

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 7 February 2024**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Cahal Burke) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	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 Ebrahim Dockrat
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 Lisa Holmes	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor Andrew Marchington
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 Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Jackie Ramsay	Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje	Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal	Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson	Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Sheikh Ullah	Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

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110 **Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Mayor conveyed sympathy, on behalf of the Council, to HM King Charles upon his recent cancer diagnosis, and sent best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Mayor advised of an event that would be held at Huddersfield Town Hall in recognition of the invaluable role that volunteers play within communities and invited Ward Councillors to advise the Civic Office of nominations for volunteers within their respective wards whom they felt should be recognised for their contributions.

The Mayor advised that he had been present at the 50th anniversary of the M62 coach bombing memorial service which had taken place on 4 February 2024, and thanked all those who had also attended.

111 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, D Firth, Khan, Lowe, Mather, Reynolds and Stephen.

112 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

113 **Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

114 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

Council received petitions from (i) Councillor Gregg opposing the proposed increase in car parking charges in Kirklees and (ii) Councillor Bolt opposing the introduction of car parking charges in Mirfield.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3) the Mayor directed that the petitions be referred to the relevant Service Director.

115 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received a deputation on behalf of the Friends of Batley Library in regards to the proposed relocation of the library service from Batley Library to the Town Hall and the pivotal role which it has in the community, including the provision of Andy's Man Club.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

116 **Public Question Time**

Council received the following public questions from David Heathcote;

- 1) As the Council is required to keep a separate account of income and expenditure in respect of designated parking spaces including parking charges, would the cabinet member tell me what was the financial position of that separate account before the decision to increase car parking charges by £2.6m, including information on the projected position

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in 12 months' time and specifically what will the increased fees and any surplus be spent on?

- 2) Will funds or surpluses raised from car parks in Honley and Meltham be used for local projects in these areas?

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

117

Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to recognise Care Experience as a Protective Characteristic

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

RESOLVED –

“That this Council notes:

- Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;
- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, they too often experience stigma and disadvantage;
- Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
- Care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas;
- As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;
- All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work;
- Councillors should be champions of the children and care leavers in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;
- That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- That future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the

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impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;

- That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;
- That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic;
- To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
- For the Council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views;
- For the Leader of the Council to lobby government to introduce legislation to recognise Care Leavers as a protected group.

118 **West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

Council received and noted the Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 12 October 2023.

119 **Dates of Council Meetings 2024/2025 (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Homewood, seconded by Councillor Taylor and

RESOLVED - That the schedule of dates of the Meetings of Council for the 2024/2025 municipal year be agreed as set out in the report.

120 **Key Discussion - Fifty Years of Kirklees**

Council held a key discussion in recognition of Kirklees reaching its 50 year milestone on 1 April 2024 and Councillors were invited to celebrate the positive aspects of the communities which they represent.

121 **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 Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways – Councillor Crook

“How important to this administration is the safety of children when walking to school?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Communities – Councillor Pervaiz

“Building resilient communities is an aspiration I am sure that we all support. What is the Council doing to make it easier for Communities to do things for themselves

and not get in the way?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Butt

“Since the changes to refuse collection rounds in the Autumn the service to residents has continued to decline. Does Councillor Butt think that the service is fit for purpose and what has the administration done since we discussed this at December Council to improve the service?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Butt

“As the Cabinet Member will recall, I asked three questions about the household refuse collection service in my ward of Kirkburton at the last Council meeting on 17th January. I hope that the Cabinet Member will be as appalled as I am to learn that some of my residents, especially in Denby Grange Lane, Grange Moor, still do not receive a reliable bin collection service, and the reason given for this is that new household refuse collection vehicles are too large to complete the round, although I am informed that smaller vehicles are available.

As the Cabinet Member responsible for the household waste collection service, what effective steps to ensure that all of my residents receive the service for which they are paying through their Council Tax will the Councillor now take?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Butt

“A simple and unequivocal question, to which I would like a straightforward and unambiguous answer: what was the unit cost, including any and all selected optional extras, of each of the new household waste collection vehicles?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Armer to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Butt

“It is clear to me that the Cleansing Service does not have an effective protocol for communicating with service users. What will the Cabinet member do to improve this?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Learning and Aspiration – Councillor Reynolds

“How many millions would the Council have saved on school transport in the past five years if it had always used all of the policies that it is now finally bringing in?”

It was noted that, in the absence of Councillor Reynolds, a written response would be provided.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Butt

“When will the financial details supporting the introduction of parking charges to villages be made available?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Turner

“When will the S106 school funding be released to the Meltham schools?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways – Councillor Crook

“What technology is used to inform the winter maintenance team that Kirklees will need to be gritted apart from forecasts?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor Bellamy to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways – Councillor Crook

“Recently in Holme Valley North there were six consecutive days of below freezing temperatures and this was not seen as exceptional weather, meaning grit bins were not refilled. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what exceptional weather would see grit bins refilled?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Question from Councillor R Smith to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott

“Is fifty years of Kirklees a milestone we should be dedicating a key discussion in Council about?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

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Question from Councillor R Smith to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott

“As this is the last time we have the opportunity to ask questions before the voters in Kirklees are asked to elect their representatives, please can you give us your view on the state of the services provided by the Council that you lead?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor R Smith to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott

“Do the residents of Kirkburton Ward receive value for money from this Council?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

122

Response to Motion - A Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza

Council received and noted the correspondence from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in response to the Motion approved by Council on 17 January 2024.