

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

**Tuesday 30th August 2022**

Present: Councillor Yusra Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor Aafaq Butt  
Councillor Tyler Hawkins  
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin  
Councillor John Taylor

Co-optees Chris Friend  
Jane Emery

In attendance: Councillor Will Simpson, Portfolio Holder – Culture and Greener Kirklees  
Johanna Scrutton, Planning Policy Team Leader  
Hannah Morrison, Senior Planning Officer  
Lucy Wearmouth, Acting Head of Improving Population Health  
Vicki Stadnicki, Public Health Manager  
Owen Richardson, Data and Insights Strategic Lead  
John Buddle, Planning Policy Team Leader  
Steven Wright, Planning Policy and Strategy Group Leader  
Graham West, Service Director – Highways & Streetscene  
Mark Scarr, Head of Highways  
Nick Jenkin, Business Development Manager  
Katherine Armitage, Service Director – Environment Strategy & Climate Change  
John Atkinson, Group Leader – Energy & Climate Change  
Rob Green, Environment Officer

Apologies: Jonathan Milner (Co-Optee)

- 1 Membership of the Panel**  
Apologies were received on behalf of Jonathan Milner (Co-optee).
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.
- 3 Interests**

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

No interests were declared.

### **4 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that agenda item 13 would be considered in private session.

### **5 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

### **6 Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

### **7 Work Programme 2022/23**

The Panel considered the work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.

The Panel noted some of the challenges in parts of Kirklees where bus services were being withdrawn due to bus companies going into administration, and requested that consideration be given to this when the Panel discussed the item 'Update on Bus Stations / Future of Bus Patronage'.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.
- 2) That the October meeting of the Panel include a wider consideration of bus service withdrawals in the item 'Update on Bus Stations'.

### **8 Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD)**

The Panel considered the Hot Food Takeaway (HFT) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) presented by Johanna Scrutton, Planning Policy Team Leader. Ms Scrutton was joined by Hannah Morrison, Senior Planning Officer, Lucy Wearmouth, Acting Head of Improving Population Health, Vicki Stadnicki, Public Health Manager and Owen Richardson, Data and Insight Strategic Lead.

Ms Scrutton explained that the draft HFT SPD had previously been considered by the Panel, and the outcome of the public consultation and proposed modifications to the SPD were brought to the Panel for comment on before being considered at Cabinet.

Ms Scrutton shared a presentation which initially gave new members of the Panel an overview of the purpose and principles of the SPD as had previously been considered. The presentation then gave a high-level overview of Kirklees Health facts as follows:

- One in five (19%) adults ate fast food or takeaway meals at least once a week, and a further 64% ate fast food or takeaway meals sometimes but less than once a week.
- Approximately one in four reception age children and one in three year six children had excess weight. Over half of all adults in Kirklees were overweight or obese.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

- Kirklees was ranked 87th most deprived area with a strong relationship between deprivation and childhood obesity.
- Obesity prevalence in the most deprived 10% of children was approximately twice that of the least deprived 10%.
- There was a link between levels of deprivation and the proliferation of fast-food outlets.
- In Kirklees, the highest density of fast-food outlets was in the most deprived areas.

The Panel was advised that the public consultation on the draft document took place for a period of six weeks (Tuesday 9 November to Tuesday 21 December 2021). Prior to adoption of the SPD, a Statement of Consultation would be produced stating who the council consulted, a summary of main issues and how they were addressed.

Ms Scrutton informed the Panel that 25 comments from nine consultees had been received as was set out in Appendix 2 of the report. A summary of the significant key issues requiring council response was set out within the report.

Ms Scrutton explained that the main objectors to some of the principles in the SPD were KFC and McDonalds and as a result, some minor changes had been made to the document. However, in most cases KFC and McDonalds were considered as restaurants under the Use Classes Order, therefore the SPD would not apply to them. Ms Scrutton also advised that the representations made by these restaurants were of the same nature as received by other local authorities.

The Panel was informed that there were no blanket restrictions in relation to new applications, but each would be assessed with a toolkit. In each case there would be opportunity to look at other material factors, balancing the economic support of the area with the health of the local community.

The Panel noted the presentation and the Chair invited questions from members. The Panel welcomed the SPD and thanked officers for the work completed on it.

Panel Members were concerned about how the SPD would be enforced and whether, as in the case with other SPD's, it could be overcome by the applicants and asked that enforcement be further considered by officers.

The Panel asked what the definition of a restaurant was in comparison to a takeaway, and Ms Scrutton explained that she would find out that information and provide it to the Panel.

Responding to a question from the Panel relating to the 400m distance requirement from primary and secondary schools, Ms Scrutton explained that the 400m was based on a five-minute walk, and that whilst further education settings were not mentioned, most of these settings were in major town centres and therefore the distance did not apply.

The Panel asked what the scale of the problem was in relation to the hot food takeaways, and Ms Scrutton advised that Kirklees had the highest number of hot

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

food takeaways in West Yorkshire. She explained that there was little that could be done around the number of existing takeaways but there was work to do around planning for the future and managing numbers moving forward.

The Panel commented that the SPD encouraged new applicants to consider recycling and they felt there should be more scope the SPD to make the issue of recycling more enforceable. Ms Scrutton explained that currently they could only encourage recycling, but it was something that officers would consider further.

**RESOLVED** – The Panel noted the updated Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Guidance and it was agreed that:

1. Officers consider the issue of enforcement, including recycling.
2. The definition of a restaurant in comparison to a takeaway be provided to the Panel.

### **9 Affordable Housing and Housing Mix Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD)**

The Panel welcomed John Buddle, Team Leader – Policy and Planning Team to give a presentation to support the item Affordable Housing and Housing Mix Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD). Mr Buddle was joined by Steven Wright, Planning Policy and Strategy Group Leader and Mr Richardson.

Mr Buddle explained that he sought to give the Panel an early insight into the contents of the draft SPD document and also to provide information about the timeline for next steps and the public consultation.

The Panel was advised that the draft SPD provided guidance on the implementation of the Kirklees Local Plan Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Policy, which was appended to the report, and sought to ensure provision of affordable housing in new housing developments ensuring that the housing mix met local need.

The Panel noted that the SPD would be used as a material planning consideration when securing affordable housing as part of the determination of planning applications.

Mr Buddle explained to the Panel that the draft SPD had been prepared with a view to consulting on it in Autumn 2022, with a Cabinet decision anticipated late 2022 or early 2023. The document had also been subject to critical friend review by Leeds City Council and the approach was viewed positively with minor suggested inclusions to reflect recent issues that Leeds had experienced.

Mr Buddle shared the presentations which gave further information as follows:

- The draft SPD was subject to consultation but not an Examination in Public.
- Kirklees would require 20% affordable housing on all qualifying developments of more than 10 dwellings.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

- The sub areas within Kirklees were (i) Batley and Spen, (ii) Dewsbury and Mirfield, (iii) Huddersfield North, (iv) Huddersfield South, (v) Kirklees Rural East and (vi) Kirklees Rural West.
- Principle 1: Market Housing Mix (increased level of detail than the existing SPD).
- Principle 2: Approach to affordable housing calculations (Existing SPD refresh).
- Principle 3: Affordable Housing types and Mix (increased level of detail than existing SPD).
- Principle 4: First Homes, Starter Homes and Discounted Market Sale (New section).
- Principle 5: Design (Existing SPD refresh).
- Principle 6: Affordable housing delivery (Existing SPD refresh).
- Principle 7: Transfer Values (Existing SPD refresh and updating evidence).
- Principle 8: Provision of affordable homes off-site (Existing SPD refresh).
- Principle 9: Town Centres (New section to the SPD).
- Principle 10: Huddersfield Town Centre (New section to the SPD)
- Principle 11: Dewsbury Town Centre (New section to the SPD)

The Panel noted the presentation and the Chair invited questions from Members. The Panel welcomed the finer detail that would appear within the draft SPD but felt that further clarity was needed around the concern, often voiced by residents, that the type of housing being built in a community was not necessarily the type of housing that was needed.

Mr Buddle explained that the local plan was the evidence basis on which further detail could be found around housing types for communities. Mr Buddle also advised the Panel that a consultant had been employed who had, via a survey, set out an evidence base which looked at the demand required over time, where people wanted to live and where they saw themselves living in the future.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding how the principles would be updated over time given the type of home required evolved over time, particularly if the government brought in different housing initiatives, Mr Buddle explained that the Principles would be kept up to date through annual monitoring that they collated through planning applications.

The Panel commented that they were pleased to see a focus on town centres within the document given the large growth in student accommodation, which was largely one bedroom and not a combination of different units.

Mr Buddle explained in a response to a comment relating to engagement with Members, that all councillors would be e-mailed at the start of the consultation, but he would go directly to Planning Committee Members for feedback, given their unique position and experience of planning.

In response to a question from the Panel, Mr Buddle explained that the consultation process would tease out some of the changing requirements in housing, for

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

example did the ability to work from home in an office override the need for an additional bedroom.

The Panel expressed their frustrations at developers who reneged on their duties in relation to Section 106 monies and might not use their best endeavours to achieve the objectives of providing affordable housing. Mr Buddle explained that legal requirements would be in place which would ensure that developers met their requirements and if not, either the developer would need to apply to review the conditions or there would be a case for enforcement.

The Panel queried whether the provision for affordable homes off-site (Principle 8), where it was not possible for affordable housing to be incorporated, could create exclusive developments. Mr Buddle explained that the viability assessments as part of the refreshed SPD would provide additional support to those types of conversations with developers to insist that they deliver the assessed affordable housing.

The Panel noted that the word affordable meant different things to different people, and what was affordable at one time, may not be viewed as such now and the consultation needed to be clear with the public what Kirklees' anticipation of affordable was. Mr Buddle confirmed that the definition was provided through the planning framework.

In response to a question from the Panel, Mr Buddle explained that discussions with developers was ongoing, and officers received regular feedback from them as they worked through planning applications. That information had in turn shaped and informed the draft SPD and formed part of the evidence base.

Mr Buddle informed the Panel that they had considered adjoining local authorities' SPDs to ensure when benchmarking that they did not set standards which either set Kirklees apart from other authorities or was not ambitious enough to achieve the correct level of affordable housing.

In response to a question from the Panel, Mr Buddle explained that they were working with registered providers of affordable housing to ensure that such housing stayed affordable, often by means of the deeds of the property, and could not be sold on in a few years' time without the affordability intact.

The Panel sought further clarification regarding the type of land, referred to in LP11, where there was a possibility of exemptions for affordable homes on restricted land. Mr Buddle informed the Panel that there would be a high bar in relation to this land and would mean a policy test which was set out within national guidance. It was noted that such a scheme must include arrangements for the homes to remain affordable in perpetuity.

**RESOLVED** – The Panel noted the draft SPD and planned consultation, and it was agreed that:

1. Officers be thanked for their presentation and the work carried out to produce the draft SPD.
2. The Panel be updated with the outcome of the consultation.

### 10 Winter Maintenance Policy Review

The Panel received a presentation on the Winter Maintenance Policy Review from Graham West, Service Director (Highways & Streetscene), Mark Scarr, Head of Highways and Nick Jenkin, Business Development Manager.

Councillor Will Simpson read a statement on behalf of Councillor Naheed Mather, Portfolio Holder - Environment in which she explained that the presentation reflected the considerations raised at a previous scrutiny meeting in September

2021 and highlighted where the policy or the supporting winter maintenance operational procedures had been updated to reflect those considerations.

Councillor Mather's statement advised that the presentation included the trialling of more volunteer groups to assist with snow clearance, the formalisation of the process for considering changes to existing winter maintenance routes and the formal confirmation of our resilient winter gritting network.

The statement informed the Panel that ensuring compliance with the Department for Transport's Code of Practice for "Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure" had been a key consideration. Councillor Mather's statement continued that officers believed the winter maintenance policy to be fit for purpose, albeit with some minor adjustments.

Councillor Mather concluded that she was supportive of the proposals and the minor updates to the policy proposed by the service.

Mr Scarr shared the presentation and provided an overview of the winter maintenance policy and the work of an officer Highways Working Group established to undertake the required review as follows:

- The budget for winter maintenance had been increased from £1.2m to £1.8m in 2021/22.
- The comparison gritting lengths, treatments times and grit bin provision for the West Yorkshire area.
- Kirklees had the shortest treatment time (on par with Leeds Council) •
- Kirklees gritted a higher percentage of the carriageway network.
- Kirklees had the highest number of grit bins on its untreated carriageway network.
- The Local climate Change Impact Profile (LCLIP), noting more extreme and complex weather events with more frequent storms.
- The trend for warmer winters with less frequent but more intense rainfall, and the anticipated decline in the number of snow events.
- Recent service improvements including (i) automated grit bin process, (ii) extending winter standby by three weeks, (iii) effective social media communications and (iv) the review of the existing volunteer scheme.
- The positive responses, photos and videos received relating to the 'Gritter Twitter' account.
- The Snow Warden scheme including its aims.
- The protocol and considerations for requesting changes to routes.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

- The approach relating to planning approval and winter maintenance provision from the Head of Planning and Highway Development Management.
- The considerations in relation to the gritting of active travel routes.

Mr Scarr advised the Panel that in recent years Kirklees had seen some extreme weather events with one Saturday in February where Kirklees experienced flooding, high winds, and snow all at the same time. Mr Scarr advised the Panel that most days in May 2021 the service had to respond due to the icy conditions which was highly unusual.

Mr Jenkins showed the Panel the kit that would be provided for the Snow Wardens who would be members of a community willing and prepared to clear snow.

The Panel asked whether comparisons with other West Yorkshire authorities was the most appropriate given the difference in topography in Kirklees compared to Leeds or Wakefield, particularly as Kirklees had some steep hills and valleys, making comparison difficult.

In response to a question Graham West explained that the expectation of the public to have every road and footpath gritted when it snowed was one that the Council could not meet. Mr West explained that there was the increase in budget last year, and there was also an overspend of £300,000.

The Panel commented that there were wards where not all health centres were gritted, and the reviewed winter policy only allowed for the road to a new health centre to be gritted, if another one in the ward was sacrificed. Mr West advised the Panel that he would consider that issue.

Mr West explained that the Highways Act expected that all local authorities should use all available resources, with the Code of Practice saying that there should be a general risk-based approach.

The Panel questioned the approach to assess active travel routes as for social benefit and queried whether that was part of the self-assessment that had been submitted to Active Travel England, as this may have affected the transport funding received.

It was noted by the Panel that for some of the greenways in Kirklees, there were a number of school children who would use those to go to and from school.

The Panel was interested to understand planning conditions being made relating to areas such as the Dalton Greenway, but those conditions not being assessed for compliance using the annual user assessment and road safety risk assessment.

Mr West explained that the effectiveness of the grit used on active travel routes was a consideration, given that grit needed activation, usually provided by tyres.

In relation to the Colne Valley Greenway, several millions of pounds had been given to the Canal and Rivers Trust and yet the Panel commented that in winter, if the route was not gritted, users would need to return to use the road network.



## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

In response, Mr West explained that these issues had been raised by him at recent meetings discussing active travel and that whilst funding had been provided for the schemes, there needed to be an approach where future maintenance was also considered.

The Panel wanted to understand the approach to new housing estates, such as the Riverside development, where 5,000 new homes were being built without provision for gritting or for providing grit bins.

The Panel requested information relating to whether grit bins could become a provision within planning in the same way that play areas were.

Mr West advised the Panel that there were 1450 grit bins in the Council and Kirklees had the highest number of bin grits on its untreated carriageway network in the West Yorkshire local authority area.

Mr West informed the Panel that he had seen significant amount of abuse of grit bins in other authority areas that he had worked for, and he would be keeping a close watch on any abuse that appeared in Kirklees.

The Panel commended officers on the use of social media, as they had seen the positive responses from members of the public having now got clear lines of communication directly with them.

The Panel asked how the recent increase in costs would affect the winter maintenance budget and questioned whether the Council had enough supplies of grit.

Mr West explained there were no current issues with the supply chain of grit and the cost of it had not increased to a large degree, but there had been a large inflationary spike in fuel costs, which would need to be taken into account. Mr West advised that he would provide further information to the Panel in relation to increased costs.

Mr West informed the Panel that the Snow Wardens would not have a schedule but would be led by the community and the individuals involved, and even small amounts of grit and snow being cleared would be seen as a positive.

The Panel questioned the use of orange high visibility vests for the Snow Wardens as historically these had been used for workers on railways, however Mr Jenkins explained that the vests shown to the Panel were for illustration purposes only, and checks would be made before they were purchased.

There were some concerns about Snow Wardens working on pavements next to roads in icy conditions, but Mr West explained that they had gone through a risk assessment process, and he could provide the Panel with further details.

In response to a question from the Panel around the amount of grit the lorries laid on roads, Mr West explained that there were minimum guidelines for the amount of grit laid per square meter of the road.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

In relation to the snow ploughs being fitted to the front of grit lorries, Mr West explained that this would depend on the weather forecast, as if the forecast was for ice and no snow, the ploughs would not be fitted.

**11 RESOLVED-** The Panel noted the Winter Maintenance Policy Review and thanked officers for their presentation. It was agreed that:

1. Further information be provided to the Panel in relation to the, (i) Gritting routes to health centres (ii) the future maintenance of active travel routes when the Council had invested initial capital, (iii) the increase in costs for gritting, (iv) information relating to whether grit bin provision could be a planning condition and (v) details of the risk assessment for Snow Wardens.

### **11 Huddersfield District Energy Network**

The Panel received a presentation by John Atkinson, Group Leader Energy and Climate Change in relation to the Huddersfield District Energy Network (HDEN). Mr Atkinson was joined by Katherine Armitage, Service Director, Environment Strategy and Climate Change and Rob Green, Environment Officer, Climate Change.

Councillor Will Simpson introduced the item by thanking the climate change team for the work completed in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan and the Environment Plan.

Cllr Simpson informed the Panel that the HDEN had been at the planning stage for some time, but in a short period of time, a huge amount of progress had been made. He advised the Panel that the Department for Energy, Business and Industrial strategy had acknowledged the exciting opportunity the HDEN would bring.

Cllr Simpson explained that the project would maximise the benefit from Energy from Waste (EfW) and minimised the waste from it, contributing to the work the Council was making towards decarbonisation and ensuring the climate change objects were being met.

Cllr Simpson advised the Panel that ambitions were high, but the outcomes could not be delivered all at the same time, and the HDEN was a manageable project which could be built upon in the future.

Cllr Simpson read a statement from Councillor Naheed Mather, Portfolio Holder for Environment in which she explained that the HDEN project provided an excellent opportunity to reduce carbon emissions associated with our largest town and helped improve our future energy resilience, linked to how we processed waste in the district.

Cllr Mather advised that establishing a heat network would help ensure energy customers in Huddersfield had access to lower carbon and fair priced energy. Establishing the network as set out in the Outline Business Case was the first step, and that she intended to look at opportunities for how the network could expand and

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

help Huddersfield further reduce its emissions for Council to address its priorities in future.

Cllr Mather continued that the project had been developed over several years and was supported by the Government's Heat Networks Delivery Unit.

Cllr Mather's statement explained that she was pleased to support the initiative in terms of its ability to help achieve the Council's climate goals and to achieve further co-benefits alongside the Waste Strategy.

Mr Atkinson then introduced the presentation to the Panel which gave information relating to the Outline Business Case and next steps for seeking Cabinet approval and implementation.

Mr Atkinson gave an overview of what a District Energy Network, also known as a Heat Network, was as follows:

- A distribution system of insulated hot water pipes that took heat from a central source and delivered it to several buildings.
- A long-lasting infrastructure to enable efficient delivery of heat and power from low carbon, renewable and recovered heat sources that otherwise could be used.
- It was suited to urban areas where there was a sufficient density of energy demand.

Mr Atkinson then explained the strategic interdependencies in relation to the Strategic Case:

- It contributed to the District's Net Zero carbon emissions target of 2038.
- A strategic opportunity to align the Council's Waste Services Contract (renewed in 2025), with achieving the district's net zero goal and providing an extra source of revenue for the EfW operator
- A significant Council-led redevelopment via the Huddersfield Blueprint and Station to Stadium – sites could connect where possible, which in turn could make the area more attractive for developers.

Mr Atkinson informed the Panel that the scheme expected to save 111,000 tonnes of Carbon emissions versus gas boilers over its 40 year life span and save around 68% versus a typical gas boiler.

The critical success factors, Mr Atkinson explained, agreed through a series of workshops involving portfolio holders and senior officers of the Council, were:

- Financial returns where the Council control the financial benefits
- Future development which supported further expansion.
- Procurement which would be completed in accordance with the Procurement Strategy.
- Social, supporting the Councils objectives of regeneration and enhancement.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

- Environmental performance providing a clear strategy for affordable, secure and low carbon supply of heat.
- Customer protection to ensure customers were receiving a good service.
- Control where the Council was able to control the scheme ensuring project outcomes were met.
- Schemes were able to access external funding.

The Panel was informed that in March 2022, the Government had launched the Green Heat Networks Fund, a 3-year £288m capital grant fund and the Council would be applying for this fund for Round 2 for over £8m for Commercialisation (up to £1m) and Construction.

The Panel was then introduced to the network design which sought to be flexible and adaptable for future long term aims. Phase one of the network would include Council sites plus four external partners.

The Panel was advised that backup heat would be provided by gas boilers, and thermal storage would be included to allow flexibility. The proposed Energy Centre, based on Old Leeds Road would provide the backup gas boilers, energy storage and pumps for the network.

Mr Atkinson advised that following the engagement with portfolio holders and senior officers, Council ownership of an Energy Service Company was the preferred commercial option. This would maintain the Council's ability to transfer ownership to the private sector in the future if it were valuable to do so.

The Panel was informed that commercialisation was the name given to the development of the outline business case through to the full business case stage that would take place between approval and 2024 at the cost of approximately £1.2m.

Mr Atkinson outlined the financial pre-requisites and commercialisation noting the interim funding of up to £200k from the Council Capital Plan and the external funding bid of up to 50% of the eligible cost and with £1m for commercialisation plus construction costs.

In relation to the next steps, the Panel was advised that the Outline Business Case was being considered for approval at the Cabinet meeting in September 2022.

Following a question from the Panel, Mr Atkinson explained that connection with the stadium would be considered as a connection in the future, but as the stadium demand could be 'spikey' consideration would need to be given as to whether connection would be a help or a hindrance.

The Panel noted the start date for anticipated construction was April 2024 but that the network route included the A62 which was undergoing major works with completion due in 2023. The Highways Act stated following capital reconstruction, no further work should be done within the space of three to five years.

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 30 August 2022**

Mr Atkinson explained that timing relating to the commencement of work was not ideal, and the intention had been to incorporate the heat network pipework within the current A62 scheme. However, the risk to incorporate the network infrastructure at this stage was too high, but that different technical solutions were being considered as an alternative to digging up the road.

The Panel suggested that screens in areas of Huddersfield, perhaps at the Energy Centre or in the new library or museum, showing data of how much energy was being produced could be installed and Mr Atkinson confirmed that would be considered as an option of the type of approach they were looking at.

The Panel noted that in relation to the coordinated approach with the waste strategy, the deadlines appeared quite tight, Mr Atkinson acknowledged this, which is driven by the waste contract timescales. He explained that the aim was to get the network up and running as soon as possible.

In response to a question from the Panel, Mr Atkinson explained that there was gas fired backup boiler capacity and electricity could be drawn down from the National Grid and heat could be provided by the backup gas boilers.

The Panel asked in line with the promotion of recycling and the reduction of waste if there would be a time when there was insufficient energy from waste to meet demand and conversely if excess energy was produced, whether this could be stored or sold back to the National Grid.

Mr Atkinson explained that there would be backup boilers in the Energy Centre which also had hot water energy storage units which was a way of holding a limited amount of energy in the system to smooth out the peaks and troughs in demand across the network.

Mr Atkinson explained that it would be for the Council to decide where the dividends from the scheme would be spent or invested.

In response to a question from the Panel, Mr Atkinson explained that there was a process of engagement with other teams within the Council in relation to the Huddersfield Blueprint.

**12**      **RESOLVED** – The Panel noted the Huddersfield District Energy Network report, the information relating to the Outline Business Case , the next steps and thanked officers for their presentation.

**13**      **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act.

**13**      **Huddersfield District Energy Network**

The Panel noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to Agenda Item 11.

