

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 15 January 2025**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Itrat Ali	Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Zarina Amin	Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Damian Brook	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Caroline Holt	Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Yusra Hussain	Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan	Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor John Lawson	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Harry McCarthy
Councillor Tony McGrath	Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin	Councillor Paul Moore
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson	Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar	Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell	Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Will Simpson	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Alex Vickers	

131 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

There were no announcements.

Council - 15 January 2025

132 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Munir Ahmed, Daji, Armer, Bolt, Kahut, Lees-Hamilton, A Smith, A Zaman and H Zaman.

133 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

134 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

135 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were received.

136 Deputations and Petitions (From Members of the Public)

No deputations or petitions were received.

137 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

138 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 31 October 2024 were received and noted.

139 Proposed Revision to Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 - 2030

It was moved by Councillor Firth, seconded by Councillor Marchington and

RESOLVED – That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 to 2030 be approved and adopted.

140 Cumulative Impact Assessment (Cumulative Impact Assessment for Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Centres, relating to premises licensed to sell alcohol with off sales only)

It was moved by Councillor Firth, seconded by Councillor Marchington and

RESOLVED – That the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy be adopted, and reviewed every three years in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act.

141 Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Councillor Greaves

“Do any Labour backbench Councillors support the Labour Cabinet’s budget proposals?”

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

Question from Councillor Greaves

“What are the green bin contamination rates for the year to date, for each individual collection round across Kirklees?”

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

Question from Councillor Greaves

“What are the latest performance measures for fly-tipping and how do they compare to the measures from the year before?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Does this administration value the grass verges which we have across the district?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Could the Cabinet Member explain to me the Council’s policy on upgrading pedestrian crossings to Pelican Crossings and why one in the Deputy Leader’s ward at New Mill has been approved?”

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

Question from Councillor Longstaff

“We have had deputations from volunteers who have attended Council meetings saying how hard it is to deal with Kirklees Council. In the future we are going to need these volunteers, therefore what steps have we taken to assist these groups?”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“How much has Kirklees Council spent on removing fly tip in the financial year 2023-24 and is it likely that the figure will be far greater this financial year?”

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

Council - 15 January 2025

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“Could you update Council as to what actions have been taken since the passing on a motion on the Gaza conflict which called on Kirklees to :

That we ask that Kirklees Council where at all lawful and practical to avoid purchases of goods from Israeli companies illegally occupying the afore mentioned Palestinian Territories.

That this Council commits to conducting a thorough review of its procurement practices to ensure that goods and consumables sourced from companies directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are not used.”

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

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“While in conversation with one of our NPT, I was informed that parking in bus lanes does not result in the vehicle holder receiving a parking ticket. If this is the case why do the Parking Enforcement team not issue tickets?”

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

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Do you think the Council’s response to the recent cold snap and problems with snow and ice was good enough and, if not, what is the Cabinet Member doing about it?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“How many schools did not open or opened late on Tuesday 7/1/25, and subsequent days that week, because of ice?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“Which community buildings (such as schools, surgeries, hospitals and council buildings) have their approach roads gritted as a priority and are these done before the town centres?”

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

Question from Councillor Hall

“How long does the Cabinet Member feel it is reasonable to leave a Kirklees resident without a black bin collection?”

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

142 Key Discussion - Fostering in Kirklees

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

143 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

It was moved by Councillor Munro, and seconded by Councillor Marchington that;

“This Council notes:

- 1) The two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 and is currently supported by the new Labour Government. The cap restricts Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit to the first two children in most households;
- 2) The recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition, which has found that:
 - 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. This is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
 - In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
 - There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
 - Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
 - Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion. However, it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy over £39 billion a year. This includes increased public service expenditures and lost economic output, due to lower earnings potential among adults who grow up in impoverished conditions.
- 3) New data which reveals that the Yorkshire and Humber region, which includes Kirklees, is a hotspot for children hit by the two-child limit on benefits, with 13% of children in Yorkshire and Humber impacted. As a comparison, across the nations, the figure is 11% for both England and Wales. At the same time, the number of children living in poverty in Kirklees in 2021/22 was 34,969. That is 33.7% of all children living in the district;
- 4) The Liberal Democrat national party has consistently opposed the two-child

Council - 15 January 2025

limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017, 2019 and 2024 manifestos. Council notes with concern the stance of the Labour Government, who are committed to keeping the cap – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebel against this position.

This Council believes that:

The two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown that its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty and has been a key driver of child poverty in recent years. Furthermore, the policy has had a negative impact on many people's mental health, increasing stress and anxiety and harming their wellbeing, with knock-on effects on children's opportunities and wellbeing.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating Kirklees Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help many children and households in Kirklees;
- 2) Further, instruct the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering Kirklees Council's area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments;
- 3) Ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council."

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Crook, and seconded by Councillor Pattison, that;

Under 'This Council notes ...'

Amend Paragraph 1) to read;

'The two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017. This cap restricts Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit to the first two children for most households in receipt of these benefits'

Amend Paragraph 2) to read;

'Recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition has found that, following the end of the last period of Government ...'

Amend Paragraph 3 to delete the words 'New data reveals ...'

Amend Paragraph 4 to delete all text and replace with the words 'That positive steps are being taken by the new Labour Government towards putting an end to child

Council - 15 January 2025

poverty in a responsible and meaningful way, including through the constituting of a Child Poverty Taskforce.'

Under 'This Council believes...'

After the word 'payments' amend text to read '...has been a harmful policy that should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity and ultimately replaced by new measures designed to eliminate child poverty and mitigate deprivation. Research from the University of York has shown that its introduction has had no positive impact on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of families ...'

Under 'This Council, therefore, resolves to;

Amend Paragraph 1) to read;

'Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister thanking them for their work towards putting an end to child poverty and for ending the cruel austerity policies of the previous administration. Also reminding them of the significant deprivation experienced by many of our communities here in Kirklees and the damage austerity, including the two child benefit policy, has done to our region.'

Amend Paragraph 2) to read;

'Further, instructs the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering the Kirklees Council area, asking them to continue their public support for the campaign to end child poverty.'

Amend Paragraph 3) to read;

'Ensure the number of children a family has continues to be considered when a hardship grant is given out by this Council.'

The AMENDMENT, upon being put to the vote, was not carried.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION, upon being put to the vote, was not carried.

RESOLVED – That the Motion was not carried.

144

Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Family Farm Tax

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

"This Council notes that:

The recent 2024 Autumn Budget change to Inheritance Tax relief announced by the Labour Government will introduce a Family Farm Tax and will have a detrimental impact on Family Farms and farmers' ability to pass on their farms to the next generation of farmers.

Council - 15 January 2025

This Council believes that:

- The Labour Government have committed a shameful betrayal and let down farmers by breaking their promise to not introduce a Family Farm Tax.
- The Family Farm Tax will damage the ability of farmers to pass on their farms to their children.
- Labour's Family Farm Tax will threaten food security by forcing the sale of family farms.
- The Labour Government's Family Farm Tax will make British food production harder.
- That the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed and Keir Starmer promised not to introduce a tax like this.
- Numerous rural and farming organisations such as the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association have warned that countless farms will be harmed, threatening food security and rural areas.
- The comments made by Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed that already struggling farmers will have to 'do more with less'.
- At a time when many farmers across Kirklees are struggling with soaring costs and energy prices, this sudden tax rise will damage the future of their farms.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's dismay at this decision and calls on the Government to stop the Family Farm Tax.
- That the Leader of the Council engages with local farmers and community representatives on what the Council can do to support them.
- That the Council seeks to support local farmers by using local produce, produced in Kirklees wherever possible."

The Motion, upon being put to the vote, was CARRIED.

RESOLVED –

This Council notes that:

The recent 2024 Autumn Budget change to Inheritance Tax relief announced by the Labour Government will introduce a Family Farm Tax and will have a detrimental impact on Family Farms and farmers' ability to pass on their farms to the next generation of farmers.

This Council believes that:

- The Labour Government have committed a shameful betrayal and let down farmers by breaking their promise to not introduce a Family Farm Tax.
- The Family Farm Tax will damage the ability of farmers to pass on their farms

Council - 15 January 2025

- to their children.
- Labour's Family Farm Tax will threaten food security by forcing the sale of family farms.
- The Labour Government's Family Farm Tax will make British food production harder.
- That the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed and Keir Starmer promised not to introduce a tax like this.
- Numerous rural and farming organisations such as the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association have warned that countless farms will be harmed, threatening food security and rural areas.
- The comments made by Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed that already struggling farmers will have to 'do more with less'.
- At a time when many farmers across Kirklees are struggling with soaring costs and energy prices, this sudden tax rise will damage the future of their farms.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's dismay at this decision and calls on the Government to stop the Family Farm Tax.
- That the Leader of the Council engages with local farmers and community representatives on what the Council can do to support them.
- That the Council seeks to support local farmers by using local produce, produced in Kirklees wherever possible.

145 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Bus Fares

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

146 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Exempting Social Care from the National Insurance Hike

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

147 Response to Motion - Gaza, a year on, urgent action is needed

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