



Name of meeting: District Committee – Kirklees Rural

Date: 21st July 2016

Title of report: Kirklees Rural District Committee Arrangements 2016-17

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/a
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	N/a
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Kimiyo Rickett, Assistant Director for Communities & Leisure, 12/07/16
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	N/A
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance & Monitoring?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	

Electoral [wards](#) affected: Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Golcar, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South, Kirkburton

Ward councillors consulted: All

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

The District Committee is asked to determine the working arrangements for Kirklees Rural District Committee in the Municipal year of 2016/17.

2. Key points

2.1 Moving to a New Council

Over the next three years, the Council will become a radically different, enabling Council. Individuals and communities will need to be supported to do more for themselves and each other in the future. To assist this new way of working District Committees will evolve and develop a vision that adds value to the approach of a New Council at local level.

The Kirklees Vision for a New Council is:

- A Council which connects ideas, people and resources, supporting communities to harness and build on their strengths.
- A Council which safeguards vulnerable citizens but wherever possible, seeks to not just provide a safety net, but also a route to help people control their own lives and to stay safe and well.
- A Council which will continue to provide a consistent level of basic services but will target limited resources as appropriate to meet community needs and strive to maximise the impact of all its services by collaborating with others.
- A Council focused on creating trust, synergy and connections between institutions, business and citizens in Kirklees.

There are two key overarching Council themes which the Council and the District Committees will focus on:

- Early Intervention and Prevention – tackling issues early to delay or prevent bigger problems from occurring. Preventing family breakdown and keeping people healthy for longer.
- Economic Resilience – focus even more on work with partners locally, regionally and nationally to create the conditions where businesses and wealth grow naturally and communities thrive.

2.2 The District Committee Role

The District Committee will continue to forge strong, effective and collaborative relationships with services and partners.

There are a number of key service areas where District Committees can provide strategic overview, influence and performance challenge. These service areas continue to be defined but initially include Education, Community Safety and Housing /tenant liaison.

District Committees are accountable for the following responsibilities delegated by Cabinet:

- Budgets
 - Revenue budget.
 - Remaining capital budget carried forward from 2015-16.
 - New Homes Bonus.

The role also includes:

- Consultation at district level on Kirklees wide strategic planning.
- Setting a local vision and making recommendations to the Cabinet on local priorities.
- Prioritising & influencing services at a district and ward level.
- Residential/visitor parking permits.
- Naming and re-naming of streets in cases of dispute.

2.3 District Committee Plan of Place

The Plan of Place is informed by a district assessment - information and local intelligence about the district. The Plan of Place is a developing three year plan which sets out the committee's vision for the area, its priorities and intended outcomes. The plan will be reviewed and updated periodically as it evolves. The plan is available on the Kirklees Website -

<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s10072/KirkleesRuralPlanofPlace.pdf>

2.4 Local Engagement

The format and frequency of local engagement will be shaped by local ward members. Members use local engagement mechanisms for consultation & discussion on district/ward priorities. Local engagement will inform the strategic direction and priorities of the district committee and budget expenditure.

2.5 Public Meetings

Five meetings will be held this Municipal year. Details will be made available on the Council website, through the local press, and via the District Committee Facebook page.

2.6 Budget

District Committee budgets are set out in the devolved budget report. Decisions on expenditure are made by the District Committee at public meetings.

Fast track commission and discretionary grant arrangements are in place. Approvals are made by the Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities in consultation with the Chair and relevant ward members. The arrangements apply for projects/items under £1,000 and £500 respectively, where there is urgency and a decision cannot wait until the date of the next public meeting.

2.7 Grant Scheme

The District Committee is asked to determine arrangements for operation of a grant scheme including priorities, criteria and schedule of decision making. The proposed grant scheme priorities and criteria for 2016-17 are appended to this report.

2.8 New Homes Bonus

Cabinet on 24th March 2016 approved a revised set of criteria and a pre-application process for the allocation of New Homes Bonus funding. The District Committee will allocate funding on a district wide basis, on presentation of reports outlining the initiatives and match to New Homes criteria.

2.6 Parish Council representation and co-opted membership

Councillors on the committee have decided to invite the local parish and town councils to nominate representatives to serve on the committee in 2016-17 to work with ward councillors raising local issues and developing community projects. In Colne Valley and Golcar wards community representatives have been invited to undertake this role.

The representative and co-opted role is non-voting in terms of the committee's delegated powers. The process of appointment is that the committee will make a recommendation to the full Council meeting which makes the decision to appoint.

3. Implications for the Council

The district committee is a formal committee of the Council with delegated powers and authority.

4. Consultees and their opinions

All ward councillors.

5. Next steps

Arrangements will be progressed as necessary.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the District Committee considers the working arrangements for this Municipal year, as set out above and considers:

- (1) The criteria for the Kirklees Rural grant scheme 2016-17 as set out in the appendix.
- (2) Nominating parish/ town council representatives and co-opted members to the district committee for 2016-17, for recommendation to full Council:

Denby Dale Parish Council – Richard Brook and Maggie Blanshard

Holme Valley Parish Council – Charles Kaye and Judith Roberts

Meltham Town Council – Richard Noon and Paul White

Kirkburton Parish Council – Raymond Franks and Raymond Bray

Colne Valley Ward Co-optees – Callum Gibson, John Shone, Jean Margetts

Golcar Ward Co-optees – Karen Armitage and Michael Moores

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

N/A

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Julie McDowell Area & Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator

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9. Assistant director responsible

Kimiyo Rickett, Assistant Director, Communities and Leisure