

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 13 December 2023**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Cahal Burke) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Itrat Ali	Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Bill Armer	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Nosheen Dad
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Paul Davies
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 Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Naheed Mather	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Hannah McKerchar	Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Paul Moore	Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Darren O'Donovan	Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds	Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Joshua Sheard
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 Adam Zaman	Councillor Habiban Zaman

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Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor presented Omaid Badar with a token of acknowledgement, following his achievement in being awarded Social Worker of the Year.

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The Mayor advised that the University of Huddersfield had been successful in being awarded Business School of the Year at The Times Higher Education Awards 2023.

The Mayor also advised of the forthcoming retirement of Civic Attendant Steve Booth, and conveyed thanks for his service to the Civic Office over the past twelve years.

74 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Dockrat, Councillor D Firth, Councillor Holmes, Councillor Lee-Richards, Councillor A Pinnock, Councillor K Pinnock and Councillor Ullah.

75 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

76 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

77 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

Council received petitions from Councillor Bolt and Councillor Gregg regarding proposed changes to parking tariffs in Kirklees.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the subject matter of the petitions be referred to the relevant Service Director.

78 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Council received the following deputations;

- (i) John Beaumont, on behalf of Huddersfield Allotments and Gardens federation, in objection to an increase in allotment rents.

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

- (ii) Hanifa Darwan, regarding humanitarian crisis.

(A response was provided by the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott).

79 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

80 Council Petition Debate

Council held a Petition Debate in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a regarding Claremont House Care Home.

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Council debated the content of the petition which had been submitted to Council on 15 November 2023 and exceeded 3,000 signatures.

The contents of the debate were received and noted.

81 **Elected Member attendance at Meetings**

It was moved by Councillor R Smith, seconded by Councillor Sokhal and

RESOLVED – That the absence of Councillor Donald Firth from qualifying meetings of the Authority, which would ordinarily lead to his disqualification as a Councillor, shall be authorised until 22 May 2024.

82 **Kirklees Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2024/2025 (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme be reviewed and that Option 2 to reduce protection for all and implement a 25% scheme be adopted in accordance with the scheme as set out in Appendix 5, and that it take effect from 1 April 2024.
- 2) That the administrative easement, as set out at Option 4, be adopted and developed in order to ensue smooth administration.
- 3) That the findings of the statutory consultation exercise, as set out at Appendix 4, be noted.
- 4) That the results of the Integrated Impact Assessment be noted.

83 **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;

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Ramsay)

“Will consideration be given to reconfiguring the services to generate additional income by enabling the dementia care homes to use the skills and resources they have to provide day support and respite provision to people living with dementia in the wider community?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Ramsay)

“If the decision is made to close the two dementia care homes, will the Council look to sell, lease or transfer the buildings to a private care operator so that the residents can remain in place, or will the council look to sell the sites for development?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner)

“What steps has the Council taken since the November meeting to collect the £150k in s106 park/play money from developments in Meltham that hasn’t been paid over? Has the Council issued a statutory demand for payment and will it proceed with a bankruptcy petition if the debts are not settled immediately?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Hussain)

“The Art Gallery closed in the Library Building several years ago. What is the estimated time for its return to the former library building?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies)

“What has happened to books that were in the former library building?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor McGuin to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies)

“Do you think that the present library, in Civic Centre 3, is adequate for the needs of the population of Huddersfield?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways (Councillor Crook)

“What is the maximum number of volunteer snow wardens permitted per Ward in Kirklees?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

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Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Council received and noted the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 26 September and 17 October 2023 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 20 October 2023.

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- 85 **Holding the Executive to Account**
Council received a portfolio update from the Leader, Councillor Scott, prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.
- 86 **Minutes of Other Committees**
Council received and noted the Minutes of (i) Corporate Parenting Board held on 12 September 2023 and 24 October 2023 (ii) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 5 September 2023 and 24 October 2023 and (iii) Strategic Planning Committee held on 5 October 2023 and 2 November 2023.
- 87 **Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**
Council received Oral Questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(4).
- 88 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to School Uniform Costs**
Deferred to the following meeting of Council to enable the submission of a revised Motion, incorporating the Labour Group amendment.
- 89 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Water Quality and Sewage Discharge**
Deferred to the following meeting of Council to enable the submission of a revised Motion, incorporating the Labour Group amendment.
- 90 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to NHS Dental Contract Reform**
Deferred to the following meeting of Council to enable the submission of a revised Motion, incorporating the Labour Group amendment.