the fantastic news that there is going to be investment in a new library building for residents of Birkby and Fartown, my question is what investment will we be putting into current libraries whilst not forgetting the well-used libraries that we have, in particular in Lindley and what investment will be made in the much needed refurbishment of Lindley Library?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Turner)

Question from Councillor Watson

“In regards to household refuse sites, the site at Bromley Farm is still causing significant issues for people in Denby Dale ward. Are you aware whether there has been any measureable improvement in the service that is delivered to the residents of the ward over the last few months and going forward, do you think there is anything else that the Council could be doing to improve that service? And secondly, I would anticipate that under the current regime, the volumes of waste at these types of sites is down and therefore is the Council paying anything less for the provision of that service than in normal circumstances?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

Question from Councillor Iredale

“What is happening to the bin collections in the Golcar Ward, they really are awful?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Would you say that decisions made by this Council should have full facts for Members to consider when making those decisions?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

Question from Councillor Lukic

“Over the last two to three weeks many areas of Dewsbury and Batley have experienced a relatively low rate of corona virus cases but are still under additional local restrictions. What is being done to encourage the release of these areas from local restrictions?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

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Question from Councillor McGuin

“Why couldn’t Kirklees pay the private financing on Almondbury Community School to allow an academy to take over the site?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Turner)

Question from Councillor Iredale

“What is happening with the town bus?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride)

Question from Councillor D Hall

“Will you accept that although the Leaders agreed not to hold an annual meeting, because of the circumstances, this under our constitution in no way prohibits the holding of a mayor making?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

Question from Councillor R Smith

“As work has started to develop a future vision for Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres, could you inform Council as to the administrations plans for smaller town centres such as Kirkburton, Holmfirth, Batley etc?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride)

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Further to Councillor Hall’s comments, this is not a question about individuals, it’s about the office, the function, the change over, and as Councillor Hall says it’s not dependent upon an Annual Council Meeting. This Council has made remarkable steps in having virtual meetings. Why can’t we move towards having a virtual mayor making?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

Question from Councillor A Smith

“Is Councillor Walker aware of the persistent fly tipping issues that we’ve had around Grimscar Road despite the road being closed? Myself and ward councillors have asked on several occasions for proactive measures such as signage and CCTV. Is he aware of any progress and can he give an update?”

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

Question from Councillor Cooper

“People park all day in Huddersfield Town Centre. Do you believe it is people that work in the town centre or people who are shopping in Huddersfield Town Centre that are doing on-street parking?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“Our schools return this week and I thought we ought to perhaps get an update on what the experience has been like across Kirklees, especially for our more vulnerable and looked after children?”

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

Question from Councillor Patrick

“Historically, ward councillors have been involved in how S106 monies are spent in the ward. I learnt this week that from now on ward councillors will have very little input whatsoever in how public open space S106 money is spent. Staff tell me that they will decide where it is spent and how it is spent. Would you like to comment on that please?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride)

Question from Councillor P A Davies

“It’s not new news that there is an accident black spot on the A629 on Penistone Road/Station Road/Fenay Lane junction. There has been a spate of further accidents over the summer, I think three major accidents within two weeks. The issue has now been taken up by the Examiner who are running a petition about the area. I understand that budgets are tight but there is an opportunity for community infrastructure levy monies from nearby developments that could be used to fund improvements to the junction and also to improve the walking and cycling routes along the Penistone Road/Wakefield Road corridor, developments which are only going to add to and exacerbate traffic along the corridor. I ask the Leader if he can please confirm that the charging schedules recommended by the Planning Inspector in January of this year, which will facilitate the collection of these monies are going to be adopted?”

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

11 Minutes of Other Committees

Council received the following Minutes; (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee held on 6 March 2020 (ii) Corporate Parenting Board held on 10 February 2020 and 4 March 2020 (iii) Health and Wellbeing Board held on 4 June 2020 (iv) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 9 March 2020 and 9 June 2020 and (iv) Strategic Planning Committee held on 27 February 2020, 3 June 2020, 24 June 2020, 15 July 2020 and 29 July 2020.

12 Oral Questions to Chairs of Committees, Sub Committees and Panels, and Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Chairs of Committees, Sub Committees and Panels, and Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies received the following questions;

Question from Councillor K Pinnock to the Spokesperson for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor O'Donovan)

"The West Yorkshire Fire Service, as Cllr O'Donovan will know, is determined to close Cleckheaton Fire Station and the location in Cleckheaton is vital as it provides speedy back access to the M62 which will be lost if the decision is confirmed. Can Councillor O'Donovan explain why then he is intent on closing the fire station?"

The Spokesperson replied thereto

Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Chair of Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor S Hall)

"When are we going to see the Heavy Woollen Area and Huddersfield Planning Sub Committees reinstated and what's preventing that from happening at the moment?"

The Chair replied thereto

Question from Councillor Bolt to the Spokesperson for West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Ahmed)

"Having read in the papers that the new location for the Kirklees Divisional Headquarters is Halifax Road, Dewsbury, can I ask what work has gone on to assess if this is the best strategic location for a new police HQ to serve the whole of Kirklees and how do the costs of refurbishing an old building compare to the cost of building a new facility?"

The Spokesperson replied thereto

Question from Councillor A Smith to the Chair of Strategic Planning Committee (Councillor S Hall)

"I don't personally believe that Councils are the problem when it comes to getting new houses built, I think it's a fact that local councils approve an average of 9 out of 10 new build applications. The current white paper in front of us seriously undermines local representation, and will result in significantly less social housing being built. The Government should be committing to a programme of building

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social housing for rent and giving local authorities the ability to suspend the right to buy in their own areas so they can finally start tackling the crisis crippling the UK housing market.

Do you think that the Council will be able to ensure that the voice of the residents is maintained and we can move forward with improving accessibility to social housing under the proposals in the Government's planning white paper?"

The Chair replied thereto

Question from Councillor Patrick to the Chair of West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Councillor Ahmed)

"Serious crime is up again in rural south Kirklees with gangs targeting farms. Can you pass a message to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to do more to protect our people and property from these gangs?"

The Spokesperson replied thereto

Question from Councillor Warner to the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Kendrick)

"An issue that we are all involved with is the older people who have been largely housebound over the virus. I wondered if there are any specific policies that the Council are thinking of developing to encourage the people who are still housebound or fearful of going out, through supporting or coordinating any activities?"

The Chair replied thereto

Question from Councillor Thompson to the Spokesperson for Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (Councillor Mather)

"I wondered if anyone was aware the gas fitters at KNH who had inferior PPE going into between 10 and 12 houses a day separately were one of the few teams that carried on working through the last 5/6 months, roofers, gardeners etc and senior officers were either working from home or not working at all and it seems unfair at best and dangerous at worst that these people were expected to do so many separate houses over such a long period of time without proper equipment?"

The Spokesperson replied thereto