

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 6 March 2024**

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 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 Ebrahim Dockrat
Councillor Donald Firth	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 Musarrat Khan	Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	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 Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Jackie Ramsay	Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Imran Safdar	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 Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

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

Council received tributes to Members who would be retiring from service at the forthcoming local elections, namely Councillors D Firth, Gregg, McGuin, Mather, Reynolds and Stephen.

124 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bamford, A U Pinnock and K Pinnock.

125 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 7 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

126 **Declaration of Interests**

A list of granted dispensations was tabled.

No interests were declared.

127 **Allocation of Seats - Update Report**

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

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the allocation of seats to groups and to independent councillors be in accordance with the schedule as attached an Appendix A of the report.
- 2) That the finalisation of the allocation of seats on the Committees and Panels set out at Appendix A be delegated to the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the allocation of the places accordingly.
- 3) That any changes to joint authorities or outside bodies be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the membership accordingly.
- 4) That Council appoint to the position of Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel.

Pursuant to Resolution (4), it was moved by Councillor Sokhal and seconded by Councillor Scott that Councillor McKerchar be appointed to the position of Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

Whereupon it was moved by Councillor D Hall and seconded by Councillor Bolt that Councillor Taylor be appointed as Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED – That Councillor McKerchar be appointed to the position of Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

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128 **Our 2024/2025 Council Plan (Reference from Cabinet)**

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

RESOLVED – That the 2024/2025 Council Plan be approved and incorporated within the Council's Policy Framework.

129 **Council Annual Budget Report 2024-2025 and following years; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund, Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (Reference from Cabinet)**

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

- 1) That the Budget Motion be approved;
 - (i) General Fund Revenue
 - the draft Revenue Budget for 2024-2025, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
 - the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2024-2027 period, as set out at Appendix F, be noted
 - the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix H, be noted
 - the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.15 refers) be approved
 - the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2024-2025 be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance), to agree the governance arrangements for 2024-2025, to be approved by the Business Rates Joint Committee (paragraph 2.20 refers)
 - it be noted that discussions regarding the uplifts on the rates paid to external providers for demand-led activities are ongoing, and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Adults and Health) to agree the final uplifts to rates for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.4.3 refers)
 - approval be given to the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.8 and Appendix E refer)
 - approval be given to the Council Tax requirement for 2024-2025 (Appendix N refers)
 - the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves be noted (paragraph 2.21 refers)
 - authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Parish Councils, should these be received after 6 March 2023 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)
 - (ii) Treasury Management
 - the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
 - the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)

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- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.41, Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2023-2032 be approved (Appendix Kiii refers)
- the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix K refers)

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024-2025 be approved (Appendix L refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix L refers)

2) That in relation to Council Tax provisions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 in regard to long term empty properties and second homes, it be agreed;

- That the qualifying period for the long term empty property premium in Council Tax be reduced to one year, effective from 1 April 2024
- That approval be given to a 100% Council tax premium for second homes with effect from 1 April 2025.
- That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member, to enable the amendment of the policy and/or any associated procedures to ensure alignment with the regulations or statutory guidance relating to the exemptions from the premiums, when these are issued or subsequently amended by Government.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor D Hall by way of **AMENDMENT**, that;

General Fund Revenue	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>DEVELOPMENTS</i>					
No parking charges in smaller centres	180	180	180	180	180
New methods of road repairs feasibility	20	0	0	0	0
Community recycling & donation centres	20	20	20	20	20
Repair café pilot	20	0	0	0	0
X-Mas week bin collections	20	20	20	20	20
Partially reinstate winter maintenance service cuts	200	200	200	200	200
Traffic enforcement officers around schools	0	0	0	0	0
Public protection officers in town centres	0	0	0	0	0

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Total Revenue Developments	460	420	420	420	420
Change in capital financing requirement	-2	-10	-2	-91	-617
Increase in general reserves over MTFP	-158	-110	-118	-29	497
	300	300	300	300	300

SAVINGS

Cease Trades Unions support costs	-125	-125	-125	-125	-125
Re-direction of S106 funds from Metro cards to	-175	-175	-175	-175	-175
Total Savings	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300

Total Revenue effect 0 0 0 0 0

General Fund Capital

Pot-hole and road repairs	0	0	1,000	2,000	3,000
Reduction in number of car parking meters	-50	-160	-120	-120	0
Review Cultural Heart programme Phase 5	0	0	0	-3,500	-
Total Capital Developments	-50	-160	880	-1,620	-9,000

Funded by :

Ward councillor review of estate (future capital)	0	0	-500	-1,000	-1,500
Change in borrowing requirement	50	160	-380	2,620	10,500
	50	160	-880	1,620	9,000

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards by way of **AMENDMENT**, that;

GENERAL FUND - Revenue	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Developments: One-offs				
Community based care co-operative model development	50	0		
Feasibility- council trading company to private	50	0		
Restore Ward Budgets		100	110	100
Ward grit bin priorities	14	14	14	14
Restore Ward Christmas Trees		20	20	
Total	114	134	144	114
Capital borrowing costs - revenue impact	-5	-20	-30	
Total	109	114	114	114
Funded by :				
Revert energy contract from green to standard rate and use to fund renewable energy projects in the	-109	-114	-114	-114
Total	-109	-114	-114	-114
Total Revenue Effect	0	0	0	0

GENERAL FUND - Capital

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Safer streets - area based traffic calming	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
climate bonds - renewable energy projects	500	2,000	3,000	
Total	1,500	3,000	4,000	1,000

Funded by :

Highways budget reduction	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
Climate Bond	-500	-2,000	-3,000	
Total	-1,500	-3,000	-4,000	-1,000

HRA - Revenue

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital borrowing costs - revenue impact	110	330	550	770
Total	110	330	550	770

Funded by :

repair & maintenance efficiencies	-10	-180	-350	-520
comfort charge from tenants (retrofit housing scheme)	-100	-150	-200	-250
Total	-110	-330	-550	-770

Total Revenue effect

0	0	0	0
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HRA - Capital

Retrofit Housing	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
Passivhaus standard on all new build properties	634	687	488	228
Solar PV panels on all new build projects	507	550	390	182
Total	3,891	3,987	3,628	3,160

Funded by :

Borrowing requirement	-2,750	-2,750	-2,750	-2,750
WYMCA funding support for Passivhsaus/Solar PV	-1,141	-1,237	-878	-410
Total	-3,891	-3,987	-3,628	-3,160

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor J Lawson and seconded by Councillor Marchington by way of **AMENDMENT**, that;

GENERAL FUND - Revenue	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000

Developments (one off)

Reintroduce Area Committees (Place Partnerships)	28				
Measures to Tackle Flytipping	100				
Members' Local Project Funds	115				
Waste Management - Additional Capacity	80				
Evidence-based Assessment of Car Parking Charges (independent review)	50				
Permit Parking (independent review)	50				
Extra capacity to tackle pothole backlog	120	120	120		
Total Revenue Developments	543	120	120	0	0

Savings

Use of Transformation Fund	-503	-40	-20	60	
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Reduced Borrowing for Local Community					
Roads capital programme	-40	-80	-100	-60	0
Total Savings	-543	-120	-120	0	0
Total Revenue Effect	0	0	0	0	0

General Fund Capital	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pride In Place			910	4,500	
Reprofile Local Roads Programme	-1000		-500	1500	
Total Capital Developments	-1000	0	410	6,000	0

Savings

Huddersfield Blueprint (Phase 3b & 4)			-910	-4,500	
Change in borrowing requirement	1,000		500	-1,500	
Total Savings	1,000	0	-410	-6,000	0

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HRA - Capital					
Installation of Solar Panels on New Build Council	433	875	532		
Total Capital Developments	433	875	532	0	0
Funded by :					
Using 5% of capital funds for council house building	433	875	532		
Total savings	433	875	532	0	0

The Conservative Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor D Hall, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Ali, Armer, Bellamy, Bolt, D Firth, Greaves, Gregg, Lees-Hamilton, D Hall, Holmes, McGrath, McGuin, Sheard, Smaje, Stephen, Taylor, Thompson (17 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Ahmed, Allison, Amin, Anwar, Burke, Butt, Cooper, Crook, Dad, P Davies, P A Davies, Dockrat, E Firth, S Hall, Hawkins, Homewood, Y Hussain, Kaushik, Kendrick, Khan, J D Lawson, J Lawson, Lee-Richards, Lowe, McCarthy, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Marchington, Mather, Moore, Munro, O'Donovan, Pattison, Pandor, Pervaiz, A Pinnock, Ramsay, Reynolds, Safdar, Scott, Simpson, A Smith, Sokhal, Turner, Ullah, A Zaman and H Zaman (48 votes)

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ABSTAINED: (None)

The Green Group Amendment, as proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Lee-Richards, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Allison, Anwar, Burke, Cooper, P A Davies, Dockrat, Greaves, J Lawson, J D Lawson, Lee-Richards, Marchington, Munro, A Pinnock, Safdar, A Smith (15 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bellamy, Bolt, Butt, Crook, Dad, P Davies, D Firth, E Firth, D Hall, S Hall, Gregg, Hawkins, Holmes, Homewood, Y Hussain, Kaushik, Kendrick, Khan, Lees-Hamilton, Lowe, McCarthy, McGuin, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Mather, Moore, O'Donovan, Pattison, Pandor, Pervaiz, , Ramsay, Reynolds, Scott, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, Sokhal, Stephen, Taylor, Thompson, Turner, Ullah, A Zaman and H Zaman (50 votes)

ABSTAINED: (None)

The Liberal Democrat Amendment, as proposed by Councillor J Lawson and seconded by Councillor Marchington, on being put to the vote was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Allison, Anwar, Burke, Cooper, P A Davies, Greaves, J Lawson, Lee-Richards, Marchington, Munro, A Pinnock, Safdar, A Smith and A Zaman (14 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Addy, Ahmed, Ali, Amin, Armer, Bellamy, Bolt, Butt, Crook, Dad, P Davies, Dockrat, D Firth, E Firth, D Hall, S Hall, Gregg, Hawkins, Holmes, Homewood, Y Hussain, Kaushik, Kendrick, Khan, Lees-Hamilton, Lowe, McCarthy, McGuin, McGrath, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Mather, Moore, O'Donovan, Pattison, Pandor, Pervaiz, , Ramsay, Reynolds, Scott, Sheard, Simpson, Smaje, Sokhal, Stephen, Taylor, Thompson, Turner, Ullah and H Zaman (50 votes)

ABSTAINED: Councillor J D Lawson

Whereupon, the Substantive Motion was put to the vote, CARRIED and it was therefore RESOLVED;

1) That the Budget Motion be approved;

(i) General Fund Revenue

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- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2024-2027 period, as set out at Appendix F, be noted
- the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix H, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.15 refers) be approved
- the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2024-2025 be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance), to agree the governance arrangements for 2024-2025, to be approved by the Business Rates Joint Committee (paragraph 2.20 refers)
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- (i) That the qualifying period for the long term empty property premium in Council Tax be reduced to one year, effective from 1 April 2024
- (ii) That approval be given to a 100% Council tax premium for second homes with effect from 1 April 2025.
- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member, to enable the amendment of the policy and/or any associated procedures to ensure alignment with the regulations or statutory guidance relating to the exemptions from the premiums, when these are issued or subsequently amended by Government.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 (7), the vote was taken by Recorded Vote, which was as follows;

FOR: Councillors Addy, Ahmed, Amin, Butt, Crook, Dad, P Davies, E Firth, S Hall, Hawkins, Homewood, Y Hussain, Kaushik, Kendrick, Khan, J D Lawson, Lowe, McCarthy, McKerchar, McLoughlin, Mather, Moore, O'Donovan, Pattison, Pandor, Pervaiz, Ramsay, Reynolds, Scott, Simpson, Sokhal, Turner, Ullah, A Zaman and H Zaman (35 votes)

AGAINST: Councillors Ali, Allison, Anwar, Armer, Bellamy, Bolt, Cooper, D Firth, Greaves, Gregg, Lee-Richards, Lees-Hamilton, D Hall, Holmes, McGrath, McGuin, Sheard, Smaje, Taylor, Thompson (20 votes)

ABSTAINED: Councillors Burke, P A Davies, Dockrat, J Lawson, Marchington, Munro, A Pinnock, Safdar and A Smith.