

## COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 25 April 2025

### AGENDA ITEM 10 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	<p><b>Question from Councillor Vickers to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock</b></p> <p>“Is Kirklees Council failing children with SEND needs and their families?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>Services for SEND children and their families are complex and challenging but they have the potential to change lives for the better. They are some of the most important services this council delivers, which means there is no simplistic answer to a simplistic question like this.</p> <p>Councils across the country – without exception - face challenges in relation to costs, demand and justified public expectations. In Kirklees, we face the same challenges but, for several years, we have made SEND transformation a major priority for spending, activity and innovation. I’m proud of the decisions we’ve taken, which have achieved a good deal of consensus across the council. There’s more work to do and I recommend reading our updated Big Plan for SEND to get a sense of the challenge and the ways we are handling it. The plan is ‘big’ in both scope and ambition and I would be happy to meet with you separately to take you through the work which is happening to support children and families in every part of Kirklees.</p> <p>The SEND Big Plan includes plans, programmes and activities that support children and families now and in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making a huge Capital investment of £46.6m by building two new special schools: one for complex autism (Woodley School) and one to support social emotional and mental health (Joseph Norton). The major expansion of places for children with extra needs mean fewer children and families will need to travel outside of Kirklees for their education as well as freeing up resources to support more children in the future.</li><li>• We know that families can be frustrated by the time taken to agree Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We have devoted extra resources to reduce the time families need to wait for their plan. Waiting times are now coming down but we continue to treat this as a major service priority against a backdrop of demand which is rising fast in Kirklees and across the country.</li><li>• Continuing to grow more local places by opening new and supporting existing Additionally Resourced Provisions (which are specialist units within mainstream schools) to ensure that children’s needs can be met in a mainstream setting in their local community</li><li>• Expanding our special school satellite provision (which means children are on the role of a special school but are educated in a space in mainstream school with the expertise of special school colleagues)</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with our Mainstream Schools in groups called Clusters. Clusters are groups of mainstream schools that work together to share resources and expertise at a local level and capitalise on existing structures meaning more children can access support without the need for an EHCP . This means more young people can get the support they need at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Continuing to Strengthen our Graduated Support and Early Intervention offer for our education settings to enable inclusivity. This includes investing in our Specialist Outreach teams and SENDCO support networks to help schools to continue to meet the needs of the children without a formal statutory assessment for an Education and Health Care Plan.</li> <li>• Meeting the national expectations for the Healthy Child Programme mandated contacts which includes health visiting and school nursing, which supports earlier identification of potential SEN for children and young people. This has been undertaken by increasing investment to enable increased capacity.</li> <li>• After commissioning a range of Alternative Provision, reviewing and assessing where we may need more to meet the needs of children.</li> <li>• Supporting Emotional Wellbeing and enabling mental health support by establishing our Families Together Gateway.</li> <li>• Continually developing our Local Offer to support families and practitioners with information and guidance and planning for the Next local Offer Live in October 2025</li> <li>• Delivering the PINs (Partnership in Neurodiversity) project with 14 of our primary schools, this aims to bring early support and intervention for neurodiverse children by bringing together health, the local parent carer forum, the local authority, and education staff to create environments that better meet neurodiverse children’s needs, ensuring they are able to thrive as part of their wider cohort.</li> </ul> <p>There are many more activities this council, and its partners, are taking to support children and families. In spite of the many challenges they face, our staff are dedicated, professional and committed to doing the best for families. The council has taken big decisions on funding and services to support them to deliver and we will continue to do that. I don't shy away from the fact that there are challenges still ahead, but we remain committed to this agenda.</p>
2	<p><b>Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“How many grants has Kirklees secured from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Fund?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>We have not secured any West Yorkshire Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Funding for council led sites to date.</p>
3	<p><b>Question from Councillor Robinson to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock</b></p> <p>“How will the Council empower local residents to take an active role in shaping their communities, and what support will be in place to ensure their voices are heard?”</p>

## Cabinet Member Response

As set out in Our Council Plan, the council is committed to empowering local residents to take an active role in shaping their communities. We are working closely with people in places across Kirklees to help them shape their communities.

We are also committed to place-based working, recognising one size doesn't fit all in Kirklees. That means working with and alongside our citizens and partners, where they are. It's about recognising and celebrating our unique local places and communities, their strengths and aspirations. Above all, it's about putting our relationships first and growing trust. We don't always have to be the people doing things or deciding things, our role is also about enabling others to act.

Place-based working involves meeting people and communities where they are. Usually this means working together where people live, but it's not only about where we live in Kirklees. It's about where we are in our lives and who we connect with. We all want to live in places where everyone can trust each other and working together builds trust.

**Inclusive Communities Framework:** The Framework is a commitment to work better with communities, that means we have to change how we do things, and as a partnership with local organisations like the Police, we have committed to do this. The framework can be used with a wide range of plans and strategies across lots of different organisations and sets out how we want to work with people and has a toolkit that helps organisations review and improve how they work with communities, ensuring that the voices of residents are heard and valued.

**Kirklees Place Standard:** Local people told our Democracy Commission that they want to be part of 'ongoing conversations', not 'stop-start consultations'. In response, we developed the 'Place Standard Tool' which communities have been using since 2019 to have conversations about any place, it could be a street, neighbourhood or town. The conversations are often hosted by local groups or councillors and can happen in any setting, which is enabling more people to be included in conversations about where they live. Since 2019, these conversations have included over 11,000 residents about various aspects within communities, allowing residents to express their views on what matters most to them. These discussions cover a wide range of topics, from physical infrastructure to social interactions, helping to identify both strengths and areas for improvement. The feedback gathered through these engagements is used to inform local action planning and development of initiatives, ensuring that community priorities are at the forefront of local decision-making. This collaborative process not only empowers residents but also builds trust and a sense of ownership within the community. The results give us some clear messages about belonging and influence. All the activities and results are available online at: [How good is our place?](#). Support to plan and deliver place standard engagement and action planning is in place via the active citizens and places team within the Governance Service.

**Community Plus:** This service offers personalised support to individuals and communities, helping them connect with local groups, activities, and services. Community Connectors provide short-term support to reduce isolation and loneliness, build confidence, and empower residents to lead the change they want to see in their communities. By listening to residents' ideas and providing

	<p>tailored support, Community Plus ensures that local knowledge and lived experiences shape community development.</p>
4	<p><b>Question from Councillor A Smith to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock</b></p> <p>“What steps is the Council taking to strengthen community cohesion, ensuring that people from different backgrounds feel included and connected within their local area?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>Kirklees Council is dedicated to strengthening community cohesion and ensuring that people from different backgrounds feel included and connected within their local area.</p> <p>The Council and Partners have developed <b>an Inclusive Communities Framework</b>, this has been co-produced and is currently being embedded across the Council and our partners. This framework is central to Kirklees Council's efforts to ensure that people from different backgrounds feel included, have a sense of belonging and connected within their local area.</p> <p>It emphasises the importance of building trust and promoting a sense of belonging in local places. It encourages organisations to actively engage with communities, listen to their concerns, and show that they care about what matters to residents. This approach helps create safer and more cohesive communities where people feel valued and included.</p> <p>It aims to create more connections within and between communities. By fostering relationships and encouraging collaboration, it helps break down barriers between different groups and promotes mutual understanding and respect</p> <p>It includes a toolkit that helps organisations review and improve their community engagement practices. This ensures that engagement is inclusive and accessible to all residents, regardless of their background. By involving diverse groups in decision-making processes, the framework ensures that everyone's voice is heard and valued.</p> <p>The framework encourages organisations to celebrate with communities, recognising and valuing the diversity within the district. Celebrations and events that highlight different cultures and traditions can lead to an improved sense of belonging and unity among residents.</p> <p>Using the principles of the ICF in July 2024 a new Team was established that brings together the strengths of 3 existing council teams - Community Plus, Community Cohesion and Everybody Active - <b>Community Plus Service</b></p> <p>The <b>NEW Community Plus Service</b> offers support to individuals and communities and faith and belief organisations to become more connected, independent, and healthier. But it also is developing a much stronger approach to working alongside key community assets in the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Community Connectors work alongside residents to understand their needs and aspirations. They provide personalised support to help individuals connect with</p>

local groups, activities, and services. This approach reduces isolation and loneliness, builds confidence, and empowers residents to take an active role in their communities.

Connectors help residents find and join local groups and activities that match their interests to increase a sense of belonging and connection with their local area and increase their relationships with people from different backgrounds wherever possible.

The service also connects with community and faith and belief organisations as part of their day-to-day role working to develop strong trusted relationships

By connecting individuals to local groups and activities, Community Plus helps reduce social isolation and loneliness which is particularly important for people who may feel disconnected from a community or local area. They also connect people and groups that bring people together, provide opportunities for residents to meet new people, share experiences, and celebrate diversity.

The partnership work of **Kirklees Welcomes** works alongside those who are new to the UK and Kirklees to settle and integrate into local life and make connections and link into local groups and activities. There are a range of grant funded services and fantastic support from our voluntary and community sector that take place every week in the District

**Kirklees Libraries** play a vital role in strengthening community cohesion through **Libraries of Sanctuary**. Awarded 'Official Libraries of Sanctuary' status in August 2021, Kirklees Libraries provide safe, neutral, and welcoming spaces accessible to all. Staff and volunteers are trained to understand the challenges faced by sanctuary seekers and offer support tailored to their needs. The libraries host free and low-cost activities that aim to reduce isolation, promote digital inclusion, and support learning and health. By offering resources and books in community languages, and English for Speakers of other Languages provision, Kirklees Libraries ensure that people from diverse backgrounds feel included and connected. Regular events, such as 'Meet, Try, Learn' sessions and celebrations like Eid and Christmas parties promote a sense of belonging.

**Grant Programmes:** The Council offers several grant programmes to support Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) projects. These grants fund community activities that promote inclusion, resilience, and cohesion. For example, the **Safe and Inclusive Community Fund** invests in projects that tackle violence, abuse, exploitation, and anti-social behaviour, while also building resilient communities. Additionally, the **Members Ward Budget** allows councillors to allocate funds to address specific local issues and priorities based on their engagement with ward residents.

Work is developing further to ensure the approach to inclusion, cohesion is strong at a Place based level (listening to and tailoring how we work alongside local communities) and where identified at ward or neighbourhood level.

5

**Question from Councillor Burke to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities – Councillor A U Pinnock**

“How will the Council ensure that local businesses, voluntary groups, and cultural organisations are supported to contribute to vibrant and thriving communities across Kirklees?”

Cabinet Member Response

We recognise the significant contributions of businesses and community organisations. They are the lifeblood of our communities, using their time, energy, and skills to make great things happen. Supporting thriving communities is a priority for the Council, and many of our services work closely with these groups. Our teams, including business, culture and creative economy, libraries, environment, active citizens, Community Plus, and third sector teams connect businesses and community organisations to the advice and support they need every day.

Our Council Plan for 2025/26 prioritises thriving people and communities and sets out the areas of focus we have for the coming year. We have had a multi-year contract with Third Sector Leaders Kirklees (TSL) for a number of years, and this will continue. It supports voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises, and other not-for-profit organisations to grow and connect. We also fund community anchors and networks to provide local support and peer-support on themes like community asset transfers.

We have been helping businesses connect with local community organisations to deliver their corporate social responsibility and social value objectives, including volunteering. Workshops with businesses and community organisations have supported 29 companies so far.

Long-term thriving communities need local economic growth. Our initiatives include Our Cultural Heart, Dewsbury Blueprint, smaller town regeneration plans, and significant transport developments like the Transpennine Rail Upgrade and West Yorkshire bus franchising. As set out in Our Peer Challenge Action Plan, we will refresh our town centre blueprints and smaller centre regeneration plans to ensure they are fit for the future.

6

**Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways - Councillor Ahmed**

“Can you tell me how many times the Council would need to fail to collect bins from a street due to access problems (parked cars) before looking at an alternative collection approach?”

Cabinet Member Response

We understand that the inability to collect bins due to access problems caused by parked cars can be frustrating and inconvenient. However, it is important to clarify that these disruptions are not a failure of the waste collection service but a direct consequence of inconsiderate behaviour.

The Council is committed to ensuring that waste collection runs smoothly and efficiently. We undertake several steps within our capacity to address access issues, including door knocking, distributing leaflets, changing collection points and organising specific collection times so people can move their vehicles. However, there are limits to what we can achieve with the resources available.

While all Councils have a duty to collect household waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, there are certain conditions and limitations to this duty, especially when access is blocked. The Act specifically states

	<p>Councils must collect household waste unless the premises are "so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high".</p> <p>The Council will continue to work together with Cllrs and our community to resolve these issues where possible, but we do have limited resources, and we are not in a position to introduce lots more specialist vehicles to access these areas.</p>
7	<p><b>Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison (Referred to Councillor Turner)</b></p> <p>“The Huddersfield Giants are moving to the Shay Halifax for the next few years to play their home games. They would like to build a new stadium in Huddersfield but no location and no planning permission yet sorted. This could result in losing our heritage and another blow to Huddersfield. How does the Cabinet intend to support this local club in securing a suitable location?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>I along with many of our residents want to see the giants remain in their cultural home and the birthplace of rugby league here in Huddersfield.</p>
8	<p><b>Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“At the February Council meeting you suggested that the large number of shops closing in Huddersfield was natural churn. I received a lot of negative comments from ordinary people about this comment. On reflection have you changed your mind?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>Je ne regrette rien.</p> <p>We all well know Question 12 that the challenge facing our high streets is a national issue, not just a local one. Data from the Council’s Planning team shows that there were 7 more vacant units in 2024 than in 2023.</p> <p>But we also know that decisions by major retailers are made many miles away from Huddersfield, not by the local managers who understand local trading conditions. WH Smiths, for example, has decided to sell its town centre stores to focus on airports and railway stations and the new owner will not be re-opening many former WH Smiths sites.</p> <p>I want to make sure that we talk up our town centres, not talk them down. The Huddersfield Blueprint acknowledges that town centres are changing into mixed use, multi-functional destinations driven by leisure and culture and experiences, as well as hubs for community activity.</p> <p>That is why the Council is delivering Our Cultural Heart, to transform Huddersfield’s cultural offer and attract new visitors to the town centre. Radisson has also shown its confidence in the town in working with us to deliver the first ‘Radisson Red’ hotel in Yorkshire. And Boots is planning to enhance its presence here, not scale back its footprint in the town.</p>

	<p>That's also why 'The Light' have chosen Huddersfield, in competition with other northern centres, to deliver not just their standard cinema offering but their most ambitious project in the UK to date, with a full range of leisure, entertainment and dining facilities. The Light have invested more than £9m in Huddersfield and I'm confident that this will point the way to other investors and developers in showcasing the opportunities here.</p>
9	<p><b>Question from Councillor Longstaff to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison (Referred to Councillor Ahmed)</b></p> <p>“We have all signed on to the Vision Zero Strategy to reduce the number of accidents in Kirklees. Every time I try to adjust speed limits on roads outside schools, I get quoted a Cabinet decision dating back to 2013. Therefore, can the Cabinet have another look at this decision considering Vision Zero?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The district wide speed limit review completed in 2021 concluded that most of our speed limits across the district were appropriate for the location they were in and their surrounding environment.</p> <p>The report did highlight that for some priority schools it would be advisable for further investigation into measures. A decision was made to commit to reviewing the priority schools and additionally speed limits outside all schools in Kirklees. This would be to see what, if any of the three 20mph options (zone, limit or advisory), would be feasible and could be considered for implementation, based on the setting local speed limits DfT guidance document alongside the Kirklees 20mph policy/criteria.</p> <p>A bid was put to WYCA for this work alongside some other speed limit review works and funding was agreed from CRSTS as additionality to the safe roads 'normal' budget. This money unfortunately won't be enough to review all schools in the immediate future; however, we have started a process of reviewing the 37 highlighted as a priority.</p> <p>Whilst this work is ongoing the team will look to see what other budgets are available to continue this work beyond the CRSTS original settlement and move towards reviewing all schools as soon as reasonably practicable. This includes any additionality from CRSTS1 or a potential future bid to CRSTS2.</p>
10	<p><b>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</b></p> <p>“Cabinet approved funding for resurfacing Lascelles Hall Rd in February 2023. Due to the economic situation, funding was clawed back. Following complaints about the road surface, the Council recently decided to fill in potholes, however these are indistinguishable as the surface is like one huge patchwork quilt. Does this mean the Council are using the funding for potholes from the Government for roads that desperately need re-surfacing instead and if so, why?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The Council has a statutory duty to ensure the highway is in a safe and serviceable condition, so if actionable defects had been identified then they</p>

	<p>would need to be repaired. Potholing/repairing of actionable defects is funded through Council borrowing not through funding received from the Government.</p> <p>Unfortunately, aesthetics of a road is not something we can consider as this time our priority is ensure the highway is in a safe and serviceable condition.</p> <p>The short section of Lascelles Hall Road from the junction of Wakefield Road had been identified for patching towards the end of last financial year, unfortunately there was insufficient money remaining. The works will be programmed in for delivery this financial year.</p>
11	<b>Question withdrawn</b>
12	<p><b>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“Why is this Council failing to work with community groups to support them with projects as in the case of Tolson Friends, who have been trying to renew a lease for a new communal hut at the rear of Tolson Museum since 2016, when the Council has now suddenly suggested to both the croquet club and the bowling green club in the Park that leases will be available to negotiate?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The Council works with and supports hundreds of community groups every week to achieve some amazing things, ranging from our extremely popular Reuse Shops, to planting thousands of trees and working with Natural Kirklees in securing investment in our assets, parks and playing pitches.</p> <p>I do not consider that this is failing to work with Community Groups, but I would accept that due to the size of organisation we are and the complexity of things we do, that it is not always straight forward, and we are working to improve this.</p> <p>I am not familiar with the specific example you have provided, but it sounds to me like different conversations are going on with different teams and considering your question I have already suggested to Officers that they get all stakeholders together in one meeting to resolve any issues or perceptions so things can progress.</p>
13	<p><b>Question from Councillor Darwan to the Leader of the Council – Councillor Pattison</b></p> <p>“The Council wants to have a full picture of local need for physical activity as it plans services for the future. People in Dewsbury will get the chance to have their say on sport and physical activity in their community this summer. The Cabinet report agreed in 2024 stated that more work was needed to understand what people would want to participate in to help improve their health as well as those activities that would increase wellbeing and social connectedness. A specification will be put out to the market this week to procure a company who will run qualitative and quantitative engagement to gain insights from residents on what activities they want to participate in, to identify what interventions are needed. It is hoped that the project fieldwork will begin mid-May.</p> <p>How much is this survey going to cost the taxpayer and is there a need for this, especially when the Council have already heard from members of the local</p>

	<p>communities explain what their needs are regarding physical activities in line with their health and wellbeing and their needs fell on deaf ears, since the Dewsbury Sports Centre closed in 2023 with the centre shutting permanently in 2024?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The details of the procurement are in the public domain. Bids have been invited with a ceiling of £100k. The budget will come from the Public Health Grant, which is ringfenced for improving the health of the population and we have identified Dewsbury as a priority area for funding and action.</p> <p>We know a lot about the health needs of the Dewsbury population from our Joint Strategic Assessment as well as other health needs assessments. These show that Dewsbury residents experience significant health inequalities. But the assessment doesn't necessarily tell us about the kind of services and interventions that would make the biggest difference to people's lives and their health. If we are going to make a difference, we need to have those detailed conversations with local people and shape an offer that reduces the inequalities that have existed in Dewsbury for a long time.</p> <p>The successful applicants for this work will be consultants with experience and knowledge in this area. They will seek to engage as many people and key stakeholders for this research including ward councillors, schools, and others with local knowledge.</p>
14	<p><b>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“Will the disposal of land known as HS9 in Fenay Bridge result in an undervalue that does not exceed the upper threshold of £2m?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The undervalue which will apply at Fenay Lane will only be known once planning consent has been granted, because this is when the detail of the proposed scheme is certain, and we will then know exactly how many homes will be on the site which reflects the true value of the site.</p> <p>This is reflected in the Cabinet approval (Cabinet 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023), which says:</p> <p><i>Cabinet delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Growth and Regeneration to:</i>  <i>negotiate and agree the terms of disposal for the site with the preferred partner; and determine the appropriate level of discount for the site following a comprehensive assessment of the appointed partner's development appraisal reflecting the housing mix which receives planning consent.</i></p>
15	<p><b>Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</b></p> <p>“Given the resource constraints, how do you prioritise which pavements to clean?”</p>

	<p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The Street Cleansing service has set routes that cover a geographical area. There are routes that are covered by manual sweepers who walk them, routes covered by Group Sweeper Drivers who travel greater areas and collect waste from manual sweepers, and both pavement and channel mechanical sweepers.</p> <p>These routes have been set for several years and vary from daily within our town centres to weekly or more in the outer areas. They do not cover every single road or pavement, and some parts are reactive only. These were set up based on land allocation and need as per the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.</p> <p>If there are issues with an area the Group Sweeper does sometimes collect manual sweepers to help.</p> <p>If there are issues such as staff absence, then these are generally not covered and undertaken on a reactive basis.</p>
16	<p><b>Question from Councillor K Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“What progress has been made in pursuance of the Council budget decision to use this year to draw up a contract of work to do the immediate repairs required to Cleckheaton Town Hall?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>Financial provision of £7.5m has been made in the capital plan from 26 onwards to fund repairs/remodelling to Cleckheaton Town Hall. Work is being commissioned to ensure that this funding covers the repairs/remodelling and condition elements previously identified.</p>
17	<p><b>Question from Councillor A Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for planning and heritage explain why a statutory requirement for planning consent for the removal of Oakenshaw Cross has not been fulfilled?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The Cross was removed due to an emergency / safety issue with the Council’s motivation being to keep people safe and protect the Cross.</p> <p>Following a vehicle collision and an emergency diversion being in place from the motorway. The Cross was carefully dismantled and is currently safely stored on Council premises. The Council was aware that the Cross was removed without prior Listed Building Consent and the Planning Service was aware its removal was required in relation to highway safety matters.</p> <p>The Council is currently working on ways to restore the Cross to Oakenshaw. We are aware of the strong local support for the Cross to be reinstalled back in its former position and this is being considered as part of the options to return the Cross back to Oakenshaw.</p>

18	<p><b>Question from Councillor J Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“A series of FOIs by the Bradford T&amp;A about the future of Oakenshaw Cross has revealed that a critical barrier to the restoration of the Cross is an unresolved dispute between Council services as to responsibility. Is this an example of ‘One Council’?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The Council has safely stored the Cross, and the Councils Conservation Team have inspected the Cross and seen it is safe and secure. The Council as landowner has a distinct role to that of Local Planning Authority and it is important that the Council as landowner acts, as well as upholding its responsibilities as a Local Planning Authority. The Council will be applying formally for listed building consent at some point in the future. Therefore, advice from one service to another service is a normal way of working. This is similar to a private individual asking the Council for its opinion (like a preapplication enquiry) before they apply formally for a decision on a planning application. That would suggest the Council is acting in a joined up and responsible manner to resolve the long-term future of the Cross.</p>
19	<p><b>Question from Councillor K Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</b></p> <p>“When the Cabinet decided to close Cleckheaton (Spen Valley) Town Hall, ward councillors proposed that the remainder of the £1.5m allocated to the town should be used to do essential repairs. Has this now been agreed?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>Financial provision of £7.5m has been made in the capital plan from 26 onwards to fund repairs/remodelling to Cleckheaton Town Hall. Work is being commissioned to ensure that this funding covers the repairs/remodelling and condition elements previously identified. We continue to work with the community to understand their aspirations for the town hall and have commission Locality to support them to build their capacity and produce a business plan.</p> <p>On the basis that the Town Hall has its own financial provision the Town Fund money is not required, as we still see this investment in Cleckheaton as an important part of regeneration to ensure the town centre continues to thrive and provide local shops and services to those that use the town centre.</p>
20	<p><b>Question from Councillor J Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</b></p> <p>“What assessment has been done to establish the traffic impact on Bradford Road from Oakenshaw to Chain Bar of the addition of a bus lane?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>A region wide ‘SATURN model’ has been utilised to address the traffic impacts of the bus lane proposal (as well as all other scheme elements along the corridor). This is a form of macro-simulation tool, regularly utilised by the industry. Prior to its adoption, Kirklees Council agreed details around an</p>

	<p>Appraisal Specification Report with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Strategic Portfolio Office, as funder. This is a requirement of the Full Business Case and it details the approach and methodology of the transport impact assessment prior to its undertaking.</p> <p>The models utilised have been validated and calibrated prior to the model runs being undertaken and the output files have been appraised and accepted by West Yorkshire Combined Authority prior to Full Business Case sign off.</p>
21	<p><b>Question from Councillor J Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed</b></p> <p>“What is the environmental impact and justification of the removal of many mature trees and hedgerow in order to create a bus lane on Bradford Road Oakenshaw?”</p> <p><u>Cabinet Member Response</u></p> <p>The construction of the bus lane will require removal of existing trees and hedgerow on the eastern boundary of the site. A tree survey report which formed part of a Certificate of Lawful Development Application in August 2024 identified that the majority of the trees and hedgerow was particularly low quality and unsuitable for retention. The application was subsequently approved. As part of the application there is a proposal to plant new trees and hedgerow. We are currently exploring options to identify where this replanting regime will be carried-out.</p>