



Report title: Q3 2025/26 Council Plan and Performance Update Report

Meeting	Cabinet
Date	24 th March 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Councillor Carole Pattison
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
Purpose of Report	
The Q3 2025/26 Council Plan and Performance Update Report provides information on progress against the 2025/26 Council Plan priorities and the performance against the 2025/26 Council Key Measures.	
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the report is noted. 	
Resource Implication: None	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Public Health and Corporate Resources – 13/03/2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director – Finance - 10/03/2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Sam Lawton, Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer) – 12/03/2026

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No personal data within report

1. Executive Summary

The Q3 2025/26 Council Plan and Performance Update Report provides Executive Leadership Team, Executive Board, Cabinet and Scrutiny Panels/Committees with –

- A narrative update against each of the four Council Plan priorities. This includes an update on progress and activities delivered in the quarter and planned activities for the next quarter.
- An update and narrative against the 2025/26 Council Key Measures. This includes an update on progress and activities delivered in the quarter and planned activities for the next quarter.

Key highlights and issues

This section summarises the key highlights and issues based on a review of trends against the key measures within the report:

Key Highlights:

- **The percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy has reduced.** 4.1% of mothers reported smoking at the time of delivery during Q2 2025/26 compared to 4.6% during Q1 2025/26 and 4.9% during Q2 2024/25. The rate in Kirklees in Q2 2025/26 (4.1%) is lower than the national rate (4.3%), reflecting the sustained impact of targeted smoking cessation interventions and contributing to healthier pregnancies and improved outcomes for families (further details can be seen on page 26 of the main report).
- **Sickness days per FTE is 0.32 days lower than it was 12 months ago.** Although sickness absence remains high at 13.62 days per FTE for the 12 months up to the end of Q3 2025/26, this is the lowest rate since Q3 2023/24 (13.56). This improvement has been made through person centred intervention and support for managers with further improvements to be made going forward (further details can be seen on page 24 of the main report).
- **The percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests completed in time has increased during the last 12 months.** 87% of FOI requests were completed within 20 working days during Q3 2025/26, an increase of 10 percentage points compared with Q3 2024/25 (77%). Compliance has improved on the same period last year, when several requests were received relating to a specific planned local development. Requests received had also been higher in Q2 2025/26 as a result of a specific bus lane development. (Further details can be seen on page 20 of the main report).

Key Issues:

- **Collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates are lower than they were 12 months ago.** The Council Tax collection rate is 0.42 percentage points lower compared to Q3 2024/25, and the Business Rates collection rate is 0.65 percentage points lower compared to Q3 2024/25. Collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates in Kirklees are lower than statistical neighbour benchmarks. Other local authorities are under similar pressures, we are sharing learning and experiences with them and are considering alternative recovery methods for the new financial year (further details can be seen on page 23 of the main report).

Increase in demand:

- **The percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) finalised within 20 weeks has significantly reduced over the last 3 months.** 31.3% of EHCPs were finalised within 20 weeks during Q3 2025/26 compared to 72.7% in Q2 2025/26 and 62.6% in Q1 2025/26. Although our performance during the 2025 calendar year (50.8%) is higher than the latest national rate (46.4%) and statistical neighbour rate (42%). A low performing final month of the year impacted this performance due to a high volume of requests being processed across the system. The reduction in the figures in the past two quarters is impacted by the number of open EHCP assessments with 354 at the end of December 2025, a 26% increase compared to the end of September 2025 (further details can be seen on page 16 of the main report).
- **The number of children accessing home to school transport continues to increase.** At the end of Q3 2025/26 there were 1,596 children accessing home to school transport, an increase of 45 (2.9%) children compared to 3 months ago and an increase of 36 (2.3%) children compared to 12 months ago. This reflects a national trend. The growth in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) is associated with an increase in pupils eligible for home-to-school transport services which we must provide. Our main priority is to provide services that eligible pupils need, contain costs and boost efficiency, so that we can accommodate rising pupil numbers within existing budget limits (further details can be seen on page 41 of the main report).

2. Information required to take a decision

Cabinet is invited to consider this report in relation to the Council Plan deliverables contributing to the Kirklees Shared Outcomes and the Council's aspiration to be effective and efficient in the delivery of its services.

3. Implications for the Council

This report provides an update on performance against the 2025/26 Council Key Measures. This will enable the Council to effectively monitor performance and drive further improvements.

3.1 Council Plan

The report provides an update on progress against the priorities within the Council Plan

3.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

3.3 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

3.4 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

There are no other implications

3.5 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

No Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is needed

4 Consultation

No consultation is required, this report is for information only.

5 Engagement

No engagement is required, this report is for information only.

6 Options

6.1 Options Considered

It is recommended that the report is noted.

6.2 Reasons for recommended Option

This report is for information only.

7 Next steps and timelines

Updates will be shared on a quarterly basis with Cabinet Members and members of the public. The provision of these quarterly updates will enable Executive Directors, the Chief Executive and Cabinet Members to monitor progress against key priorities and enact change where needed, to maximise improvements and outcomes for people and places.

8 Contact officer

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9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable.

10 Appendices

Not applicable

11 Service Director responsible

Andy Simcox, Service Director for Strategy and Innovation