

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Viv Kendrick

29 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Kendrick.

30 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 July and 13 August 2024 be approved as a correct record.

31 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all Agenda Items would be considered in public session.

32 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hawkins declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 8 on the grounds that he is a Trustee of Kirkheaton Community Library.

33 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

34 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were submitted.

35 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received oral questions under Executive Procedure Rule 2.3.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“About twenty years ago this Council granted planning approval for a huge development, originally known as Mirfield 25, it has evolved and is now known as AAA Park. It is located on the A62, one of the Council’s strategic economic zones. As part of the development, residents were told that the developers would pay for improvements at the Stocks Bank Moor Road junction and for road safety measures in various places. The improvements at Church Road, Roberttown, have been implemented, but those at Church Lane and Dunbottle Lane, Mirfield, have not yet been designed. How can the public have confidence in the planning scheme when nearly twenty years later the promises haven’t been delivered?”

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

Question from Councillor J Lawson

“There are a lot of significant decisions being taken at the moment. In terms of the way that evidence and decisions are presented, do you think its time that we reviewed how we evidence Cabinet decisions?”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“A lot of residents realise the financial constraints that the Council is under, but we do have a lot of reports of fly tipping that isn’t being picked up. What is the target from when it is reported on the website, to it being actually picked up?”

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

Question from Councillor Safdar

“According to the Trussell Trust there has been an increase in foodbank usage across the North of England, and there is also concern regarding the pending increase of gas and electric prices. As a Council, what are we doing to provide extra support, especially in light of possible reduced help from central government, and linking into that, what provisions are we going to put in place to help hard working organisations like the mission and various religious groups working hard to provide food banks?”

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

Question from Councillor Bramwell

“Dewsbury Sports Centre has been closed now for over a year and it is having a continuously significant negative impact on residents across North Kirklees. At the last Cabinet meeting I raised this issue, and Councillor Turner advised that we were

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waiting on a report. I'm asking for an update, since that last Cabinet meeting, is there a report and where are things at right now?"

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

"The Council is partnering with Network Rail Transpennine Route upgrade on a project to stimulate active travel in what is called 'the first and last mile', encouraging people to walk or cycle the first or last mile of a journey to and from a railway station. The drop in session in Mirfield had very limited time for people to respond and even more limited information on the project, for example, it didn't have any baseline data on the number of people who work of cycle to Mirfield Railway Station. How would Cabinet judge the success of a project if it didn't know the starting point? Because we see a plan that had not been published before to use as part of the canal towpath from Shepley Bridge into Mirfield, which has some very low bridges and narrow paths. I raised safety concerns, there was no risk assessment. Have the Cabinet seen any of these when bringing forward the plans?"

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

"I've been contacted by Grange Moor residents about the X41 Service, running from Dewsbury to Grange Moor, to Huddersfield. It was a service originally provided by Arriva, and has since been provided by South Pennine Community Transport, who are now considering withdrawing the service. The service is an essential rural route, receiving subsidy from the mayoral authority, who have we tried to engage with but we haven't received any answers. The community are concerned that they are going to be cut off if the service is withdrawn, particularly with regards to accessing the surgery in Middlestown. Can I have some help in keeping this essential service going?"

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

Question from Councillor Bramwell

"With regard to the Youth Services currently delivered by Kirklees Council, what is the plan in the North Kirklees area? The anti social behaviour in Dewsbury West is across the ward. I have spoken with the detached youth work team who told me that their plan of engagement is changing constantly. There is no longer place based working due to cuts. What is the Council doing to support the grass root organisations working already and what is the Council's Youth Service offer?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor A U Pinnock).

- 36 To present Cabinet with findings from recent informal consultation and other relevant details to enable a decision to be made on the future library service** (Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt and Taylor).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report, pursuant to a decision of Cabinet on 20 February 2024, which authorised the commencement of an informal engagement with community partners regarding the proposed Community Managed Libraries model, and associated service review. The purpose of the report was to provide insight into the feedback received, provide consideration of an alternative targeted delivery model, set out the requirements for non-statutory public consultation, and the next steps of the process.

The report outlined revised plans for a future libraries' delivery model, following a needs assessment and feedback from an informal engagement exercise. It explained that the proposal was to retain all 24 libraries, aiming to provide an efficient library service within budget limits that can respond to community needs. The model proposed the retention of all libraries within the statutory network and advised that this would require a review of opening and staffed hours across all library services to meet the savings target. The review would ensure that all future staffing and management structures align to the proposed model.

It was noted that, subject to approval, a period of public consultation would commence and that a final proposal would be submitted to Cabinet for consideration early next year.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the revised targeted libraries delivery model, retaining some paid staffed hours across all 24 Kirklees library locations.
- 2) That the consultation process on the option of targeted reduction in staffed hours and opening hours that will seek community and partner input through surveys and focus groups, as well as ensure the proposed model meets the legal requirements for a comprehensive and efficient service that meets the needs of the communities served, be endorsed.
- 3) That the Integrated Impact Assessment be noted, before making a decision to consult.
- 4) That the outcome of the public consultation process be submitted to Cabinet prior to implementation.

- 37 Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy, in response to the Regulatory Notice issued by the Regulator of Social Housing on 6 March 2024.

The report advised that the policy outlined resident safety as a priority and set out the actions that would be taken to manage and resolve issues of damp, mould and condensation in the Council's housing stock. It was noted that the policy would meet regulatory requirements and demonstrate the Council's commitment to maintaining high housing standards. The report explained that the policy, which was attached at

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Appendix A of the report, underpinned the importance of the resident within their house and had been designed to achieve positive outcomes for residents.

RESOLVED - That the Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy be approved.

38 **Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-2027**

Cabinet gave consideration to the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-2027, which set out the Council's vision for inclusion and diversity by providing equal access to opportunities and resources and recognising, supporting and celebrating the diversity of communities and workforce.

RESOLVED - That the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-2027 be approved.

39 **Council Budget Strategy 2025/2026 and future years (Reference to Council)**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1), Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Cooper)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a framework for the budget setting process and future financial planning. The report set out (i) an update in regards to Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring (ii) overarching principles of the financial strategy (iii) risk and uncertainty within the financial strategy (iv) update of the medium term financial strategy (revenue) 2025/2030 (v) specific funding assumptions (vi) cost pressures (vii) balances and reserves (viii) the general fund revenue budget (ix) update of the medium term capital plan 2024/2029 (x) collection fund (xi) dedicated schools grant and (xii) the housing revenue account.

It was noted that the report would be submitted to the meeting of Council on 18 September 2024, and that subject to approval, work would be undertaken on the identification and development of draft budget proposals and options, as set out within the framework. The report advised that Cabinet would present initial proposals for the 2025/2026 budget in December 2024.

RESOLVED - That the report be referred to Council with a recommendation that;

- (i) 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.
- (ii) the continued uncertainty with the future funding outlook for the Council be noted.
- (iii) 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 which the Strategy is based, it remain under review as the Council's budget process progresses.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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.

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- (vi) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) the timetable as set out at Appendix E for the development of the Council Budget 2025/2026 be noted.
- (x) 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 (xi) below).
- (xi) 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.
- (xii) 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.

40 **Kirklees Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 - 2029 & Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy 2024**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1), Cabinet received representations from Councillor Bolt and Councillor Taylor)

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for (i) the draft Kirklees Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 (as attached at Appendix 1 of the report) and (ii) the refreshed Kirklees Council – Housing Solutions Service Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy 2024 (as attached at Appendix 2 of the report).

The report advised that the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy would enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to formulate and publish such a strategy every five years, and provide a framework for service development, resource prioritisation and partnership support to enhance outcomes for residents who are vulnerable or facing homelessness.

Cabinet noted that the Strategy focussed upon achieving better outcomes for vulnerable children, providing high quality, joined up and accessible services that safeguard children and adults from harm, and working collaboratively to support people to live in suitable and affordable homes within a supportive community. It was also noted that the Housing Solutions Service Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy 2024 set out how homeless households would be prioritised for temporary

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accommodation, both within and outside of the district.

The report advised that, subject to approval, the priorities would be delivered through an action plan which would be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and would include a regular review of key performance indicators associated with homelessness and rough sleeping.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the draft Kirklees Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 be approved.
- 2) That the refreshed Kirklees Housing Solutions Service Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy 2024 be approved.

41 Kirklees Major Transport Capital Schemes; Annual Report 2024

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1), Cabinet received representations from Councillor Bolt and Councillor Sokhal)

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the delivery and governance of the Council's major capital transport infrastructure projects, and sought delegated authority to progress the delivery of the schemes.

The report included a progress to date summary, which provided feedback in respect of each individual project. Appendix 2 of the report set out a summary of the project budgets and future forecast spend profiles. It was noted that future spend profiles were established and, subject to achieve necessary consents and approvals to award contracts, and subject to agreement of final contract sums.

Cabinet were advised that Officers would continue to progress the projects in accordance with both internal and the WYCA quality assurance processes.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the annual update on the Council's major transport capital programme be noted.
- 2) That approval be given to the necessary delegated authority to progress the schemes as detailed within the report.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Skills and Regeneration) in consultation with the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into any procurement, funding or contract documentation to enable individual projects and schemes to proceed, as set out within the report, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Skills and Regeneration) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Service Director (Finance) to enable changes to individual projects and funding allocations in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules to facilitate efficient delivery of this programme and the spend of available budgets to allow the outcomes to be realised.