

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 18 September 2024

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

1	<p>Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“What does the Cabinet member think is an appropriate frequency for litter picking in primary town locations?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>Currently the Cleansing service operates street cleaning around the district 7 days a week. Our major centres of commerce, for example Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Cleckheaton, Birkenshaw and Holmfirth, are cleaned everyday Monday-Friday, with street cleaning also operating in Huddersfield and Dewsbury on a Saturday and Sunday. Where large events may be taking place in other town centres, resource will also be allocated on a weekend where required.</p> <p>Outside of our major centres of commerce the service runs a fortnightly rota across Kirklees maintained land throughout the district.</p>
2	<p>Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook</p> <p>“So far in 2024 how many cases of damp, mould and condensation have been remedied, what has the cost been for these remedial works and how many cases do we still have outstanding?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>As of the latest information available on 21st August 2024, the number of DMC Cases completed equals 643, with an associated expenditure of £832k. There are 1,284 DMC cases outstanding, however, this will also include cases where mould treatments have been completed but repairs identified as part of the DMC survey are still outstanding. Therefore, these DMC cases will be deemed completed once the repairs have been finalised.</p>
3	<p>Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“How often have the mobile speed cameras been deployed since the beginning of the year and how are the locations and usage prioritised?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>Mobile speed cameras are validated, provided and operated by West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership for use at sites identified by the 5 individual Districts that make up West Yorkshire, and they fall into 2 categories:</p>

	<p>Core mobile camera enforcement at those sites across West Yorkshire, including Kirklees, that have been identified and assessed using the approved West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership criteria. These mobile sites are permanently signed and are serviced by the Safety Camera Partnership mobile speed camera vans on a regular and cyclic basis, and are prioritised by the Safety Camera Partnership based on availability of resources and casualty priorities.</p> <p>Qtr 1 : April - June 2024 resulted in 1104 hours of mobile enforcement undertaken, resulting in the detection of 509 speeding offences</p> <p>The mobile camera vans at identified, approved and signed routes have been subject to a number of acts of attack / vandalism, so activity in some areas has been interrupted /curtailed to ensure the safety of the civilian Safety Camera Partnership operatives.</p> <p>Community Concern mobile camera enforcement at those sites that have been identified by District officers as a result of local Cllrs / residents reporting anti social driving and where traffic is proven to be travelling higher than both the posted speed limit and the enforcement guidelines. These sites are temporary in nature, as the Safety Camera vans will visit for a minimum of 3 occasions and monitor impact of the enforcement. As such, these locations are not subject to permanent signing. These sites are prioritised the Safety Camera Partnership based on availability of resources and based on an area based approach to maximise efficiency.</p> <p>Qtr 1 :April -June 2024 resulted in 1896 hours of Community concern enforcement, resulting in the detection of 1657 speeding offences.</p>
4	<p>Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Hawkins</p> <p>“How many issues have been raised through the Council’s whistle-blowing process in the last 5 years?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>In the 5 years to March 2024 there were 88 recorded whistleblowing cases.</p>
5	<p>Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Hawkins</p> <p>“How many whistle blowing reports resulted in formal action being taken?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>All matters are subject to some degree of investigation, although the nature of these depend on the specific circumstances (e.g. an investigation by HR) (except where the initial review of the case suggest that the case is not within the definition of whistleblowing).</p>

6	<p>Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Hawkins</p> <p>“When was the Council’s whistle-blowing process last reviewed and evaluated?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The last review and evaluation was carried out in March 2023 by Internal Audit.</p>
7	<p>Question from Councillor Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“How many accidents / incidents involving members of the public, have been recorded at the Nab Lane household waste & recycling centre, for the period August 2021 and August 2024?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>For the period 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 there were 20 Near Misses, 2 Personal Injuries and 14 reports of property damage at the Nab Lane site.</p>
8	<p>Question from Councillor Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“How many accidents / incidents involving members of the public, have been recorded at the Weaving Lane household waste & recycling centre, for the period August 2021 and August 2024?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>For the period 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 there were 9 Near Misses, 9 Personal Injuries and 4 reports of property damage at the Weaving Lane site.</p>
9	<p>Question from Councillor Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook</p> <p>“How did Kirklees Council Officers and Cabinet Members and inform the North Kirklees Elected Members of the plan to close the Nab Lane household waste and recycling centre?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The HWRC decision has now been subject to a robust call-in by Scrutiny. The recommendation from the panel was for the Executive Director to refer the decision to Cabinet. I support the recommendation of the Panel.</p> <p>A report will be presented to the next available Cabinet. Cabinet will then consider the proposals before making a decision on the future of the Borough’s Household Waste & Recycling Centres.</p> <p>The Panel also called for an improvement to how engagement is conducted, and I will work with the services’ to make the necessary improvements.</p>

10	<p>Question from Councillor Holt to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook</p> <p>“How did KMC consult with Councillors and Members of the Public prior to making the decision to close the Nab Lane household waste & recycling centre?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The HWRC decision has now been subject to a robust call-in by Scrutiny. The recommendation from the panel was for the Executive Director to refer the decision to Cabinet. I support the recommendation of the Panel.</p> <p>A report will be presented to the next available Cabinet. Cabinet will then consider the proposals before deciding on the future of the Borough’s Household Waste & Recycling Centres.</p> <p>The Panel also called for an improvement to engagement, and I will work with the services’ to make the necessary improvements.</p>
11	<p>Question from Councillor Holt to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</p> <p>“Given KMC reports that the most expensive quote to bring the Nab Lane household waste and recycling centre up-to modern day standards was “up to £7m”, how much were each of the other quotes received?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The HWRC decision has now been subject to a robust call-in by Scrutiny. The recommendation from the Panel was for the Executive Director to refer the decision to Cabinet for a decision. I support the recommendation of the Panel.</p> <p>A report will be presented to the next available Cabinet. Cabinet will then consider the proposals before deciding on the future of the Borough’s Household Waste & Recycling Centres. Cabinet will fully consider the capital costs estimates reported by officers in its decision-making process.</p>
12	<p>Question from Councillor Holt to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport – Councillor Crook</p> <p>“Given Kirklees Democracy Commission states “Kirklees Council should promote the role of councillor to staff members in a structured and ongoing way, as part of wider cultural changes both with the council and in our communities. Our staff should understand the importance of the councillor role and how it is an invaluable asset as part of changing and redesigning services.”, does Councillor Munir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, believe that is being achieved, and, specifically does he believe this is being achieved given KMC Officers made the decision to close the Nab Lane household waste and recycling centre and North Kirklees Councillors first hear this news via a resident who was told by Suez staff at the Nab Lane site?”</p>

Cabinet Member Response

The Council's governance arrangements do allow decision to be delegated to officers.

The HWRC decision has now been subject to a robust call-in by Scrutiny. The recommendation from the Panel was for the Executive Director to refer the decision to Cabinet. I support the recommendation of the Panel.

A report will be presented to the next available Cabinet. Cabinet will then consider the proposals before making a decision on the future of the Borough's Household Waste & Recycling Centres.

The Panel also called for an improvement to engagement and I will work with the services' to make the necessary improvements.