

**Name of meeting:** District Committee – Kirklees Rural Public Meeting

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Title of report:** Greenspace Service Standards - Rural District

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan</a>?</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by <a href="#">Scrutiny</a>?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Not signed off</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?</b>	<b>Not signed off</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance &amp; Monitoring?</b>	<b>Not signed off</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Place – Planning, Highways and Open Spaces (Cllr Steve Hall)</b>

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

**Ward councillors consulted:** Councillors Donna Bellamy, David Ridgway, Nicola Turner, Jim Dodds, Graham Turner, Michael Watson, Christine Iredale, Andrew Marchington, Hilary Richards, Charles Greaves, Edgar Holroyd-Doveton, Terry Lyons, Donald Firth, Nigel Patrick, Kenneth Sims, Bill Armer, Robert Barraclough, John Taylor.

**Public or private:** **Public**

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To inform the District Committee of the service standards to be applied to Parks greenspaces in 2016

**2. Key points**

2.0 In 2015 the Authority ran a trial of revised services standards on the maintenance of the Parks and open spaces within Kirklees. This was in response to the required budget saving and the reduction in capacity as a result of that.

2.1 Following this trail a set of standards were shared with elected members to comment on to help inform the decision of officers on the service standards for 2016.

- 2.2 All Councillors were given the opportunity to comment on their own wards within the District Committee area and were provided with a pack including the sites, their size and the proposed service standard (See appendix 2 for a sample pack). In addition the parks and green spaces manager was available to meet with councillors to go over any specific concerns or issues they may have.
- 2.3 Within the District responses were received from Colne Valley, denby Dale, Golcar, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South, Kirkburton Wards, changes have been made to accommodate councillors' requests. (See appendix 1 for 2016 Service standards)
- 2.4 If no representation was made then the service standards will be unchanged from the original proposals.
- 2.5 Over 2016 further work will be done with the third sector, both the volunteer and charity parts to increase the free capacity in Parks and Greenspaces with the development of site based management plans in collaboration with groups, and looking to form new groups as appropriate.
- 2.6 In October 2016 the maintenance status of the sites will be reviewed taking into account the situation at that time, with capacity release from third party groups and such other factors as may be relevant.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

This is part of the delivery programme of changes to meet the budget challenges facing the council.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

All ward councillors in the Rural district have been consulted on the proposed service standards in November 2015 – January 2016.

### **5. Next steps**

The service standards set out will be implemented in April 2016.

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the district committee note the outcome of the consultation and endorse the schedule of service standards for the district in 2016/17.

### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation - n/a**

**Contact officer and relevant papers**

Rob Dalby Parks and Greenspaces Manager. Tel 01484 221000 email  
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Report to Cabinet 22/9/2015 Parks and Open Spaces Standards Part One  
<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=793>

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**8. Assistant Director responsible**

Joanne Bartholomew, Place – Physical Resources and Procurement