



Name of meeting: Corporate Scrutiny Panel

Date: Thursday 19 April 2018

Title of report: Kirklees Democracy Commission - Update

Purpose of report

To update the Corporate Scrutiny Panel on the work of the Kirklees Democracy and in particular progress since the last update on 20 October 2017.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Jacqui Gedman, Chief Executive
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Cathy Scott

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: All ward councillors have had the opportunity to consider the Commission's report and recommendations at the extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 10 May 2017 and at the Council meeting on 15 November 2017.

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

The [Kirklees Democracy Commission](#) has now reported its [findings](#). The Commission's work has received significant national profile. The ground breaking draft report, containing 48 recommendations, was discussed at Council on 10 May 2017, was launched on 30 June 2017 and finally agreed by Council on 15 November 2017.

In agreeing the report on 15 November 2017 Council agreed that a cross party working group should be established to oversee the delivery of future work. The first meeting took place on 2 March 2018.

Corporate Panel now has the opportunity to consider the progress since 20 October 2017 from an Overview and Scrutiny perspective and begin to explore the ways in which further contributions can be made to the next phases of the work.

2. Information required to take a decision

At the first meeting of the Cross Party Working Group on 2 March 2018 members considered and agreed the following:

- Terms of Reference for the Working Group (attached at Appendix 1);
- The Programme governance arrangements (attached at Appendix 2);
- The progress made against recommendations thus far (attached at Appendix 3);
- The priority recommendations that should provide the focus of early work (attached at Appendix 4).

In terms of next steps, work is now underway to develop a series of project mandates which will be used as a basis for more detailed dialogue with the Working Group. They will provide an initial set of proposals as to how specific projects may be progressed, subject to steer and sign off from the Working Group.

In the context of the above it will be helpful to explore in more detail the ways in which Overview and Scrutiny can proactively inform and contribute to specific pieces of work as they are planned and progressed.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

The focus on a citizen-led approach, in the context of the Active Citizen, has the potential to contribute to the delivery of EIP outcomes.

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

The focus on the notion "Business Citizenship" has the potential to contribute to the delivery of ER outcomes

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

The focus on civic pathways for young citizens has the potential to contribute to improving outcomes for children.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

To be determined following the outcome of future discussions in the context of the Cross Party Working Group's priorities.

3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

To be determined following the outcome of future discussions in the context of the Cross Party Working Group's priorities.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The following have been consulted on the approach set out in this report and endorse it as a way forward:

- The Chief Executive;
- Cllr Cathy Scott, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Democracy Commission;

5. Next steps

In line with the Commission's expectations the Head of Democracy will have strategic responsibility for progressing work required to deliver the intended outcomes and underpinning recommendations which will be shaped by the resolution of Council. Now that there is a clear sense of priority as to specific recommendations to progress it is envisaged that work can now begin to develop at a swifter pace.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Corporate Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider and note the information set out in this report;
- Consider the progress made against recommendations delegated to the Head of Democracy and in particular inform their development from a scrutiny perspective;
- Consider the implication for Overview and Scrutiny now that the Working Group has identified a suite of priority recommendations to progress.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

That Corporate Scrutiny Panel agrees the officer recommendation.

8. Contact officer

Carl Whistlecraft. Head of Democracy
Carl.whistlecraft@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

All background information on the Commission's work (including formal reports, background papers, evidence and research) can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

10. Service Director responsible

Jacqui Gedman, Chief Executive

Cross Party Working Group –Terms of Reference

Membership:

Councillors A Cooper, Light, Marchington, Scott, Sheard, Taylor and Walker

Draft Terms of Reference

- To provide a councillor steer and have oversight of the planning and delivery of the Commission's recommendations (as appropriate)
- To inform, and as appropriate lead and champion, specific strands of work both inside and outside the Council;
- To undertake or commission pilot work in order to test and prototype, from a councillor perspective, before wider roll out and implementation;
- To be a conduit between the Working Group and respective political groups in order to inform work as it develops;
- To work in a way that is consistent with the principles adopted by the Commission:
 - Everything starts with the citizen
 - Working in the open
 - Having a partnership approach
 - Evidence led

Frequency of Meetings:

The Working Group will meet every 6 weeks.

Ways of Working:

- All meetings of the Working Group will take place in public and will be webcast unless the business under consideration determines otherwise;
- Meetings will provide an opportunity for the following:
 - Prioritise recommendations and subsequent areas of work from a councillor perspective;
 - Commission specific activity to progress recommendations;
 - Receive an overview of progress in delivering the Commission's recommendations and an opportunity to raise any project or programme issues and risks;