

To: Head of Planning,
Kirklees Council

Service: Town Centre Regeneration
Civic Centre 1
High Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2TA

Tel: 01484 221000

Email: thomas.fish@kirklees.gov.uk

17 November 2025

Re: Planning application references 2025/91122W and 2025/65/91645/W

As Head of Town Centre Regeneration at Kirklees Council, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed redevelopment of Turnbridge Mills, including the relocation and expansion of Paxman Coolers Ltd, as set out in the current planning application.

This scheme is a cornerstone of the Council's adopted Station to Stadium Masterplan (2022) and sits at the heart of the West Yorkshire Health Innovation and Digital Tech Investment Zone (IZ). The IZ is one of only eight nationally, delivering a £160 million package of public investment over ten years to unlock private sector growth, jobs, and innovation. The Huddersfield IZ, and specifically the Station to Stadium Corridor, is central to our ambition to create a world-class health tech ecosystem, anchored by the University of Huddersfield's National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC).

The Council's vision for the town centre is clear: to drive high-value employment, research, and innovation-led growth. While residential development is a key aspiration for the wider town centre, this particular location is reserved for commercial, employment, and R&D uses to maximise the benefits of clustering and knowledge exchange. The proximity to the NHIC is critical, and the proposed scheme directly supports the Council's Inclusive Economy Strategy (2025), which prioritises health and life sciences.

Paxman Coolers Ltd is a globally recognised, innovative SME, headquartered in Huddersfield, with a strong partnership with the University. Their expansion and co-location adjacent to the NHIC will not only secure their future growth and job creation but will also catalyse further investment and innovation in the local health tech cluster. The scheme is time-sensitive, with both the business's operational needs and the availability of IZ grant funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) dependent on timely delivery. WYCA has confirmed that grant support is conditional on Paxman being the named occupier, reflecting the strategic importance of this project.

The wider economic benefits are significant: retention and growth of a key local employer, unlocking expansion for another Kirklees SME (Reliance Precision), and reinforcing Huddersfield's position as a centre for health innovation. The scheme also addresses the acute shortage of suitable industrial and innovation space in the town centre.

I would like to highlight the strategic significance of the IZ and the public/economic benefits of the scheme, the time-critical nature of the opportunity, the lack of alternative sites, and the importance of the WYCA grant in bridging the viability gap.

In conclusion, this proposal (Planning Applications 2025/91122W and 2025/65/91645/W) is key to delivering the Council's economic and regeneration objectives for Huddersfield. I strongly encourage planning colleagues to give the appropriate significant weight to the strategic, economic, and public benefits of the proposal in their assessment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Fish
Head of Town Centre Regeneration