

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 22nd February 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“How important does the Leader see reviewing complaints?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
2	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“Does the administration think that ensuring people can access medical facilities during winter is a priority?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
3	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“How many outstanding requests does the Council have for repairs to or replacements of road signs?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
4	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“How does the Cabinet Member ensure that our roads are safe?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
5	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“Give the decant of Huddersfield Library, where are the freed up resources being allocated to?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
6	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“Given the projected overspend for this year of £34m, does the Cabinet member feel that a £4m cost saving target, set half way through the year was sufficient?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

7	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“Are school crossing patrol people still part of Kirklees’ plans for keeping children safe as they travel to school on foot?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
8	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“How many properties do the Council currently have with outstanding issues relating to mould and/or damp. How long has the oldest case been outstanding?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
9	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“What knowledge does the Council have about the privately rented sector, be they private landlords or Housing Associations, which have issues with regard to mould and/or damp and what powers does the Council have to assist those tenants?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
10	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“When will the Democracy Commission finally look at the relationship between the Council and it's Town and Parish Councils, something it was scheduled to do before the pandemic?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
11	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“How much did the Council spend in bringing in an outside presenter for the recent workshops on the Officer and Councillor protocols? Does the Cabinet Member think it was a necessary expense?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
12	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Communities and Aspiration – Councillor Pattison</p> <p>“Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that Section 106 funding for education should be released to schools at the earliest opportunity, so that the local children can benefit from the additional investment in their facilities?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

13	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“I have been recently contacted by a constituent who uses Huddersfield Leisure Centre, having joined a couple of fitness classes as part of a health programme which they have been discussing with their Doctor. They commented that at most other gyms (including most of the KAL gyms) the parking is free. However, at the Huddersfield Leisure Centre car park you have to pay - 70 pence being the cheapest rate for 1 hour and if the Leisure Centre car park is full - £2.50 to park at Springwood across the road.</p> <p>They feel that people should be encouraged to get fit - and that an incentive would be to provide free or reduced rate car parking to those who attend Huddersfield Leisure Centre - especially to those who have an annual membership. Does he agree that the health benefits of someone committing to a fitness regime should perhaps be more important than the financial benefits of charging them to park when using the facility?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
14	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“When will we be able to recruit a new School crossing patrol person for Abbey Rd in Shepley”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
15	<p>Question from Councillor Gregg to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“Please could the Cabinet Member advise how many evictions were made over the past 12 months due to anti-social behaviour in Kirklees Homes and Neighbourhoods properties?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
16	<p>Question from Councillor D Hall to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“I recently reported that some wheelie bins had been left by the bin men in an inconsiderate position in the centre of the pavement. There was plenty of room for them to have been left against the walls of the properties. After sending an email highlighting the problem I received a reply which stated: “Cleansing have advised that they see this as the bins being returned in a satisfactory manner. They appreciate that they may indeed cause an obstruction if the bins remain in situ for an extended period of time, but it falls to residents to ensure their bins are back on their property as soon as they can.</p> <p>Is Cllr Mather satisfied with this response?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

17	<p>Question from Councillor Simpson to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor P Davies</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's provision of welfare and support to the people of Kirklees through the cost of living crisis?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
18	<p>Question from Councillor J Taylor to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“Does the Leader think that the Council should be responsive to the views of local communities and villages?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
19	<p>Question from Councillor D Firth to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“Could the Leader of the Council possibly tell me, or give some indication, when one particular road in the Holme Valley will be re-opened.</p> <p>The road in question is Kirkbridge Lane. Come the 21st of February 2023 this road will have been closed for 1 year. The road collapsed due to heavy rain and inclement weather conditions. The inclement weather coupled with the road collapsing also brought a tree down which fell into the river. The condition of the road and the fallen tree have been reported, by myself and a number of local residents, to the Council on numerous occasions, but to date to no avail. Should we have much more rain, and certainly consistent rain, there will be an almighty flood here.</p> <p>This all came to a head approximately a week ago when an ambulance was called to Kirkbridge Lane and it took the ambulance over 40 minutes to get to a patient. This was due to the fact that there were no Road Closure signs in place so the driver automatically went down Kirkbridge Lane only to find that half way down the road was cut off. The driver of the ambulance then had to find an alternative route – which after 40 minutes he did find another way into Kirkbridge. This is not conducive when you come to think about heart condition patients having to travel on roads with numerous speed humps. i.e. Spring Wood Road, which now has 12 to negotiate and this is the alternative route to Kirkbridge Bottom which is where he was travelling to.</p> <p>This road closure is just another one which has been closed at least 12 months. Burnlee Road has been closed for 2 years now, due to the Council not wanting to accept responsibility.”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
20	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services – Councillor Kendrick</p> <p>“Recent figures from the LGA show that 80% of Local Authorities report difficulty in recruiting social workers in the Children’s sector, and over half have difficulty with retaining such staff. What is the situation in Kirklees?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

21	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Khan</p> <p>“LGA figures indicate that over 70% of Local Authorities report difficulty in recruiting social workers in the Adult Social Care sector, with over half saying that staff retention is problematic. What is the situation in Kirklees?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
22	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“LGA figures suggest that 58% of Local Authorities report difficulty in recruiting Planning Officers. What is the situation in Kirklees?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
23	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Simpson</p> <p>“The latest LGA figures state the 45% of Local Authorities report difficulty in recruiting Environmental Health officers. What is the situation in Kirklees?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
24	<p>Question from Councillor Armer to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“Currently, how many front-line staff vacancies are there in the Borough?”</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
25	<p>Question from Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pandor</p> <p>“According to the Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework 2018 – 2030 our vision is that “Kirklees is recognised as a great place to walk and cycle, inspiring more people to walk and cycle more often as a mode of transport, for work, leisure or for sport.”</p> <p>The strategy document goes on to look at the benefits of walking and cycling and reports as follows:</p> <p>“The link between physical inactivity and obesity is well recognised. Physical activity helps to reduce and maintain a healthy weight. 22.4% of 4-5 year olds in Kirklees are either overweight or obese and this rises to 35.5% in 10-11 year olds. Over the period of 2015/16, 60.6 % of adults in Kirklees were overweight or obese.</p> <p>For young people, walking and cycling to school helps build in daily physical activity and promote independence. Less than 1% of young people within secondary schools cycle to and from school. Nearly one in four young people walk to and from schools.”</p> <p>If you were a parent in Skelmanthorpe with a child or children attending school in Scissett and you wanted to encourage your children to be more active and to walk more, and therefore wanted them to walk to and from school, which route</p>

	<p>would you tell them to take?"</p> <p>The Leader of the Council to respond</p>
26	<p>Question withdrawn</p>
27	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“Can Almondbury have a review of traffic and speed, around King James School, as promised when the Strategic Committee granted the extension of its buildings?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
28	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Environment = Councillor Mather</p> <p>“Why has it taken so long to arrange the move of a bus stop on Southfield Road near to Southgate School?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
29	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“The demolition of the Piazza in Huddersfield was due to start in March 2023. As Cllr. Turner has confirmed to me that the art projects, currently occupying, are staying until the end of the year, can you tell us about the timetable for demolition please?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
30	<p>Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“Can we have an update on the cinema complex project at Kingsgate?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
31	<p>Question from Councillor Warner to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“Given the furore in Slaithwaite amongst residents regarding planning permission being granted last week for 42 homes on a green site on a badly drained hillside, can I suggest that future planning developments are referred to the Climate Commission so that the full range of effects on biodiversity are properly considered?</p> <p>Surely the climate emergency should be at the forefront of all planning decisions?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>

32	<p>Question withdrawn</p>
33	<p>Question from Councillor Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Mather</p> <p>“I have noted that West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership launched a new deployment strategy this week, adopting ‘Vision Zero’ and responding to the public’s calls for a more proactive approach to enforcement. Would you please advise which roads in Kirklees have been identified for new camera sites under this revised policy?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
34	<p>Question from Councillor Warner to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Davies</p> <p>“Whilst the Colne Valley Campaigners are grateful for the extra funding to KAL that will enable Colne Valley pool to reopen in April. We are both concerned that the same assurance has not been given to Batley Pool or the Deighton Centre. Can we be assured that everything possible will be done to support the physical and mental health of all residents in Kirklees, by enabling those centres to continue to function until alternative viable alternatives are available? We stand in solidarity with all residents of Batley and Deighton fighting to save their essential leisure facilities.”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>