

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

**Lead Member:** Cllr Yusra Husain

**Panel:** Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update: From June 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022

#### Panel Highlights

Lead Member briefings:

- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change
- 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - Head of Operational Services and Project Manager - Highways and Street scene regarding the Waste Strategy Capital Update.
- 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - Senior Officers from Planning Building Control, detailed briefing regarding the Hot Food Takeaway SPD and approach to scrutiny.
- 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - Operational Manager, Environmental Strategy and Climate Change regarding the Heat District Network.
- 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - Senior Group Leader from Planning Building Control, regarding the Affordable Housing SPD.
- 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - Head of Highways - Highways and Streetscene regarding the Winter Maintenance Policy Review.

Panel Activity and meetings:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 - Work Programme Workshop (informal) meeting.
- 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Panel members invited to attend the Scrutiny Joint Workshop (informal) regarding the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022.
- Meeting of the Panel held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to consider the Waste Strategy Capital Update.

#### Outcomes:

##### Work Programme Workshop (informal) meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

The Panel's work programming workshop was attended by the Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change, the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration and Service Leads/Senior officers. The Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Transport, Regeneration and Housing and Democracy were also in attendance.

The workshop helped panel members to gain a better understanding of the direction of travel of multiple strategies within Environment and Climate Change and Growth and Regeneration as well as Cabinet Members key priorities. This information was then used to inform the panel's work programme for the 2022-23 municipal year and to prioritise the issues for consideration.

## Meeting of the Panel held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

At the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the Panel considered a presentation in relation to the Waste Strategy Capital Update.

The Panel were advised that a report was to be submitted to Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to agree delegated authority to draw on funding (approximately 3 million) to allow the implementation and delivery of 7 key initiatives associated with the recently adopted Resources and Waste Strategy.

The Panel were presented with the detail of each of the 7 key initiatives which were all in the early phases of development and the reasons why the funding was required for implementation.

In the discussion that followed, key points were raised which included the importance of:

- The alignment of similar projects where possible, such as the 'ReUse Shop' and plans for bulky waste collection, to achieve desired shared outcomes
- Ensuring that new collection and reuse facilities/services are accessible across Kirklees as a part of the long-term plans.
- Working with several third sector and private organisations to create a reuse network.
- Maximising social benefits including, upskilling, and training opportunities, as well as supporting other services (such as homes and neighbourhoods to provide residents with reused furniture for example).

### **Outcomes:**

The Panel welcomed the update highlighting the key benefits of the initiatives particularly in improving waste collection and reduction as well as wider opportunities to uplift products which was key during the cost-of living crisis.

The Panel were also provided with early opportunity for input into the 7 initiatives with understanding that further engagement was to be held with scrutiny, elected members and local communities as the projects developed.

### **Monitoring Work**

None this period

### **Looking Ahead**

At the next meeting of the Panel the following items are to be considered:

- The Hot Food Takeaway SPD
- Winter Maintenance Policy Review
- Affordable Housing SPD
- Heat District Network Strategy

The Panel will consider 3 reports for pre-decision scrutiny prior to Cabinet, the Panel will also consider the review of the Winter Maintenance Policy.

### **General comments**

The Panel has welcomed a number of new Panel members and co-optees this municipal year to assist in its consideration of a diverse portfolio and looks forward to meaningful debate across a wide range of subjects.

There are a number of items for consideration this year and it is important for scrutiny to prioritise pre-decision scrutiny alongside maintaining oversight across the Panel's remit to be reactive to any arising issues.

It is also important to give consideration to the wider context of key national issues such as climate change and the cost-of-living crisis, as well local changes such as the major regeneration projects across Kirklees.