

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17 July 2024

AGENDA ITEM 16 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“How much additional money has been spent so far on consultancy fees and architects fees in relation to each change made to the cultural heart plans for Huddersfield?”</p> <p>The response of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>The development and design process for a project of the scale of Our Cultural Heart is a continual process. The decision by Cabinet to phase Our Cultural Heart process means that design work is staggered over time, with design detail fixed for Phase 1 and progressing thorough the standard RIBA stages for subsequent phases. Details of each Phase and the costs associated with any major changes are detailed in the previous 4 Cabinet reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21st Dec 2023 Kirklees Cultural Heart - part of the Huddersfield Blueprint - Phase 1 Gateway 4• 27th June 2023 Kirklees Cultural Heart - part of the Huddersfield Blueprint - Gateway 3• 21st Sept 2022 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 2: Outline Business Case• 16th Nov 2021 Delivering the Cultural Heart - Gateway 1: Strategic Outline Case <p>Critically, all design and development costs are met from within the agreed budgets for each phase. The overall budget for Our Cultural Heart is not increased when there are changes that require further design work or specialist input, so no additional money has been spent so far on consultancy fees and architects fees in relation to changes made to the Cultural Heart plans.</p>
2	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“How can it be said the Council is supporting communities and local community groups such as our community libraries and community library volunteers, when its proposal is to withdraw funding for these libraries such as Kirkheaton library and withdraw paid staff?”</p> <p>The response of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>Kirklees has an extensive library network, more extensive than many councils and yet faces the same or worse financial challenges than many councils that have already significantly reduced their library networks.</p> <p>Local communities already play a valuable part in the running of many local libraries including, in several cases, having taken ownership of the library</p>

	<p>building. For us to be able to continue to maintain the current number of libraries, we need increased community involvement in the running of their local library and this is what we have been discussing with a number of communities.</p> <p>These conversations have helped us understand where communities want to see continued council support and where they feel able to take on further responsibilities and will allow us to shape our support offer accordingly.</p>
3	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“Anti social behaviour caused by tenants in some of the Councils owned homes in Almondbury Ward is causing problems for neighbouring residents. How long should the eviction process take?”</p> <p>The response of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>There are no statutory timelines and each case is based on its merit depending on the evidence available to enact court proceedings.</p> <p>The focus of Homes and Neighbourhoods is to create sustainable tenancies prioritising early intervention strategies to tackle ASB before escalating to legal action against perpetrators.</p> <p>The service works closely with individuals and families associated with anti-social behaviour.</p>
4	<p>Question from Councillor Hawkins to the Cabinet Member for Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“What will the benefits be to Kirklees of a new Mass Transit system in West Yorkshire and when will these be realised?”</p> <p>The response of the Cabinet Member</p> <p>Mass Transit in West Yorkshire will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect the important places across our region – helping more people travel to jobs and education, to attend medical appointments, to visit friends and family and to visit attractions and attend events in a reliable, efficient, affordable way; • Support productivity and inclusive growth – creating new transport capacity, addressing inequality by connecting communities, rebalancing the economy, and encouraging investment and regeneration in our region; • Combat climate change through providing a sustainable alternative to the car, cutting emissions, and improving air quality; • Support health and wellbeing through creating healthy towns, cities, and local communities across our region;

	<p>In fact, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are recently holding an online vote asking people which benefit of Mass Transit they think will affect them the most</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced traffic congestion • Improved air quality • Enhanced accessibility • Boosting the local economy <p>Everyone can get involved by searching for West Yorkshire Mass Transit online.</p>
5	<p>Question from Councillor Hawkins to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“Can you comment on the delay in the George Hotel opening, why is this and when can we expect to see this open?”</p> <p>The response of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>The council continues to work with its construction contractors, Historic England, and Radisson to bring this complex redevelopment of our Listed building forward. We are also working closely with our partners on the TRU to manage construction timing and minimise impact and disruption to our Town, its residents and visitors We expect to come to cabinet later this year to update on progress and timeframes.</p>
6	<p>Question from Councillor Hawkins to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Scott</p> <p>“The CQC has a new single assessment framework which it is rolling out; what are the benefits of this to the residents of Kirklees and when can we expect to see this fully implemented?”</p> <p>The response of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>CQC attended Health and Adults Scrutiny Panel last week to present the new Single Assessment Framework, the changes that brings and, what individuals and their families can expect from the new framework. The new system aims to put people at the heart of inspection, seeking views and gathering evidence of the care and support provided from a wide variety of people.</p> <p>Please find the link to the Kirklees Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 10th July 2024 (youtube.com)</p> <p>Kirklees Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 10th July 2024 (youtube.com)</p>