

Annual Council

26 May 2010

Decision Summary

Item 9 - Revised Area Governance Arrangements

- (1) That the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee that this Council needs to adopt a fresh approach to Area Governance is welcome. The Council believes that the current arrangements do not represent value for money and that more capacity could be released at ward level to engage with the public of Kirklees and allow for a more strategic approach to governance at Town and Valley level. The Council determines that six Town and Valley Committees are established in the following areas:

Committee	Wards
Spenn Valley	Liversedge & Gomersal, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike
Dewsbury	Dewsbury West, South and East
Batley and Birstall & Birkenshaw	Batley West & East, Birstall & Birkenshaw
Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton	Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton
The Valleys	Golcar, Colne Valley, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South
Huddersfield	Greenhead, Ashbrow, Lindley, Almondbury, Dalton, Newsome, Crosland Moor and Netherton

- (2) That the Huddersfield Committee, which covers seven wards, should appoint a Vice Chair to assist the Chair.
- (3) That the draft terms of reference attached to this Motion be adopted subject to consultation with the Parish Councils, Council Political Groups and Partners.
- (4) That the finalisation of the detailed terms of reference and the membership stemming from the proposed changes be delegated to the Director of Well-being and Communities and the Director of Organisation Development in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, subject to consultation with the Parish Councils and the Council Leader.
- (5) That the new arrangements replace the current structure and be implemented at the start of the municipal year, with dates to be determined in consultation with the appointed chairs.

Proposals for Terms of Reference

Town & Valley Committees

All elected members from the relevant wards, together with any co-optees as approved from time to time by the council, and where Parish Councils exist two members nominated from each Parish Council

- To be accountable for any functions delegated to them by the Cabinet
- In accordance with any guidelines determined by the Cabinet to determine the allocation of revenue and capital budgets identified in the annual budget or capital plan or otherwise, for purposes reflected in community action plans, or, where these are not yet in place, for purposes arising from community engagement in the area and to account for those allocations to the Cabinet.
- To receive summaries of expected levels of service, key performance targets and constraints relating to the delivery of council services in the area and play a role in calling these services to account for local delivery issues.
- To identify local priorities using their knowledge through consultation with residents and others.
- To ensure that sufficient focus is given to reducing inequalities within the area.
- To comment on priorities and implementation arrangements for relevant developments and to receive monitoring information.
- To consider and report and make appropriate recommendations to the council and the Cabinet on area issues.
- Within the context of the Kirklees Community Strategy and with partner organisations to develop a strategic direction and community plan for the area where appropriate.
- To oversee the development of priority neighbourhood plans where those exist in the area.
- To be consulted on Kirklees wide strategic issues, budget setting and service plans where appropriate.
- To contribute to service reviews and scrutiny processes.
- To provide a forum for consultation, community engagement and planning for Neighbourhood Policing Team and health partners.
- To be a focus for community involvement and consultation.
- To carry out such delegated functions as may be determined by the council and the Cabinet and set out in part 3 of the council Constitution.

- To engage in area consultations and participatory budget exercises.
- To contribute, on the basis of local community engagement, to the work of the Kirklees Partnership.

Proposed statement of expectations for activities at ward level

All Ward members acting individually and collectively, working responsively at ward level to address local issues through a range of local structures:

- To be a local figurehead/role-model that people feel they can turn to; be able to shape the local environment by identifying priorities and working with officers and service providers to address problems.
- To be the primary source of intelligence flowing between the community and the council.
- To ensure that focus is given to reducing inequalities at ward level.
- To provide advice, information and recommendations to officers exercising delegated decision making powers on local highways, environmental and streetscene matters.
- To contribute to Neighbourhood Management Group (NMG) activities, providing local intelligence on matters concerning community safety and environmental issues where appropriate. To ensure that activities commissioned by the NMG are undertaken and monitored. To chair Neighbourhood Management Groups as required.
- To exercise community development skills – support and stimulate local projects and initiatives, and educate people about local participation; be a good communicator – explain what political decisions and structures mean to constituents and community organisations; be sensitive to difference and issues of diversity and equality; have knowledge and skills to engage people in a variety of ways (not just meetings); be a conflict broker.
- To understand local problems and use this knowledge locally and strategically in local action planning.
- To develop strong local links with tenants and residents groups.
- To engage with the intensive neighbourhood work in the four priority neighbourhood areas as appropriate.
- To arrange public discussion forums on themes or specific local issues, e.g. anti-social behaviour.
- To provide a forum for specific local consultations.

- To assist in the resolution of local issues which have come through the Councillor Call for Action scrutiny procedures