

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CABINET

**Tuesday 8th October 2024**

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

Observers: Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell  
Councillor Andrew Cooper  
Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Jo Lawson  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Paul Moore  
Councillor Andrew Pinnock  
Councillor Imran Safdar  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Joshua Sheard  
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje  
Councillor Mark Thompson

**42 Membership of Cabinet**

All Members of the Cabinet were present.

**43 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

**44 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

**45 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**46 Questions by Members of the Public**

No questions were received.

**47 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)**

Cabinet received the following oral questions under the provision of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

**Question from Councillor Jo Lawson**

“Can you tell me if the teams collecting fly tipping still have the same compliment of staff that they had this time last year, or have they been affected by the vacancy freeze?”

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

**Question from Councillor Moore**

“Historically ward budgets have allowed Councillors to give out relatively small grants and financial support to grass root organisations. Cutting this budget by 50% will have a huge impact on many groups without which they will struggle to operate and survive. Will the Council revisit this decision and give a commitment not to out the ward budget in the future?”

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

**Question from Councillor Safdar**

“I’m concerned about disability parking permits, is there any way we can revisit the costs, could it be reduced to zero? It’s an extra cost for disabled families who are struggling.”

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

**Question from Councillor Scott (on behalf of Councillor Darwan)**

“In total the UK has committed £12.8 billion for the Ukraine. Perhaps Kirklees needs to change its name to Ukraine to get funding for our much needed services. If the Ukraine is getting better British taxpayer’s money why isn’t the Leader of the Council applying more pressure on Keir Starmer and demanding more funding for the needs of people of Kirklees?”

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

**Question from Councillor Scott**

“There appears to be a severe blue badge backlog, which is still ongoing. Can you offer some reassurance to getting this resolved? It is causing anguish and distress for local people?”

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

**Question from Councillor Bramwell**

“The rate of domestic violence in my ward is very high compared to other areas. What is the offer for domestically abused victims and is the Council working on preventative measures, eg, educating young people on healthy relationships?”

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

**Question from Councillor Scott**

“What is your commitment to a burial site within Dewsbury?”

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

**Question from Councillor Scott**

“Is there any plan to bring an update/presentation on the integration of KNH services back into the Council, to a meeting of full Council?”

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

**Question from Councillor Bramwell**

“Dewsbury Cemetery has been a long standing issue for many of my residents. On 27 June 2023 it was claimed that £500k had been set aside for investment in Dewsbury burial provision. Can I ask if that amount still stands?”

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

**Question from Councillor Thompson**

“This year’s budget appendix included a section headed ‘delay and repayment or default on loans’ which highlighted four loans that are outstanding, totalling £33.5m. What are we doing on a day to day basis to make sure that we are reclaiming these loans?”

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

**48**

**Future of Dementia Care Home Provision**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bramwell, Cooper, J D Lawson, J Lawson, Khan, A Pinnock, Safdar, Scott and Smaje.)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a progress update on the future of dementia care homes provision. The report advised that, following an earlier public consultation exercise whereby a subsequent decision was taken not to

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pursue the closure, options for the transfer of the homes as a going concern were explored.

Paragraph 2.10 of the report set out the indicative basis upon which the Council could look to transfer the homes as going concerns and it was advised that potential operators had been made aware of the likely challenges and issues involved if options for sale were pursued, including the possible need for a form of public consultation process. Details of the financial and legal implications were set out at paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report.

The report highlighted that the homes continued to lose more than £1.25m per annum and required capital investment, and that three operators had expressed an interest in pursuing a business transfer option. Cabinet were asked to authorise the progress of negotiations regarding entering into a contract with an alternative provider, subject to final agreement by Cabinet.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to a consultation process being undertaken for a period of six weeks with staff and families regarding the proposal to transfer one or both homes to a private sector operator.
- 2) That approval be given to progressing negotiations to the point of being able to enter into a contract with an alternative provider, subject to final agreement by Cabinet.
- 3) That approval be given to carrying out consultation on the principles of the proposal and that authority be delegated to the Service Director (Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Provider Services) to agree the nature and scope of the consultation.

### **49 Councillor's Devolved Ward Budgets - Updated Criteria and Decision-Making Process**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Cooper, Khan, J Lawson and Smaje)

Cabinet were asked to consider a revised set of criteria and decision making process for devolved budgets, as attached at Appendix A of the report. It was noted that, at the meeting of Budget Council (2024), a decision had been taken to reduce the ward budget from £20k to £10k per ward, to help the delivery of budget savings.

The report advised that the revised criteria would enable Councillors to ensure that their ward budgets are used effectively, deliver value for money, respond to local priorities, maximise resources and ensure transparent decision making.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to the Devolved Ward Budgets criteria and decision making process, as set out at Appendix A.
- 2) That, pursuant to (1) above, any further amendments be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member

**50 Fleet Replacement and Investment**

(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 details of fleet replacement and investment, and the vehicle replacement programme. The report advised that a vehicle replacement programme had been developed which would ensure that fleet are replaced at the right time, before there is an impact on service delivery, cost and environmental impact.

Cabinet were advised that the investment focussed upon the replacement of critical frontline fleet, achieving the highest possible environmental standards and continuing to deliver on vision zero. It was noted that the Council's fleet was essential to core service delivery and that work would continue to reshape and model the vehicle replacement programme and service fleet operating models to ensure that only essential fleet was replaced to minimise financial risk and impact upon operational effectiveness.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to proceed with expenditure of (i) £21.7m from the agreed Capital Plan for the Vehicle Replacement Programme (years 2025/2026-2030/2031), supporting critical fleet replacement and transformation models over the next six year forecast (ii) £3.26m to replace Waste and Recycling hired fleet with capital purchase, supporting the reduction of the Council's expensive fleet hire costs by generating a fleet whole-life cost saving model (offsetting hire costs v capital), removing reliance on unreliable hired fleet and providing frontline operational stability by capitalising fleet requirements and (iii) £1.8m to replace the current fleet of hired bulk gritting vehicles with capital purchase fleet to achieve a financial saving from year 5 and add flexibility for the future in terms of how the service could be delivered.
- 2) That approval be given to the procurement and award purchase contracts for the replacement of critical fleet and hired fleet assets outlined within the three capital scheme proposals (£26.76m over three years).
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Highways and Streetscene) in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to commence procurement activity for Vehicle Waste Replacement, Waste and Recycling hired fleet and hired bulk gritters replacements in line with UK procurement regulations and Contract Procedure Rules.

**51 Household Waste Recycling Centre Efficiency Savings**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt, J Lawson, J D Lawson, Sheard, Smaje and Thompson. Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37, Cabinet received a representation from Richard Hodgson).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which proposed operational changes to household waste recycling centres. The report set out proposals for (i) the closure of Nab Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre (ii) the closure of Bromley Farm

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Household Waste Recycling Centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays and (iii) the closure of Meltham Household Waste Recycling Centre on Mondays and Thursdays, in order to meet financial efficiency savings. It was noted that the Council operated five sites across the borough and that the reduction of hours at Bromley Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Meltham Household Waste Recycling Centre would allow service provision to continue at peak times.

The report advised that the site at Nab Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre did not comply with Waste and Resource Action Programme Guidance 2018, or Health and Safety Executive Guidance, and would require investment which was deemed to be affordable. It was noted that alternative capacity was available at Weaving Lane site.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That Nab Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre be permanently closed from Autumn/Winter 2024.
- 2) That Bromley Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays from Autumn/Winter 2024 onwards.
- 3) That Meltham Household Waste Recycling Centre be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays from Autumn/Winter 2024 onwards.

### **52 Car Parking charges and restrictions for Resident Parking Permits and currently free off-street car parks**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt, Bramwell, JD Lawson, J Lawson, Khan, A Pinnock, Thompson, Scott and Sheard. Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37 Cabinet received representations from Jamie Ellison and Amanda Gray).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out proposals to introduce car parking charges and restrictions for resident parking permits. The report advised that the proposals had been developed following a statutory consultation process and were designed to meet the parking needs of shoppers, commuters, residents and visitors with the provision of short and long stay off street parking and on street permit parking options. It was noted that the proposals would contribute towards relieving and preventing traffic congestion and local traffic management and would generate £431k to contribute to the income target, leaving a shortfall of £573k.

Appendix 1 of the report set out proposals for resident and visitor permit parking proposals and Appendix 2 set out parking charges, tariffs and restrictions.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to the proposals for resident and visitor permit parking as set out at Appendix 1, and that they be implemented as soon as possible.
- 2) That the findings of the Integrated Impact Assessments be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to the new parking charges/tariffs and restrictions, including two hours free parking charges in 15 car parks as set out at Appendix 2, and that they be implemented as soon as possible.

- 4) That approval be given to the existing Traffic Regulation Order being amended as advertised to enable changes to the application for and issue of permits, including the introduction of 'virtual permits', negating the need for a physical permit to be displayed in the vehicle.
- 5) That future decisions regarding revisions to parking charges be delegated to the relevant Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

**53 Community Asset Transfer of Honley Village Hall and adjoining open space land**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the community asset transfer of Honley Village Hall to Honley Village Community Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It was noted that the property, located at Roundway, Honley, consisted of a building and external open space, and that the freehold of the property was owned by the Council. The report proposed that the property be transferred, by way of a 125 year lease in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy 2020.

It was noted that it would be necessary for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation to surrender its existing lease on parts of the property prior to the new lease being granted. Cabinet were advised that the transfer would provide the Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the security needed to satisfy grant funding requirements whilst ensuring that the property remained available to the local community for the long term future.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That approval be given to proceed with the grant of a 125 year lease to Honley Village Community Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the related surrender of the existing leases.
- 2) That the Service Director (Development), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Finance and Regeneration) be authorised to negotiate and agree terms for the grant of a 125 year lease of Honley Village Hall (plan reference 18-0213) and the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) be instructed to execute and enter into all necessary documentation in connection with the grant of a 125 year lease of Honley Village Hall, Roundway, Honley to Honley Community Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

**54 Update Regarding Progress with the Regulatory Notice**

Cabinet received a report which set out an update on the service improvement plan which was being implemented to deliver actions in response to the Notice to improve that was served by the Regulator of Social Housing.

The report advised that a number of significant overdue fire remedial actions had been identified and that, since December 2022, there had been a consistently high number of homes with unresolved cases of damp and mould.

In terms of progress, the report advised that a programme had been put in place to rectify the failures and that statutory action would not be taken at this stage as the

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breach of standard was being remedied. It was noted that there would be continued progress on the delivery of the action plan, agreed with the Regulator, to ensure that timescales were being met and that the Regulator was satisfied with progress.

**RESOLVED** - That the update report be noted and that the content be shared with key stakeholders.