

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 16 October 2024**

### **PRESENT**

**The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Munir Ahmed	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ammar Anwar	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Cahal Burke	Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Aziz Daji
Councillor Hanifa Darwan	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Zahid Kahut	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Gwen Lowe	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Hannah McKerchar	Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah	Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Cathy Scott	Councillor Angela Sewell
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 Alex Vickers	Councillor Habiban Zaman

#### **70 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

The Mayor acknowledged that Black History Month was taking place during the month of October, providing the opportunity for communities to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

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The Mayor also acknowledged Baby Loss Awareness week, which had takes place annually on 9 to 15 October, and provides an opportunity to raise awareness of baby loss and campaign for the provision of better bereavement care.

The Chief Executive advised Council that National Care Leavers Week would commence on 28 October 2024, which the Council would be extending to celebrate as Kirklees Care Leavers month, and that a number of events had been planned to take place over the borough which Councillors were encouraged to participate in.

### 71 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Davies, Holmes, McGrath, Marchington, K Pinnock, Moore and A Zaman.

### 72 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### 73 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Taylor declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No.80 refers) on the grounds that he is Chair of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

### 74 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

Council received a petition from Councillor Bramwell which requested the re-opening of Dewsbury Sports Centre dry side activities.

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

### 75 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received a deputation from Sara Blagborough regarding the future of Claremont House and Castle Grange Care Homes.

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

### 76 **Public Question Time**

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

#### (i) Question from Mike Forster

“According to the Cabinet figures, Castle Grange and Claremont House homes currently cost £1290 (per person per week) to run, but the Cabinet is suggesting the private sector will be able to run them for £853! That will leave a shortfall of £437. Who is expected to make up the difference?”

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

(ii) Question from Sarah Newton

“Currently most care homes in Kirklees that say they provide dementia care, only accommodate dementia residents. This often means that those with dementia are in a locked suite with limited movement reducing their quality of life. If the Council continue to transfer ownership to the private sector how will they guarantee the same quality of freedom, dignity and care for our loved ones receive in Castle Grange and Claremont House as a solely Dementia Care Home?”

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

(iii) Question from Sarah Newton

“If the Council continue to transfer ownership, how will they guarantee that the new owner will not change its use from solely dementia care or that they will say in 6 months time that dementia care is not financially viable and close the home to reopen as adults with learning difficulties, as your report to Cabinet, that was approved last week, states as a possibility?”

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

**77 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 25 July 2024 were approved as a correct record.

**78 Petition Debate - Cleckheaton Town Hall**

Council held a petition debate on the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9a.

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

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

**RESOLVED** – That the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report be received and that the assurances that the Committee complies with CIPFA’s Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police be noted.

**80 Report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel (Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee)**

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

**RESOLVED** –

- 1) That no changes be made to the 2024/2025 Members Allowances Scheme, other than to apply the same percentage pay award awarded to Officers to the basic allowances and that SRAs be backdated to 1 April 2024.

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- 2) That the same percentage pay award awarded to Officers be continually applied to the basic allowance and SRAs in subsequent years, in accordance with the recommendation of the Democracy Commission (2017).
- 3) That it be noted that the Panel will reconvene to consider the Members Allowances Scheme for 2025/2026, in line with the issues identified in the report at Appendix A, along with any other additional issues as determined by the Panel.

### 81 **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report (Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Smaje, seconded by Councillor Burke and

**RESOLVED** – That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report be received and noted.

### 82 **Appointment of Chair - Licensing and Safety Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Eric Firth be appointed as Chair of Licensing and Safety Committee, with immediate effect, for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal year.

### 83 **Appointment of Chair - Personnel Committee**

It was moved by Councillor Crook, seconded by Councillor Sokhal and

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Carole Pattison be appointed as Chair of Personnel Committee, with immediate effect, for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal year.

### 84 **Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12, the following written questions were submitted;

#### **Question from Councillor Taylor**

“When was the relevant Cabinet Member (at the time) first informed of the losses being incurred by the District Heating Scheme and what action did they take to ensure that the matter was rectified?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

#### **Question from Councillor Taylor**

“When was the Leader of the Council and other Cabinet members advised of the losses being incurred by the District Heating scheme and what actions did they take to check that the matter was being tackled?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

**Question from Councillor Taylor**

“How were the £1m losses in 2022/23 in District Housing accounted for in the subsequent budget planning for following years and when was this first recorded on the Corporate Risk register?”

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

**Question from Councillor Khan**

“Why have future changes to the criteria and decision-making process for Cllrs ward budgets been delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder? Does this not undermine democracy and make the Cabinet more officer led thus undermining democracy?”

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

**Question from Councillor Khan**

“When can the residents of Rawthorpe, Town Estate and Springbank Estates expect to hear from the Council in relation to the considered proposals for permit parking in their area?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

**Question from Councillor Khan**

“Once the dementia homes are privatised what powers will the Council have to control costs of care for those who do not exceed the upper capital limit for care?”

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

**Question from Councillor J D Lawson**

“Residents in Netherton were promised an extension to the Greenway from Netherton Fold to join with Meltham greenway many years ago.

Can you update me on what progress has been made to date and when spades will go into the ground to start this work?”

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

**Question from Councillor J D Lawson**

“At Cabinet on 8th October you eluded to Kirklees having a zero tolerance on fly tipping, could you inform us what this looks like?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

**Question from Councillor J D Lawson**

“The residents of Crosland Moor are blighted by anti social parking around the post office and other shops on Dryclough Road and Blackmoorfoot Road. Will there be further recruitment of parking enforcement officers to stop these drivers parking on double yellow lines and the zig zag lines of the zebra crossing. I'm sure this problem is not just specific to Crosland Moor and other wards suffer this problem around shopping areas and schools as well?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Ahmed).

**Question from Councillor Safdar**

“The Council announced potential redundancies in August 2023 to date the unions have yet to receive a copy of the redundancy policy, when are they likely to receive this?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Hawkins).

**Question from Councillor Safdar**

“As Leader of a minority administration how do you intend to work better and more constructively with the other groups and independents who out number your group significantly?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison)

**Question from Councillor Arshad**

“With regards to the long-standing Ringway project, which has been in the pipeline for implementation by our Council for several decades. This project aligns with our policies for active travel, healthy living, reducing road congestion, and enabling access to safe outdoor exercise for minority communities.

Despite its importance, there has been no progress made on this project in decades. I would like to understand the council's plans for allocating resources to purchase the "ransomed" strip of land held by Thomas Crompton, which is crucial for finalising the project.

In the interest of the residents of Heckmondwike, Dewsbury Moor, Liversedge,

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and beyond, can you supply me with information on the Council's willingness to work collaboratively with local groups to promote and progress the Ringway project and could you tell me if the Council is actively seeking and accessing all available funding sources to ensure the successful completion of this project?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

### **Question from Councillor Darwan**

"What type of peace flag does the Leader intend to fly above Dewsbury and Huddersfield Town Halls?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

### **85 Minutes of Cabinet**

Council received the Minutes of Cabinet held on 9 July and 13 August 2024.

### **86 Holding Executive to Account**

Council received portfolio updates from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison) and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner), prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

### **87 Minutes of Other Committees**

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

### **88 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies**

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

### **89 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).

### **90 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).

### **91 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).

- 92 **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).
- 93 **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).
- 94 **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).
- 95 **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).
- 96 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefits Payments**  
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).