

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## **COUNCIL**

### **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at  
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 11 January 2023**

### **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 Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Paul Davies	Councillor Donald Firth
Councillor Eric Firth	Councillor Charles Greaves
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 Vivien Lees-Hamilton	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 Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Jackie Ramsay	Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Anthony Smith
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 Paul White	Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

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### 104 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Mayor announced the death of former Councillor Barbara Allonby, who had represented Lindley Ward and served as Mayor during 2003 to 2004. Tributes were paid by Councillors Burke, A Pinnock, D Firth, Pandor and Bolt.

### 105 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Allison, Holmes, Munro, Perry, K Pinnock, Sarwar and K Taylor.

### 106 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### 107 **Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

### 108 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

None received.

### 109 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received the following deputations in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(2);

- (i) Deputation from Save our Colne Valley Swimming Pool, presented by Nicola Searl, Victoria Minton, John Smith and Maurice Rhodes.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

- (ii) Deputation from Save Deighton Leisure Centre, presented by Basil Richards, Louise Lewis and Eugene Andrews.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

- (iii) Deputation from Nigel Rodgers in regards to traffic incidents and highways concerns at Bog Green Lane, Kirkheaton.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Mather).

- (iv) Deputation from Huddersfield Friends of the Earth regarding the Climate Change Action Plan, presented by Kiran Bali and Heather Peacock.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Simpson).

- (v) Deputation from Margaret Coates regarding the maintenance of accommodation at Fenton Street, Mirfield.

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A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy (Councillor P Davies).

### 110 Public Question Time

Council received the following public questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11;

- (i) Question from Trevor Barker, on behalf of Save our Colne Valley Swimming Pool;

“Councillor Sokhal, as one of the two Councillors that sit on the Kirklees Active Leisure Board how did you and the other Councillor vote, did you vote in favour of the closure?”

A response was provided by Councillor Sokhal (Spokesperson for Kirklees Active Leisure).

- (ii) Question from Trevor Barker, on behalf of Save our Colne Valley Swimming Pool;

“Can I ask that for any future decision we are fully consulted so that the community know what is happening?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

- (iii) Question from Louise Lewis;

“Has a decision been made by the Council about relocating St Joseph Norton School to Deighton?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Councillor Kendrick).

- (iv) Question from Louise Lewis, on behalf of Save Deighton Leisure Centre;

“What equality impact assessment was made when the was taken not to fund the Leisure Centre?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

- (v) Question from Basil Richards;

“If KAL are able to finance the reopening of the leisure centre after March, can the Council give some kind of commitment to support them?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

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(vi) Question from Eugene Andrew;

“Can the Council commit to bringing, if not all the leisure centres, bring Deighton, back in-house?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

**111 Half Yearly Monitoring on Treasury Management Activities 2022/2023 (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor P Davies, seconded by Councillor Pandor, and

**RESOLVED** – That the half yearly monitoring report on treasury management activities 2022/2023 be noted.

**112 Committee System Proposal - Democracy Commission (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor J Taylor, and

**RESOLVED -**

1) That the recommendation of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee as set out below, be adopted;

1. The Council continues to adopt the retention of the current model of governance (Cabinet Strong Leader Model) with the suggested improvements set out below: -
  - (i) Improvements to enhance and improve pre-decision scrutiny to include reviewing the current scrutiny panels
  - (ii) Clear guidance as far as reasonably practicable in defining pre-decision scrutiny and associated timelines
  - (iii) Annual training and work programme briefings provided to all Members of the Council’s Scrutiny Panels.
  - (iv) Providing clear information to Members and officers on the benefits of pre decision scrutiny and to ensure there is an understanding of the requirements to engage in early pre-decision scrutiny to enhance good decision making
3. The Council recognises that good scrutiny and decision making relies on the provision of transparent, accessible information in a timely manner and supports the development of sharing information to raise awareness, increase understanding of and ensure clarity for Members and Officers around scrutiny, Access to Information Rules and the sharing of information.

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4. That Cabinet be requested to increase dialogue on key strategic issues with Members to increase transparency and develop both formal and informal engagement with Members.
5. That consultation be undertaken with Group Business Managers and Members, to identify any potential barriers preventing some Members being appointed to Committees/Panels such as timing, frequency, location, format of meetings and any actions appropriately co-ordinated.
6. That information be communicated to all Members (across different roles) in relation to engagement with the decision-making process, including access to information rules, scrutiny, raising a notice of concern, speaking and questioning rights at committees.
7. That work is considered to explore enhancing training and development for Councillors to help understand and carry out their roles.
8. To note and thank Mark Edgell and the Local Government Association for the advice, report and recommendations which has provided the panel with an independent starting point for the review by the Commission.
9. To note and thank the Local Authorities and stakeholders who gave their time and shared their experiences with the Commission.
10. That the Democracy Commission undertake a review of the implementation of the recommendations and report back to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee by March 2024

2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to scope and implement the recommendations in consultation with the Chair of Democracy Commission and Chair of Overview and Scrutiny.

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### **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. The remainder of questions that were not dealt with due to time constraints were dealt with in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(8).

#### **Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner**

“The Government announced in December that Local Councils will have flexibility to depart from housing targets, in changes they will be making to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

How will Kirklees respond to these proposals and which greenfield sites, that were under threat in the Kirklees Local Plan, will now be saved?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Transport – Councillor E Firth**

“What are the Council’s plans for 1 Edgerton Road, a property you have recently acquired?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor Cooper to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor**

“Is the £2million funding allocated to the Place Partnerships for Active Travel schemes under threat?”

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor Cooper to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor**

“What are the Councils plans to promote the £400 energy rebate to Park Home residents?”

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 12(5), the Leader referred the question to Councillor P Davies to respond.

**Question from Councillor Warner to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“In the light of the shock closures of Colne Valley Swimming Pool, Deighton Sports Arena and Batley Baths and Recreation Centre with less than 2 weeks' notice just before Christmas, could the Cabinet member responsible inform us when they first knew about this planned closure?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor Warner to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“Could the Cabinet Member please tell us how much money was saved during the 3 month, hopefully temporary closure, of Colne Valley Swimming Pool, Deighton Sports Arena and Batley Baths and Recreation Centre?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“How many computer terminals have been lost in the move from the central library in Huddersfield to the Civic Centre?”

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The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

### **Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“How many books will be lost in the move from the central library in Huddersfield to the Civic Centre?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

### **Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“Since the closure of the art gallery in the central library, how much work has there been on the roof of the building to repair leaks?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

### **Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather**

“I was asked by a resident to dispose of catering sized Nitrous Oxide canisters. Can the Council give any advice on how to safely dispose of this material?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

### **Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies**

“A resident contacted me about the lack of a hologram on her new disabled badge. After being reassured there was no problem, I was later informed that the printers had indeed printed the badges wrongly. Can you please tell me how many people have been affected by this mistake?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

### **Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather**

“In May 2021 the 300-year old cross in Oakenshaw was struck by a lorry and seriously damaged. Eventually it was removed from its original site and moved to safe storage. There is strong local feeling that the cross should be restored to its original location. Could the Cabinet member please inform me of the progress being made to ensure that this happens?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

**Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Environment –  
Councillor Mather**

“At the time that the Oakenshaw cross was damaged in 2021, evidence as to the identity of the vehicle was obtained. What steps have been taken to recover at least some of the cost of reinstating the cross?”

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

- 114 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 115 Holding the Executive to Account**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 116 Minutes of Other Committees**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 117 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 118 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Renewable Energy Strategy**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 119 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Community Pharmacies**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).
- 120 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Kirklees Local Plan**  
Item not considered (due to time constraints).