

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: Friday 17 May 2019

Title of report: Locality Lead Role

Purpose of report

To propose the creation of a new Locality Lead role for councillors with effect from the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

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?	No
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 <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer Henshall - 9 May 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	Eamon Croston - 9 May 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 9 May 2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Shabir Pandor, Leader of the Council

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. **Summary**

In the context of the council's strategic approach to Place Based Working the Leader, in dialogue with the Chief Executive, has asked that a new councillor role of Locality Lead is created in the context of the wider Members Allowances Scheme.

This report seeks to explain the role and thereafter propose a mechanism for its creation and subsequent consideration by the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

The Council's approach to place-based working is progressing. This involves the development of a locality based approach to exploring and progressing certain issues that are best addressed at this level. It acknowledges that not all issues and challenges are best addressed at either a Ward or borough-wide level. It is important that this work has cross-party councillor oversight in terms of its development and focus

As part of this developing approach the Leader of the Council, in dialogue with the Chief Executive, recognises the importance of elected councillor leadership at a locality level. He has therefore proposed the creation of a new role of Locality Lead (draft role profile attached) which would be allocated on a 4:1:1:1 ratio covering the following:

- Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw;
- Spen Valley;
- Dewsbury;
- Huddersfield North;
- Huddersfield Central;
- Huddersfield Rural;
- Colne Valley

In the first instance the Leader wishes for these roles to be established and agreed by Council in order for Locality Leads to begin to take on new responsibilities and collectively work with officers to progress locality working in more detail. The intention is that they are in place at the beginning of the new Municipal Year

In the near future the role will be considered by the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel who will determine where the role sits in the banding arrangements in the Allowances Scheme

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People** – Locality working, and our wider approach to place-based working, is wholly predicated on working outwards from communities with a strong focus on genuine engagement and dialogue. The proposals set out in this report should be seen within this context.

3.2 **Working with Partners** – Locality working is being developed in a way that recognises the need for certain issues to be discussed and addressed at a locality level. They are of the type e.g. mental health that demand wider

partnership dialogue, co-production and solutions. Partnership working will be at the heart of our developing approach to locality working.

- 3.3 **Place Based Working** – Locality working is an important part of our developing approach to place based working.
- 3.4 **Improving outcomes for children** – Locality working will inevitably incorporate the consideration, discussion and progression of issues that will improve outcomes for children within those seven localities.
- 3.5 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)** – The Members Allowances Independent Review Panel will consider the proposed role in the context of the wider Allowances Scheme.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

The proposal to establish the role of Locality Lead was considered at the Chief Executive's Leading Members meeting on 1 April 2019 where indicative support was given.

The following have been consulted on the contents of this report and agree with the proposals contained therein:

The Leader of the Council;
The Chief Executive;
The Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

5. **Next steps and timelines**

The proposal will be considered at the meeting of Annual Council on 22 May 2019. Given the scheduling, this item has been included on the agenda for Annual Council. Any comments arising from consideration by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will be fed into the discussion which will take place at Annual Council. Subject to approval the role will be considered by the Members Allowances Independent review Panel at a date to be determined.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That Corporate Governance and Audit Committee consider the proposal to establish the role of Locality Lead;

That thereafter, Council is recommended to establish the role of Locality Lead (as set out in the attached role profile) on a 4:1:1:1 basis;

That the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel consider the role in the context of the wider scheme

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

That the officer recommendations be approved.

8. **Contact officer**

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

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

10. **Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer Henshall, Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

Locality Lead Councillor

Leading, Representing and Working Together

A Kirklees Locality Lead Councillor will work with the designated Cabinet Lead Member to develop and implement Place Based Working within a geographical area using a topic or theme based approach. They will:

- Provide leadership at a locality level to facilitate the involvement of councillors, officers and partners;
- Commission intelligence and insight to facilitate the identification of topics that are a priority for the respective locality in the context of the 7 shared outcomes;
- Identifying, supporting and building community capacity in the context of locality working
- Inform the approach to citizen engagement and thereafter have oversight of the engagement activities that will be used to discuss the topic identified;
- Ensure that locality stakeholders, community organisations and the VCS are involved in such engagement;
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with officers and partners to facilitate the delivery of locality responsibilities;
- Facilitate partnership working with other agencies in the context of citizen engagement activity and responding to the outcomes of such work;
- Oversee the development and implementation of identified actions, resource allocation and commissioned activity in response to commissioned work;
- Monitor progress against agreed actions in the context of delivering against outcomes;
- Work effectively with the media
- Be a confident and effective public speaker

Locality Lead Councillor

Governance and Decision Making

A Kirklees Locality Lead Councillor:

- Have responsibility for, and provide a lead on, the initiation and development of the approach within each locality.
- Ensure that the work taking place in the locality for which they are responsible is reported into the relevant council and partnership governance structures;
- Consider and have regard to professional officer advice when taking decisions.
- Work proactively and constructively with ward councillors within the respective locality.
- Attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels to discuss the work for which they are responsible (as appropriate)