

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
Date: Friday 16 May 2014

Title of report: Devolution and Local Area Working in 2014/15

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	No
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	28 May 2014
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	29 May 2014
Cabinet member portfolio	Proposal produced on behalf of Councillor David Sheard – Leader of the Council

Electoral [wards](#) affected: All Wards
Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

To consider a proposal of the Leader of the Council for the establishment of District Committees to replace the existing 7 Area Committees.

2. Key points

2.1 At the Budget Council meeting, Councillor David Sheard stated that he would convene a Policy Committee meeting to consider and develop proposals for devolution and local area working in Kirklees from June 2014 onwards. This pledge built on the resolution of Council at its meeting on 4 December 2013 at which a debate had taken place on area committee and neighbourhood working.

2.2 As a result of the Leader's pledge, a meeting of Policy Committee took place on 14 April 2014 at which it was noted that a proposal would be put to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and subsequently the Annual Meeting for the establishment of 4 District Committees, to replace the existing 7 Area Committees.

2.3 **Proposal for District Committees to be established at the Annual Meeting to replace the existing 7 Area Committees**

2.3.1 District Committees to be established on the following basis:-

* **Batley and Spen** - Batley West, Batley East, Birstall and Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Liversedge and Gomersal Wards

* **Dewsbury and Mirfield** - Dewsbury East, Dewsbury West, Dewsbury South and Mirfield Wards

* **Huddersfield** - Almondbury, Ashbrow, Crosland Moor and Netherton, Dalton, Golcar, Greenhead, Lindley and Newsome Wards

* **Kirklees Rural** - Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South and Kirkburton Wards

Note – The names of the Committees are working titles at this stage

2.3.2 District Committees to retain the current delegations of Area Committees, which are set out below, together with their terms of reference

2.3.3 Any subsequent Devolution could be on a cross District Committee boundary basis and will not be restricted to the boundaries of the proposed Committees

Delegated Functions (Delegated by the Executive)

NB: Any such functions may be further delegated by an Area Committee to an officer.

1. In accordance with any guidelines determined by the Executive to determine the allocation of revenue or 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 allocations to Cabinet;

2. To receive summaries of expected levels of service, key performance targets and constraints relating to grounds maintenance and environmental services. To comment on priorities and implementation arrangements for relevant developments and to receive monitoring information.

3. Determinations as to the naming and re-naming of streets in cases of dispute

2.3.3 It is proposed that the membership of District Committees to be made up of all Councillors serving within the relevant areas.

2.3.4 Revisions will be required to the Council's Constitution to take account of the establishment of District committees and it is recommended that these changes be delegated to the Assistant Director, Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

- 2.4 The Leader will establish a Cabinet Working Group to make recommendations on the wider devolution of power for implementation in December 2014. The Leader will allocate a portfolio responsibility for each of the District Committees to an individual Cabinet Member, who will not represent a ward within their allocated district.
- 2.5 The Working Group will work closely with the Chairs of the 4 District Committees in developing proposals for devolution.

3. Implications for the Council

- 3.1 Following discussion at the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee the proposal will be considered at the Annual Meeting on 4 June 2014 with a view to the new arrangements being implemented after the Annual Meeting, pending the introduction of wider Devolution arrangements in December 2014.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Leader's proposals were discussed at the Policy Committee at its meeting on 14 April 2014.

5. Next steps

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee are asked to consider the proposals prior to their submission to the Annual Meeting.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

(1) That the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee consider the Leader's proposals for the establishment of District Committees as set out within the report and refer the item for consideration at the Annual Meeting on 4 June 2014.

(2) That the Annual Meeting be recommended to approve the delegation of authority to make all consequential changes to the Constitution to the Assistant Director Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Councillor David Sheard recommends the adoption of the 4 District Committees as set out in the report to replace the current 7 Area Committees.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Richard Farnhill, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager
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9. Assistant director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Assistant Director Legal, Governance and Monitoring.