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COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At a Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
The Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 18 January 2012**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Eric Firth) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

M AHMED
M AKHTAR
D K BELLAMY
J C BLANCHARD
M BOLT
T BRICE
C BURKE
J CALVERT
J COOK
A COOPER
A DENHAM
W J DODDS
D M FIRTH
D HALL
S HALL
D HARDCASTLE
C HARRIS
L J HOLMES
E HOLROYD-DOVETON
J M HUGHES
K HUSSAIN
M HUSSAIN
K IQBAL
C M IREDALE
P KANE
V KENDRICK
M KHAN
J LAWSON
R C LIGHT
G LOWE
T LYONS
P MCBRIDE

A C G MARCHINGTON
H MAYET
A MURPHY
D O'DONOVAN
P O'NEILL
A PALFREEMAN
S PANDOR
R PARCHMENT
S PATEL
N PATRICK
C PATTISON
A C PINNOCK
K M PINNOCK
C PREEST
H S RICHARDS
D RIDGWAY
M SARWAR
C SCOTT
G SIMPSON
K D SIMS
E E SMAJE
B SMITH
C M L SMITH
K SMITH
C STANFIELD
J STEWART TURNER
A L STUBLEY
K TAYLOR
N TURNER
M WALTON
E WARD
L WILKINSON

113 Announcements by the Mayor

The Mayor announced that he was undertaking, along with the Leader of the Council, The Chief Executive and Council Governance Officer an Abseil on 8 March 2011 at Huddersfield University in support of his Charity, and invited support from Members of the Council.

114 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bates, Lees-Hamilton, Sheard and Sokhal.

115 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 7 December 2011

It was moved by the Mayor (Councillor E Firth), seconded by the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Iredale) and

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 7 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

116 Declarations of Interest

(1) Councillors McBride, Sims and C Smith each declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 118, item (a) relating to the deputation on behalf of Huddersfield Town Supporters Association on the progress of the share transfer in their capacity as a Board Member of Kirklees Stadium Development Limited.

(2) The undermentioned Councillors each declared a personal interest in Minute 118, item (a) relating to the deputation on behalf of Huddersfield Town Supporters Association on the progress of the share transfer for the reasons indicated:-

- Councillor Bolt - Huddersfield Town season ticket holder and has also helped the Football Club organise a successful charity cycle ride.
- Councillor Burke - Huddersfield Town season ticket holder.
- Councillor Calvert - Past Huddersfield Town season ticket holder and purchased a season ticket for her stepson this year, and has also made use of Council shareholders' tickets for various matches.
- Councillor Preest - Huddersfield Town season ticket holder.

(3) The undermentioned Councillors each declared a personal interest in Minute 118, items (b), (d), (f) and (g) relating to the deputations on the Surestart/Children's Centres Consultation for the reasons indicated:-

- Councillor Calvert - Chair of the Advisory Board for the Chestnut Children's Centre.
- Councillor Denham - Member of the Advisory Board for the Children's Centre in Almondbury.
- Councillor Hughes - Chair of the Birkby Children's Centre Advisory Board.
- Councillor Kendrick - Member of Heckmondwike Children's Centre Advisory Board.
- Councillor Marchington - Member of the Golcar, Cowlersley and Milnsbridge Children's Centre Steering Group.
- Councillor Richards - Member of the Golcar/Cowlersley Surestart Advisory Centre.
- Councillor Stubbley - Advisory Board Member of the Children's Centre in Batley East.
- Councillor Walton - Member of Crosland Moor Surestart Centre Board.

(4) Councillor Hughes declared a personal interest in Minute 125 relating to the Motion on the Tackling Poverty Strategy 2012, in her capacity as a Member/Co-opted Director on Castle Minster, which was referred to in the document "Kirklees Tackling Poverty Strategy" supplied with this item.

117 Petitions

Councillor Denham submitted a Petition on behalf of residents of Almondbury asking for a zebra crossing on Fernside Avenue by Almondbury High School and Greenside Infants School in the interests of the safety of many children crossing this road every school day.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3) the Mayor directed that the subject matter of the petition be referred to the appropriate Assistant Director for investigation and report to Cabinet or an appropriate Committee.

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Deputations

Council received deputations on behalf of the following:-

- (a) Huddersfield Town Supporters Association on the progress of the share transfer.
- (b) Parents' deputation in relation to the review of Children's Centres.
- (c) Unison deputation in relation to Home Care.
- (d) Deputation in relation to proposed changes to Surestart Centres.
- (e) Deputation in relation to Planned Day Care Services, in particular Red Laithe Court, Liversedge.
- (f) Deputation on behalf of Lindley and Paddock Children's Centre Forum relating to the review of Children's Centres.
- (g) Parent representative at Paddock Children's Centre relating to the review of Children's Centres.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(6) the Mayor directed that the subject matter of deputation (a) be referred to the Chief Executive for investigation and report to Cabinet and that the remaining deputations be referred to the appropriate Assistant Director for investigation and report to Cabinet or appropriate Committee.

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Questions by Members of the Public

- (1) Council received a question from Mr Robert Pepper, Huddersfield Town Supporters Association, seeking more detail of the Council's plans to make progress on the share transfer by arbitration or some other means, including the timescales involved.

Councillor Khan, Leader, responded thereto.

- (2) Council received a question from Mr Robert Pepper, Huddersfield Town Supporters Association, asking if the Council considered it right that one individual should be allowed to make a profit from a transaction involving shares in a joint company venture where the Council was a partner.

Councillor Khan, Leader, responded thereto.

- (3) Council received a question from Gemma Wilson indicating she had extended an invitation to all Members of the Council to attend a Surestart Centre, together with local Members of Parliament and asked if Members had received their invitation and would respond.

The Mayor, Councillor E Firth, responded thereto.

- (4) Council received a question from Gemma Wilson asking, in the context of Surestart Centres, if the Council could sum up their criteria of need.

Councillor O'Neill, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, responded thereto.

- (5) Council received a question from Kate McLoughlin asking if it was true there would be no reductions in current services in Children's Centres and seeking clarification if Colne Valley Children's Centre had reached its reach target.

Councillor Harris, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, responded thereto.

- (6) Council received a question from Betty Riley asking if options could be explored to amalgamate Paddock and Red Laithe Court Day Care Centres or otherwise consider reducing the service to three days opening from five, in place of considering closure.

Councillor Walton, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, Well-Being and Communities, responded thereto.

120 Progress on the Site of Grosvenor Chemicals, Linthwaite, Huddersfield

Council received a presentation from Mr Rom Naploch of the Health and Safety Executive and Mr Tim Shaw of the Environment Agency on the progress of action following a fire on the site of Grosvenor Chemicals, and responded to questions from Members in relation thereto.

121 Budget Update and Equalities Impact Assessments

Council received a presentation from the Director of Resources relating to proposals being considered for the Budget and the associated timetable, including information on projected grant from the government's Autumn Statement. There followed a presentation by the Principal Equality and Diversity Officer on the Equality Impact Statements on the proposals and the duties of the Council under the relevant Equalities Legislation.

122 Calculation of Council Tax Base 2012/13

In accordance with Section 67(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Council considered a report which sought approval to the various tax bases which will apply for the financial year 2012/13 in connection with the Council Tax.

It was moved by Councillor Pandor, seconded by Councillor Scott, and

RESOLVED - That the 2012/13 tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the 2012/13 tax bases for the five Parish Council areas be approved as follows:-

- * Whole of Kirklees £128,336.40
- * Denby Dale Parish Council £5,804.43
- * Holme Valley Parish £10,008.15
- * Kirkburton Parish £9,044.25
- * Meltham Parish £2,843.13
- * Mirfield Parish £6,863.00

123 Reference from Corporate Governance and Audit Committee - Annual Audit Letter 2010/11

Council noted the Annual Audit Letter for 2010/11, summarising evidence on the management and direction of the Council during this period, and covering the Audit Opinion and Financial Statements; Value for Money; and Current and Future Challenges.

124 Written Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members

Council received the undermentioned questions:

- (a) **Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Shabir Pandor)**

"What progress can Councillor Pandor provide regarding the pursuit of the half million in Business Rates owed by a Huddersfield Town Centre business that I highlighted at last Full Council?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(b) **Question by Councillor Andrew Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor David Sheard)**

"Are there any new plans to process Kirklees recyclable waste outside Huddersfield and can Councillor Sheard provide details of impact on jobs?"

In the absence of Councillor Sheard, the Leader, Councillor Khan, responded thereto.

(c) **Question by Councillor Hilary Richards to the Leader (Councillor Mehboob Khan)**

"I am concerned to hear reports that Doncaster Council's employees are having their terms and conditions of employment changed so that the Council are able to reduce employees' pay.

Will the Leader ensure this Council that our workforce will not be subjected to this method of reducing payroll costs to help balance our ever reducing budget allocation from central government?"

The Leader responded thereto.

(d) **Question by Councillor Christine Stanfield to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor Peter McBride)**

"Sub-letting Council houses is against the tenancy agreement. It enables dishonest tenants to profit from their subsidised Council home at the expense of families on the Housing Register. Have any cases of sub-letting been uncovered in Kirklees in the last 5 years? What systems are in place to uncover and check this abuse?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(e) **Question by Councillor Judith Hughes to the Leader (Councillor Mehboob Khan)**

"Local residents and businesses are concerned with rising incidences of metal theft. Theft of lead from St Johns Church resulted in almost £1m of damage to the grade 2 listed building, theft of road gulleys has resulted in road traffic accidents on Wakefield Road causing serious injury and the estimated cost of theft of litter is £35,000 for this Council, please can Councillor Khan inform the Council of possible measures to curb these criminal occurrences which the Association of Police Authorities estimate to cost £770 million to the economy?"

The Leader responded thereto.

(f) **Question by Councillor Lisa Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor Peter McBride)**

"Can the Cabinet Member advise how much will it cost to start up the 'Pilot Part Night Switch Off' of an average 77 street lights in each Kirklees ward, and what net saving would this scheme generate in the first year?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(g) **Question by Councillor John Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Shabir Pandor)**

"Further to the question asked at last Council - when can the members for Cleckheaton expect to meet with you to discuss the future of Cleckheaton Town Hall?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(h) **Question by Councillor Kath Pinnock to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillors Cath Harris/Peter O'Neill)**

"As more schools in Kirklees become academies, what actions are being taken by the Council to ensure that there is public, and democratic, accountability for the millions of £s of public money that these schools spend?"

The Cabinet Member (Councillor Harris) responded thereto.

(i) **Question by Councillor Khizar Iqbal to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Cath Harris)**

"Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services explain to me why Thornhill Lees Children's Centre is already being closed by stealth despite a supposed ongoing consultation regarding the future of all Children's Centres which is not yet complete and the outcome of which is unknown?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(j) **Question by Councillor Linda Wilkinson to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor Peter McBride)**

"Are you able to let me know when the cleaning up of the canopy and the replacement of the broken windows at the Co-operative Building on New Street will be carried out as promised?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(k) **Question by Councillor Ann Denham to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor David Sheard)**

"Is there a backlog in footpath works being undertaken by the Public Rights of Way Team?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(l) **Question by Councillor Rochelle Parchment to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Peter O'Neill)**

"Given the fact that Dalton and Rawthorpe have high areas of deprivation how can you justify possibly moving the services from the children centre in Dalton to Huddersfield central while keeping the full range of services in Birkby?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(m) **Question by Councillor Christine Stanfield to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor Peter McBride)**

"The Huddersfield Food Festival is a major festival in the Town and has attracted increasing numbers over the years. Since Huddersfield Town Centre Partnership Limited has increased the rents for stalls so dramatically this year, I have had

numerous companies contact me, as Chair of Huddersfield Area Committee, to say they no longer want to attend. Both York, a ten day affair, and Wakefield are cheaper per day than Huddersfield and stall holders claim that Huddersfield is pricing itself out of the market. Can you tell me what you can do to ensure this festival continues to thrive?"

The Cabinet Member responded thereto.

(n) Question by Andrew Marchington to the Cabinet Member for Place (Councillor David Sheard)

"What further action has been taken to persuade dog owners to clean up, especially on footpaths that children use to walk to school, following the visit of the dog wardens to Golcar last week?"

In the absence of Councillor Sheard, the Leader, Councillor Khan, responded thereto.

125 Adoption of the Tackling Poverty Strategy 2012

Council received, with supporting documentation, a presentation from the Director of Children and Young People and the Director of Public Health on the approach to tackling poverty in Kirklees, including the challenges faced and action taken so far.

It was then moved by Councillor Khan, seconded by Councillor D Hall, and

RESOLVED - The current climate of austerity and budget reductions for public services creates problems for the Council as well as individuals and families. The Council has responsibility to ensure that the resources it has are used in the most effective way possible to support individuals and communities.

This Council therefore recognizes that:

- **Poverty is not just about being on a low income – it is also the cycle of being without power, respect, good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities.**
- **Poverty is a day to day reality for too many Kirklees residents**
- **Without concerted and co-ordinated action across a wide range of issues the number of Kirklees residents living in Poverty could increase over the next few years.**
- **The cost of poverty falls on individuals, families, communities and the taxpayer.**

To respond to the challenges of poverty in Kirklees the Council seeks to adopt the Tackling Poverty in Kirklees Strategy to:

- **Ensure that all councillors and employees demonstrate in their day-to-day work and activity how they put into practice the Council values of being passionate, confident and flexible in helping the residents of Kirklees overcome the effects of poverty.**
- **Co-ordinate the work of the Council (and partners where appropriate) in a time of reducing resources in mitigating the negative impacts of poverty on individuals, families and communities and enhancing positive features through building resilience and raising aspirations and achievement - not just surviving but thriving.**
- **Act as a 'touchstone' against which the planning and impact of policy and services can be tested to ensure we are maximising opportunities to tackle poverty.**

This Council requests Cabinet and the Chief Executive to develop a cross service action plan which focuses on the 5 Challenges, learning, working, housing,

managing, and claiming, ensuring activity is set against two key approaches – involvement and empowerment. Creating a new relationship, where residents and councillors as community leaders are more involved and engaged in the solutions, seeking to do things with people rather than do things to people. This Council further requests that the Executive provides a report on progress in carrying out the action plan within 12 months time.

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Kirklees Fairtrade Campaign

Given the time constraints, Council received a brief presentation from Councillor Julie Stewart Turner on the activities in Kirklees in 2011 in support of the Fairtrade Campaign and the issues to be addressed in taking the matter forward and agreed that the full presentation which was to have been given be emailed to all Members of the Council.