

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr John Taylor

Panel: Corporate Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update: **From:** 3 October 2022 **To:** 28 November 2022

#### Panel Highlights

(Include examples of pre-decision work, scrutiny getting out and about, etc)

##### Lead member briefings with:

- Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health
- Cllr Paul Davies, Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Corporate Services
- Eamonn Croston, Service Director Finance
- Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk, IT and Transactional Services
- Alice Carruthers, Senior Finance Officer
- Jane Lockwood, Head of Procurement and Commissioning Support
- Richard Parry, Strategic Director, Adults & Health (with responsibility for Customer Services)
- Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Customer and Communities
- Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development

##### Panel meeting – 3 October 2022

The Panel received a number of reports and updates at the meeting including, an update from the Cabinet Member on his priorities from the Council Plan, a council financial update, the council's response to the cost-of-living crisis, an update on the Corporate Risk Register & Risk Management Action Plan and on the Procurement Strategy.

##### Panel meeting – 28 November 2022

The Panel received an update on the Council Finance, Community Asset Transfers and support for Community Buildings Libraries and Access to Services and Customer Services.

Finance continues to be an important area of focus for Panel, particularly in light of the current challenges being faced by the council and the impact and implications following the governments 'Autumn Statement' announcement.

The theme of the meetings are aimed at not only focusing on the financial challenges being faced, but on the support measures being put in place by the council to support local communities through challenging times.

#### **Outcomes:**

(Summarise the value scrutiny has added by looking at the issue(s) and any recommendations )

The Panel asked officers to take address the following:

- 1) To ensure that networking there is for community asset transfers, that attempts are made to reach out to all the assets that have been transferred to make sure those groups are aware and are encouraged to attend those meetings if they are being funded by the council as there are no costs involved

- 2) Through the Communities Team to make sure that the council is using its networks to reach out to all community buildings to at least invite them to enter into conversations and at least be sign posted and given advice regarding the cost of living challenges they might have
- 3) That officers provide the numbers of successful and unsuccessful transfers that have been undertaken

**Monitoring Work**

(If monitoring previous recommendations please identify what difference Scrutiny has made)

With the current financial situation facing local government and the cost of living crisis affecting local residents the panel feel that it is important to continue to monitor this and the measures being put in place to support local communities.

**Looking Ahead**

(What are the next issues the Panel plans to look at?)

At the Panel meeting in January 2023, the Panel will consider information on the Council Risk Register, Financial Management/Capital Plan, and an informal discussion on Data & Insight.

Panel members have been invited to visiting the new library in Birkby and Fartown.