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| <b>KIRKLEES CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD</b>  |
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2017  |
| <b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b><br><b>Kirklees Democracy Commission Recommendations that the Children and Young People's Partnership Board could have a role in implementing</b>  |
| <p><b>1. Purpose of paper:</b></p> <p>To enable to Board to identify possible opportunities to support the implementation of the Kirklees Democracy Commission's recommendations.</p>  |
| <p><b>2. Background:</b></p> <p>Kirklees Democracy Commission has been investigating what a strong and healthy local democracy should look like in Kirklees – for the next generation and beyond. The Commission's report is based on a year of evidence-gathering and debate, in which over 1,000 people participated. A full copy of the report is available on the Commission's website <a href="http://www.democracycommission.org.uk">www.democracycommission.org.uk</a></p> <p>The report includes ideas for working with active citizens, making the most of digital technologies and culture, suggestions about councillors, decision-making and elections, and how we can get local voices heard in regional devolution.</p> <p>The Commission made 48 recommendations that could help shape how both local and national democracy could develop over the next decade. A cross party working group of councillors will be established to facilitate this process. The recommendations set out in the Appendix are those of specific relevance to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Plan recognises that implementation of the Democracy Commission recommendations as one of the 6 key programme areas that the Plan will deliver. This will make a significant contribution to one of the 5 outcomes the Plan is seeking to achieve – 'children and young people feel valued and contribute to society'.</p> |
| <p><b>3. Proposal:</b></p> <p>That the Board discuss the Democracy Commission recommendations and identify how the Board and partner organisations can contribute to informing and implementing the recommendations.</p>   |
| <p><b>6. Next Steps:</b></p> <p>Over coming months the Council will begin to explore the development of an Active Citizens Strategy as part of implementing the recommendations of the Commission. The Board and partners represented on the Board will be encouraged to play a full part in the process.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. Recommendations:</b></p> <p>That the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the recommendations of the Democracy Commission that the Board could have a role in informing and implementing and identify what role the Board can take in implementing the recommendations.</li> <li>• Encourage partner organisations to contribute to the development and implementation of the Kirklees Active Citizens Strategy.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>8. Contact Officer Carl Whistlecraft</b><br/>Head of Democracy, Kirklees Council <a href="mailto:carl.whistlecraft@kirklees.gov.uk">carl.whistlecraft@kirklees.gov.uk</a></p>  |

## Appendix

1. Kirklees Council should make Active Citizenship a shared strategic priority and use this as a basis for developing a new democratic relationship between all Kirklees citizens and the state.
2. Kirklees Council should ensure that schools play a central role as local democratic hubs as part of the delivery of an Active Citizens Strategy. This should involve designing (and putting into practice) a range of approaches which will create pathways for young citizens to become involved in civic society, including raising awareness about being a councillor. These could include:
  - Designing local democracy resources for Kirklees schools to be used in the context of civic education.
  - Strengthening the links between local councillors and the schools in their wards through programmed “school surgeries” as part of citizenship education.
  - Working with the National Citizen Service to develop a mentoring scheme, to be piloted in Kirklees.
  - Working with the Local Government Association (LGA) to develop a young councillor “apprenticeship” scheme, to be piloted in Kirklees.
  - Working with the University of Huddersfield and local colleges to develop a structured approach to work placement.
  - Developing a mentoring scheme between Kirklees Councillors and Kirklees Youth Councillors;
  - Kirklees Council should work with local businesses to develop the idea of “Business Citizenship” as part of delivering an Active Citizens Strategy with our partners;
14. Kirklees Council should revisit our approach to consultation. We should place a greater emphasis on appropriate, timely citizen engagement as part of the policy development and decision-making process. We should test this on a pilot basis to begin with, and consider models of good practice from elsewhere.
16. Kirklees Council should continue to support the innovative approaches we have developed to electoral outreach work as a means of ensuring that registration levels are maintained and continue to rise beyond the period of central government funding for Individual Electoral Registration (IER);
19. All schools in Kirklees should be encouraged where appropriate to make their premises available to be used as a polling station on the day of an election.
25. Kirklees Council should engage with local citizens to address the issue of local identity. Local devolution and governance are an ongoing challenge. We should be clearer about our local identity so that we can make a strong and powerful contribution to regional discussions;
26. Kirklees Council should develop local approaches to strategic planning and priority setting (within different parts of Kirklees), based on the findings of our engagement work with citizens on local identity;
27. Kirklees Council, together with our partners, should do some pilot work to explore innovative approaches to planning and priority setting in a particular area of Kirklees. This work should make use of some of the successful practice that the Democracy Commission have discovered as part of our work.