

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 18 September 2024**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Masood Ahmed	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Zarina Amin	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
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 Harry McCarthy	Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Hannah McKerchar	Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
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 Habiban Zaman	Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Aziz Daji	Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Caroline Holt	Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah	Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Alex Vickers	

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

The Mayor presented Councillor Burke with a commemorative yearbook from his 2023/2024 Mayoral year.

The Mayor acknowledged that Beaumont Park, Greenhead Park, Crow Nest Park, Wilton Park, Almondbury Hill Fort and Oakwell Hall Country Park had been successful in being awarded a 2024 Green Flag, and also that East Bierley Village had been awarded a Green Flag Community Award.

The Mayor acknowledged the Project Search scheme, based in both Dewsbury and Huddersfield, which provides support to young people with learning disabilities to access employment, and gave thanks to those that are involved in contributing towards the scheme.

The Mayor advised that she had attended the BBC Radio Leeds 'Make a Difference' Awards, and conveyed congratulations to Shelley Hedgehogs, Benjamin Carpenter and Team Serenity who had all been successful category award winners.

44 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Armer, Bolt and Moore.

45 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

46 **Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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

Council received petitions from (i) Councillor Sheard requesting that Birstall Recycling Centre remains open and (ii) Councillor Bellamy requesting that Meltham Recycling Centre remains open 7 days a week.

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

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

Council received deputations from (i) Surraya Patel regarding the future of Dewsbury Sports Centre and (ii) Chris Moore regarding the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall.

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

49

Public Question Time

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11, the following written questions were submitted;

(i) Question from Helen Plaskitt

“Families were informed of the potential new operators for Castle Grange and Claremont this week (10/09/24). The handout shared at this meeting stated '2 care homes for elderly persons...we're to explore business transfer'. There was no mention of the nature of these homes being Specialist Dementia Care Homes.

Can you clarify the terms of transfer, with reassurance that Kirklees local authority is not preparing to lose its Specialist Residential Dementia Care Service, that the terms of transfer will ensure future Residential Care for those with Dementia and not just the elderly (my husband was 57 when diagnosed with Dementia) as part of a long term plan.”

A written response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

(ii) Question from Helen Plaskitt

“Can you clarify that, in regards to these proposed transfers, if the dementia placements are to be on a commissioned basis that these two care homes would be ring fenced for residents of Kirklees?”

I ask this because if this is not the case then Kirklees residents with Dementia residential needs in the future could be placed out of area or without this current offer at all, as we are all aware that in regards to specialist dementia residential placements there is a nationwide shortage of affordable provision, which could then lead to Kirklees commissioning unaffordable care and increasing long term costs to all.”

A written response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

(iii) Question from Avalon Rawling

“What analysis will Council Officers conduct to show that privatisation will not cost the Council or residents more now, or at any point in the future, for equivalent standards of care?”

A written response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

(iv) Question from Avalon Rawling

“What analysis will Council Officers conduct to reassure the public that people living with dementia who are also of lower economic power will not

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be financial discriminated against, by way of having access to lower standards of care, or having to move homes or be evicted entirely when their funds are depleted?”

A written response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Councillor Addy).

50 **West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 20 June 2024 were received and noted.

51 **Kirklees Environment Strategy: Everyday Life (Reference from Cabinet)**

It was moved by Councillor Munir Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Crook and

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Environment Strategy be adopted.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Environment and Highways) to (i) establish the Partnership Pledge and associated monitoring and evaluation process via the Environment Strategy Partnership Group (ii) establish the governance structure, associated board and necessary policies and procedures to effectively govern the implementation of the strategy within the Council (iii) deliver any future minor alterations for the strategy (iv) meet the ambition (targets and objectives) outlined within the ‘Environment Strategy, Everyday Life’ (v) apply for and accept external funding for the implementation of the partnership pledge process and any actions associated with achieving the strategy’s targets, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules and (vi) collect and analyse data for the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, with the support of necessary service areas which hold, or have responsibility for collecting this data.

52 **Key Discussion - Children's Services**

Council received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Councillor Kendrick) on the Children’s Services Improvement Journey, prior to holding a key discussion on Children’s Services provision.

53 **Council Budget Strategy 2025/2026 and future years (Reference from Cabinet)**

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

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the key risks to the delivery of the budget in 2024/2025 be noted and submitted to Cabinet on a quarterly basis as part of budget monitoring reports.
- 2) That the continued uncertainty with the future funding outlook for the Council be noted.
- 3) That the update and the revised budget gap to the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2025/2026 to 2029/2030 (as set out at Appendix A) be noted and that, in view of the uncertainty with some of the assumptions upon

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which the Strategy is based, it remain under review as the Council's budget process progresses.

- 4) That it be noted that there is a significant gap of c£30m in 2025/2026 which requires either reduction in budget pressures or increased savings proposals to be brought forward at pace.
- 5) That the scenario analysis, as shown at Appendix C, which models the worst/best case scenarios around the baseline MTFP, as part of the assessment of potential risks facing the Council, be noted.
- 6) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
- 7) That it be noted that, as delegations allow, and in view of the significant financial challenge faced by the Council, early action be taken to identify and implement budget reduction measures, consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as a means of reducing the funding gap, as set out in the report.
- 8) That, in consultation with relevant Cabinet Members, Officers be requested to identify and bring forward proposals consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy for consideration by Cabinet and Council as part of the development of the budget for 2025/2026.
- 9) That the timetable as set out at Appendix E for the development of the Council Budget 2025/2026 be noted.
- 10) That it be agreed that, subject to consideration by Cabinet Members, any budget proposals arising from the work be considered by Cabinet in due course (subject to (11) below).
- 11) That it be noted that it is proposed to undertake consultation on the budget proposals in late 2024 with a view to informing decisions on the Council's budget 2025/2026.
- 12) That subject to the continuation of the Business Rates Pooling arrangements, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, to determine whether the Council should continue as a member of the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool in 2025/2026.

54 Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - Annual Report 2023/2024 (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

55 Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - Appointment of Second Independent Person (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)

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

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the appointment of a second Independent Member to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

56 Appointment of Chair - Licensing and Safety Committee

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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- 57 **Appointment of Chair - Personnel Committee**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 58 **Scrutiny Annual Report**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 59 **Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokesperson**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 60 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Demand for Lasting Peace in Gaza/Middle East**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 61 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Gaza - a year on, urgent action is still needed**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 62 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 63 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Providing Similar Support Mechanisms as Ukraine to those impacted by the Genocide in Palestine**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 64 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the proposal to stop the winter fuel allowance for the majority of pensioners be reconsidered**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 65 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposing Racist and Islamophobic Violence**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 66 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Reforming the Right to Buy Scheme**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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- 67 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Winter Fuel Payment Cuts**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 68 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).
- 69 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposing Cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Vulnerable Pensioners**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).