

Name of meeting:

Council Date: 22 March

2017

Title of report: Regional Issues Working Party

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 Assistant Director - Legal & Governance? Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Financial Management, Risk, IT and Performance	
Cabinet member portfolio	Not Applicable

Electoral [wards](#) affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Status of Report : Public

1. Purpose of report

To establish a Regional Issues Working Party.

2. Key points

At the meeting of Council on 9 November 2016, Councillor Peter McBride reported on the Transport for the North project as part of his responsibilities to report to Council under the Holding the Executive to Account constitutional requirement. During the ensuing discussion there was consensus that it would be useful to establish an all-party forum to provide the opportunity for discussion to take place with a wider cohort of Councillors on regional developments.

This would assist the Leader and other Councillors, appointed to represent the Council at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other regional bodies, in formulating a position that best represents the interests of Kirklees and its communities.

Purpose:

It is proposed that the Working party will act as a cross party forum for discussing and sharing information on regional infrastructure issues that have long term implication or opportunity for Kirklees.

The Working Party will be advisory and not have any decision making powers. It will help inform the Leader/Deputy Leader and other Councillors who are participating in Regional decision making.

Membership:

Leader and Deputy Leader
Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Economy, Skills, Transformation and Planning
Councillors who are not members of the Executive on a 2:2:2:1:1 ratio.

Terms of Reference:

1. To act as a forum for discussing and sharing information on regional infrastructure issues that have long term implications and/or opportunities for Kirklees.
2. To assist in informing the Leader, Deputy Leader and other Councillors who are participating in Regional decision making, on the best interests of Kirklees and its communities.
3. To provide a cross party opportunity for the raising of issues of concern on Regional issues with the Councils representatives at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other Regional Bodies.

Confidentiality:

Members of the Working Party will have to abide by the direction provided by Councillors representing the Council at a Regional level together with Officers and maintain confidentiality on issues discussed, due to their sensitivity, on matters such as commercial confidentiality, land acquisition, future development opportunities and bids for funding etc.

Frequency of Meetings

The Working Party will meet on a quarterly basis to receive updates on progress on regional activity and will also meet on an ad hoc basis, as and when necessary, to act as a sounding board on key regional issues so as to assist the Council's representatives who participate in regional decision making.

3. Implications for the Council

The Working Party will enhance the Councils ability to ensure that its best interests are pursued when decisions are taken that impact on the Council and its communities at a Regional level.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable.

5. Next steps

If approved, the Working Party will be established and will commence its work as soon as practicably possible.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 1) That approval be given to the establishment of the Regional Issues Working Party in accordance with the Membership and Terms of Reference as set out in the report.

7. Contact officer and relevant papers

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