

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Main Hall - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 13 July 2022**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Masood Ahmed) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Timothy Bamford	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Nosheen Dad	Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Donald Firth	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Adam Gregg	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Steve Hall	Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Aleks Lukic	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Jackie Ramsay	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Melanie Stephen
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Lesley Warner
Councillor Michael Watson	Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

20 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive
There were no announcements.

21 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allison, PA Davies, Greaves, Lees-Hamilton, Holmes, Perry, K Pinnock, Reynolds, Sarwar, Sheard, A Smith, K Taylor and White.

22 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held of Annual Council held on 25 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

23 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

24 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

Councillor Lowe submitted a petition, on behalf of residents of Smithies Moor Rise and Smithies Moor Close, Batley, which requested that the Council alleviate the continued use of the road as a 'rat run' by introducing appropriate traffic calming measures.

Councillor Bolt submitted a petition which requested a fairer planning process in Kirklees.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the petitions would be referred to the appropriate Service Directors for investigation.

25 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

No deputations or petitions were received.

26 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

It was then moved by Councillor Pandor, and seconded by Councillor Scott, that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(3) Agenda Items 16, 17 and 18 now be considered. The Motion, upon being put to the vote, was CARRIED.

27 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Adoption of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia

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

RESOLVED – That

"This Council notes the Motion to adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia - "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness" - together with the explanatory guidelines put forward by the Coalition Against Islamophobia.

- Islamophobia is a growing issue, both locally and nationally, as Muslims were targeted in 45% of all religious hate crime offences recorded in England and Wales in 2020/21, meaning they experience far more religiously motivated hate crime than any other group.

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- That 75 academics, over 750 Muslim organisations and institutions, Plaid Cymru, the Labour Party (England & Scotland), the Liberal Democrats (England & Scotland), the SNP, the Scottish Conservatives, the Scottish Greens, 50 councils nationwide and many more have adopted the APPG definition of Islamophobia.
- As per the Public Sector Equality Duty enshrined in the 2010 Equality Act, the council must give due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for members of communities with a protected characteristic, including Muslims, such that they are able to participate in society on an equal footing with their non-Muslim counterparts.
- Islamophobia is one of the principal barriers to the participation of Muslims in public, economic, political, and social spheres of life and must urgently be addressed.

This Council believes that:

- Adopting a definition of Islamophobia is essential to tackling Islamophobia in a targeted and effective manner.
- Without a definition of Islamophobia, one cannot identify how Islamophobia manifests itself and functions and therefore, cannot devise meaningful strategies to address it.
- The APPG definition should be accompanied by the Coalition Against Islamophobia's explanatory guidelines to provide a more holistic understanding of Islamophobia, which can be accessed online.

This Council therefore resolves to:-

- To adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia
- Work with Communities and all relevant stakeholders to both raise awareness of the issues surrounding Islamophobia and to challenge and tackle instances of Islamophobia.
- Write to Government urging the adoption of the APPG definition of Islamophobia"

28

Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to as to the Adoption of the Definition of Antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor D Hall and

RESOLVED –

"This Council notes with concern that the Community Security Trust has reported a huge increase in antisemitic hate crime in 2021.

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The Council therefore welcomes the UK Government's announcement on December 11th, 2016, that it will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism. The Council also notes that the new definition has been adopted by the Government, Labour Party, Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, Greater London Authority and Greater Manchester Combined Authority along with numerous other Councils across the country.

The Council notes the definition reads as follows: -:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”

The guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g., gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”

This Council believes that everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion. This means that all forms of hate crime must be condemned.

This Council welcomes the cross-party support within the Council for combating antisemitism in all its manifestations.

This Council therefore resolves to adopt the above definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.”

- 29 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Cost of Living Crisis**
It was moved by Councillor Marchington, and seconded by Councillor Lawson, that .

“This Council notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%;
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year, from £1,277 to £1,971. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem 2022);
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased national insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average Kirklees family an additional £600 per year;
- The Government has suspended the pension ‘triple lock’ for 2022/23, meaning that the state pension will increase by 3.1%, instead of the 8.3% under the triple lock formula. The decision to suspend the triple lock could cost Kirklees pensioners almost £500 a year (TUC 2022);
- The decision taken in June 2022 to impose a ‘windfall tax’ on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the windfall tax was first proposed by Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, in May 2022. Though this windfall tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the cost-of-living crisis.

This Council believes that:

The cost-of-living crisis, which is being caused predominantly by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases and exacerbated by recent tax increases, affects all of us, but will hit poorer households harder. It will also have a significant impact on community and charitable organisations, and may impact on their vital services, and it will impact on businesses. Unfortunately, the crisis will also have an impact on people’s mental health and wellbeing.

This Council, therefore, declares a ‘Cost of Living Emergency’ and calls on the Government to:

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- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average Kirklees household £600 this year;
- Immediately reintroduce the pensions triple lock to support Kirklees pensioners;
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021;

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the reintroduction of the pensions triple-lock and for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored.

Finally, Council calls for a cost-of-living emergency summit, attended by a range of stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, food banks, local trade unions and chambers of commerce. Local MPs will also be invited to attend this hybrid meeting."

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor P Davies and seconded by Councillor Pandor, by way of AMENDMENT;

"To DELETE all text after the words '(TUC 2022)' (bullet point 4 refers)

And replace with the following;

- The decision taken in June 2022 to impose a 'windfall tax' on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Though this windfall tax is welcome together with more recent government announcements on support for our citizens, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the cost-of living crisis.

This Council believes that: The cost-of-living crisis, which is being caused predominantly by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases and exacerbated by recent tax increases, affects all of us, but will hit poorer households harder. It will also have a significant impact on community and charitable organisations, and may impact on their vital services, and it will impact on businesses. Unfortunately, the crisis will also have an impact on people's mental health and wellbeing.

This Council therefore notes the focus that this Administration has given to this crisis. This has led to the Council providing the following cost of living support to its citizens:

- Funding 3 foodbanks in Kirklees Council
- Partnership, with Cummins and the Bread-and-Butter Thing – provision of affordable food to communities
- Partnership with VCSE on tackling poverty
- £650K LWP fund
- A one-off £70 per child payment to families entitled to free school meals
- A one-off payment to pensioners who claim council tax reduction

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- Cost of living advice and support for citizens through our Cost-of-Living campaign; Financial advice, Benefit advice, Housing advice

Further this Council notes that Cost of Living support is now a key objective for all the Council's Directorates and work is being carried out to identify initiatives to further assist our citizens with the current and projected financial issues they face due to raising energy costs and overall inflationary pressures. Our partnership with the Voluntary sector is crucial in this and at Cabinet on 5th July a package of investment was agreed which will provide financial support to the sector in Kirklees to help it assist citizens in this cost-of-living crisis.

This Council recognises that as a Local Authority we can only do so much, (the LGA has starkly shown that there is at least a £3.6bn shortfall in funding for LAs, further hampering LAs in supporting their citizens), Government needs to take immediate and significant action to help the millions who are suffering because of this Crisis. This is not simply a matter of topping up people's incomes so that they can afford some of the luxuries of life, it is about people being able to put food on the table for their children and keeping a roof over their heads. And it is not about short-term fixes: the Government need to put in place actions which will provide sustainable support to those in need.

This Council, therefore, declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average Kirklees household £600 this year;
- Immediately reintroduce the pensions triple lock to support Kirklees pensioners;
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021;
- Immediately provide additional financial support to LAs to resolve the gap in funding as outlined by the LGA.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the reintroduction of the pensions triple lock, for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored and that LA funding is brought in line with the LGA's demands.

This Council requires that Cabinet continues to work in partnership with the voluntary sector with the limited resources available from Central Government to support families who are experiencing continuing hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis."

The proposer of the SUBSTANTIVE motion accepted the AMENDMENT to the Motion as proposed by Councillor Davies. The Motion as amended was therefore put to the vote and CARRIED, and it was

RESOLVED - That;

"This Council notes:

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On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%;

- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year, from £1,277 to £1,971. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem 2022);
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased national insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average Kirklees family an additional £600 per year;
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This Council requires that Cabinet continues to work in partnership with the voluntary sector with the limited resources available from Central Government to support families who are experiencing continuing hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis."

30 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 3 February 2022 were received and noted.

31 Corporate Safeguarding Policy (Reference from Cabinet)

It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Kendrick and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the refreshed Corporate Safeguarding Policy be approved and adopted.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director with responsibility for the Corporate Safeguarding Oversight Group, in consultation with the relevant

Cabinet Member, to review the policy and guidance on an annual basis and make technical amendments where appropriate, allowing engagement to take place with stakeholders.

- 3) That, in the event that there are new legislative requirements which would require a fundamental change, the policy shall be resubmitted to Cabinet and Council for consideration.
- 4) That the Corporate Safeguarding Policy be included on the Policy Framework.

32 Inclusive Communities Framework (Reference from Cabinet)

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

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the contents of the Inclusive Communities Framework, as recommended by the Communities Board, be noted.
- 2) That the Inclusive Communities Framework be adopted and included within Article 4 of the Council's Policy Framework.

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

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Simpson)

"I have been told that Huddersfield Crematorium is not working to full capacity. Could you please tell me when it will be fully operational?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Turner)

"Regarding the proposed new Queensgate car park as part of the Huddersfield Blueprint scheme, what is the recommended route for drivers from Wakefield Road to access this?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Transport (Councillor E Firth)

"What consideration has been given to how Greenhead Park can be more closely integrated with Huddersfield Town Centre?"

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

(The remainder of submitted written questions were dealt with in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(8))

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- 34 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues**
Item not considered due to time constraints.
- 35 Holding the Executive to Account**
Item not considered due to time constraints.
- 36 Minutes of Other Committees**
Item not considered due to time constraints.
- 37 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**
Item not considered due to time constraints.
- 38 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Kirklees Council Local Plan**
Item not considered due to time constraints.