

Kirklees Community Governance Review, Stage 1 Consultation

Appendix 1

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1. Kirklees Community Governance Review

Section 1 – Relevant Background Information

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 The Kirklees Community Governance Review (CGR) consists of two distinct phases of public consultation:

- Stage 1 – a general opportunity to make representations relevant to the terms of reference
- Stage 2 – a more focused consultation on specific proposals

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and analysis of the responses to the first stage of consultation and to set out draft recommendations. The second phase of consultation will seek views on those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.

1.2 Aims and objectives of the Kirklees Community Governance Review

1.2.1 The review focuses on those areas of Kirklees which are currently parished and relevant adjoining land, to enable the Council to consider if any changes are needed to existing parish arrangements.

1.2.2 The consultation provides an opportunity for local people to express their views about parish arrangements, boundaries and governance structures in the areas under review.

1.2.3 The aim of the review is to ensure that parish council arrangements are relevant to local communities and reflect local identities and interests.

1.3 The review process and timescales

1.3.1 A public notice launching the review was published on 1 October 2025, marking the start of a ten-week consultation period. During this stage, stakeholders were invited to submit comments and proposals on current parish arrangements in line with the terms of reference.

1.3.2 The consultation closed on 12 December 2025. This report summarises the findings from that initial consultation and sets out draft recommendations for the next stage, which will be subject to further public consultation from 9 February to 20 April 2026.

1.3.3 Following this second phase, the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will make final recommendations for future parish arrangements, for approval by full Council in September 2026.

1.4 Terms of Reference

1.4.1 The Council has power under Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct CGRs. A CGR must be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 100(4) of the 2007 Act.

1.4.2 A Review must involve consultation with local people and stakeholders, and consider any representations received.

1.4.3 It is deemed good practice to complete a review within 12 months, with the final recommendations subject to approval by Council.

1.4.4 A CGR is carried out by the principal council and is used to look at the whole or part of a district.

1.4.5 The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 allows principal councils to determine the terms of reference under which a community governance review is to be undertaken. It requires the terms of reference to specify the area under review and the principal council to publish the terms of reference. If any modifications are made to the terms of reference, these must also be published.

1.4.6 On 16th July 2025, Full Council agreed the undertaking of a Community Governance Review in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance, and in line with Corporate Governance & Audit Committee's (CG&AC) terms of reference, to delegate to the Committee to agree the terms of reference of the review and oversee delivery.

1.4.7 In accordance with the terms of reference and timeline agreed by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 26th September 2025, the Community Governance Review formally commenced on 1st October 2025.

1.4.8 The Review is focused on those areas of Kirklees which are currently parished and relevant adjoining land, to enable the Council to consider if any changes are needed to existing parish arrangements.

1.4.9 At present, there are five parish and town councils in Kirklees:

- Denby Dale Parish Council
- Holme Valley Parish Council
- Kirkburton Parish Council
- Meltham Town Council
- Mirfield Town Council

1.4.10 The Review must consider whether community governance arrangements within the areas under review are:

- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- effective and convenient to the community in that area

and make recommendations with regard to:

- Creating, abolishing, merging or altering parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes

- The electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of election, the number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding; and
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping existing parishes.

In doing to, the review is required to take into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

1.4.11 The full terms of reference for the review can be viewed here: [Terms of Reference, Kirklees Community Governance Review](#)

Section 2 – Summary and analysis of submissions

2.1 Consultation

2.1.1 The review was extensively publicised, and stakeholders were provided with multiple submission options to ensure broad and inclusive consultation.

2.1.2 Interested parties were invited to respond through a range of channels, including electronically via the Council's website, by email, or by letter. A dedicated contact number was also made available for stakeholders requiring assistance or wishing to receive information in an alternative format.

2.1.3 Submissions were accepted in any format, but the consultation documentation and questionnaire – which included both open free text boxes and closed questions to gather feedback - particularly encouraged respondents to provide feedback in relation to the themes of 'contact', 'representation', 'consultation', 'boundaries / wards' and 'serving the community'; and whether in their view any changes to parish arrangements were needed. Respondents were encouraged to refer to the terms of reference before making a submission.

2.1.4 Information on the current structure of the five parishes and their electoral arrangements, which included polling district(s), councillors, electorate, electoral forecast data and wards (where applicable) were provided, in addition to maps of the areas which are currently in a parish.

2.1.5 Key stakeholders were directly contacted and invited to make a submission. The main communication channels used to publicise the review were:

- A dedicated webpage containing information about the review and an online submission form, with options to submit responses via post or email.
- Social media messaging at the start of the review, with reminder posts close to the end of the review.
- Press release and article in Kirklees Together.
- Email to Parish Clerks, providing them with all relevant information needed to publicise the review in their local communities and on Council websites and local noticeboards.

- Information on the review was included in newsletters our Active Citizens and Places Team send out to contacts in each ward in September/ October - comprising of community groups, school, businesses, residents, councillors and Kirklees staff who have a community remit.
- Email to the borough's MPs informing them of the Review.
- Email to all the borough's public libraries, requesting copies of the notice of the review be displayed on public noticeboards.
- An article in 'Our Week' seeking support from Council staff in signposting stakeholders to the Council's website and encouraging participation.
- Attendance at each of the Council's four place-based working meetings during October – led by the Council's Active Citizens and Places Team - to brief frontline, community-based staff on the Review.

2.1.6 The volume and nature of responses varied across the five parish and town councils. In addition, several submissions addressed issues relating to parish and town councils in general terms, and there were some suggestions regarding the potential creation of new parishes.

2.2 Summary of responses received and draft recommendations

2.2.1 Consultation responses received during first phase of the review have been analysed in accordance with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's guidance on community governance reviews and in line with the published terms of reference.

2.2.2 Members of a cross-service Community Governance Review Working Group have met to consider the responses to the consultation and to make recommendations to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

2.2.3 A total of 155 Consultation responses were received from residents, local businesses, community groups and organisations, Parish and Town Councils, Kirklees District Councillors and the Returning Officer.

2.2.4 Of the responses received, 80% of respondents chose to comment on specific councils, and 21% chose to go directly to the 'suggest a new parish council' section.

2.2.5 The distribution of consultation responses relating to the existing five Parish and Town Councils was as follows:

- Kirkburton Parish Council - 34%
- Holme Valley Parish Council - 27%
- Denby Dale Parish Council - 19%
- Mirfield Town Council - 13%
- Meltham Town Council - 10%

2.3 Denby Dale Parish Council

2.3.1 Denby Dale Parish Council currently represents 13,644 electors. The Parish Council is made up of 20 councillors across 4 Wards:

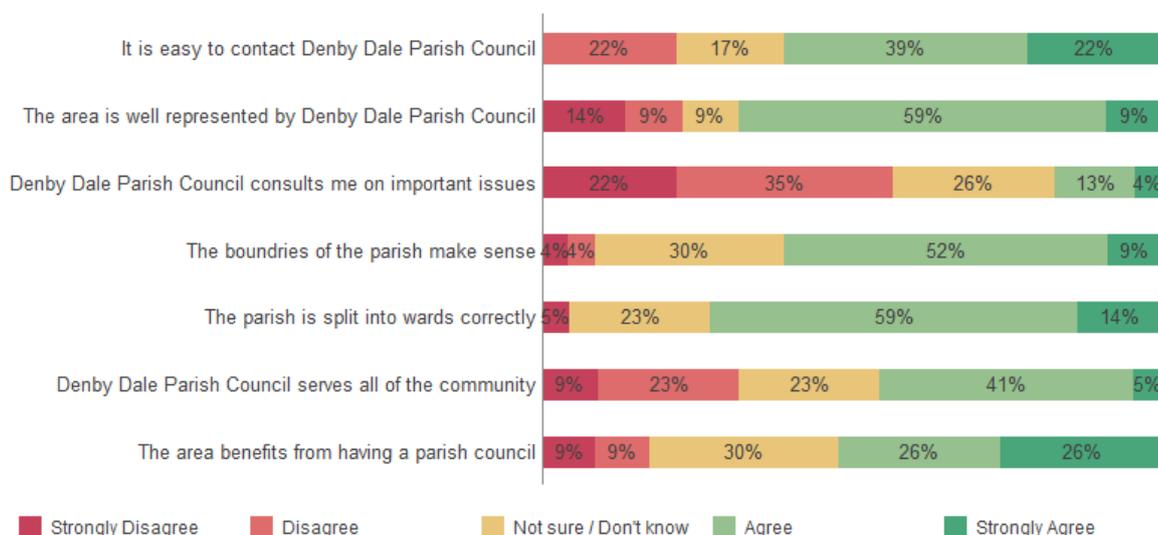
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	No. of Cllrs	Electorate forecast
Denby Dale Parish Council	Clayton West Ward	DD1-0	4	2614
	Denby Dale and Cumberworth	DD2-O, DD3-O, DD4-O	6	4784
	Skelmanthorpe	DD5-O, DD6-O, DD7-O	6	5733
	Emley	DD8-O, DD9-O	4	1613

Current structure of Denby Dale Parish Council

2.3.2 Summary of responses

2.3.3 A total of 23 responses were received regarding Denby Dale Council. Over half of respondents agreed to some extent that the Parish Council is accessible, represents the area well, is divided into wards correctly and believe that the area benefits from having a Parish Council. 46% of respondents agreed to some extent that the Council serves all the community and 17% agreed to some extent that the Council consults them on important issues.

Current Parish Arrangements - Denby Dale



Summary of responses on current Arrangements - Denby Dale Parish Council

2.3.4 Contact, representation, consultation and serving the community

2.3.5 There were twelve direct comments relating to Denby Dale Parish Council. Some respondents highlighted the role the Council plays in addressing the unique priorities of the area and providing community support. While two respondents felt some councillors could be more visible, this was framed alongside recognition of those who are actively engaged. There was a call for increased funding, to ensure communities continue to receive the representation and resources they need, and for a stronger influence over matters such as the environment, citing

tree and hedge preservation matters, and planning, reflecting concerns about development pressure:

- *“I value Denby Dale parish council. A semi-rural area has its own priorities and these needs should be recognised and addressed. I do not feel that Kirklees Council, as a whole, in any way represents and supports such areas. More funding should be provided to these areas”*
- *“Our community is fantastically supported by the Denby Dale Parish Council”*

2.3.6 One respondent noted that communication and consultation with the wider community to establish what is needed in the area could be improved. Another felt that outreach efforts often rely on individual initiative and two respondents questioned whether the Council provided value for money.

2.3.7 Boundaries and Wards

2.3.8 Respondents raised mixed views on boundaries and ward arrangements. One submission suggested reviewing village population sizes and councillor numbers. Another expressed concern that Denby Dale Parish Council’s current boundaries are too large, making it difficult to represent all areas effectively. Suggestions included creating two smaller councils to work collaboratively, aiming to improve coverage and engagement. However, no specific details were provided on how such a split might be structured.

2.3.9 A further comment noted that the existing structure may concentrate attention and resources on larger settlements, with calls for more equitable representation and funding across all villages

2.3.10 One detailed submission suggested that the current Denby Dale Parish Council boundary is inappropriate, as it covers a large area more akin to the former Urban District Council. They proposed breaking up the existing council into several smaller parish councils to better reflect and represent individual villages.

2.3.11 The submission emphasised that smaller councils would improve representation and engagement across communities.

Draft proposals for Stage 2

- Given the responses relating to Denby Dale Parish Council did not present any significant or detailed proposals for change, there are no specific proposals for Stage 2 Consultation for this parish.

2.4 Holme Valley Parish Council

2.4.1 Holme Valley Parish Council currently represents 21,746 electors. The Parish Council is made up of 23 councillors across 12 Wards:

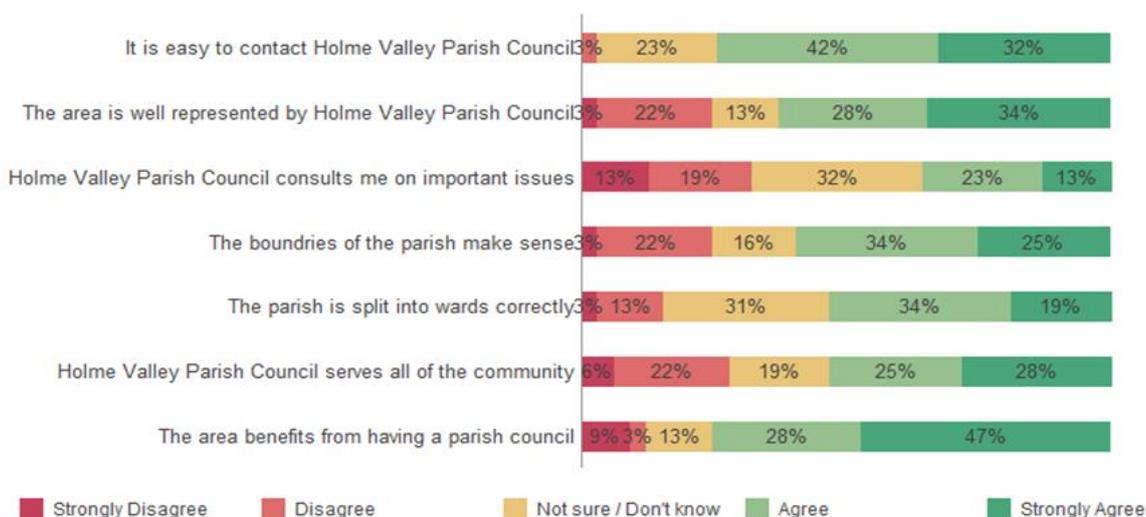
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	No. of Cllrs	Electorate forecast
Holme Valley Parish Council	Brockholes Ward	HN1-C	1	1469
	Fulstone Ward	HS5-C	2	1752
	Hepworth Ward	HS4-C	1	893
	Holmfirth Central	HS8-C	2	2033
	Honley Central and East Ward	HN2-C	3	2512
	Honley South Ward	HN3-C	1	1153
	Honley West Ward	HN4-C	2	1672
	Netherthong Ward	HS9-C	2	1845
	Scholes Ward	HS3-C, HS6-C	2	2228
	Upper Holme Valley Ward	HS1-C, HS2-C	2	2076
	Upperthong Ward	HS10-C	2	2307
	Wooldale Ward	HS7-C	3	3529

Current structure of Holme Valley Parish Council

2.4.2 Summary and analysis of responses

2.4.3 A total of 34 responses were received regarding Holme Valley Parish Council. Over half of respondents agreed to some extent that the Parish Council is accessible, serves the whole community, represents the area well, is divided into wards correctly and believe that the area benefits from having a Parish Council. 36% of respondents agreed to some extent that the Council consults them on important issues.

Current Parish Arrangements - Holme Valley



Summary of responses on current Arrangements – Holme Valley Parish Council

2.4.4 Contact, representation, consultation and serving the community

2.4.5 There were 26 direct comments relating to Holme Valley Parish Council. Some respondents noted that Parish Councillors are proactive and easy to contact, others emphasised the significant impact of the Council's grants scheme in enabling and sustaining local events and groups, describing this support as essential to their success. Additional comments reflected the broader influence the Council has within the local area and across communities. Illustrative comments include:

- *"I feel very lucky to have a parish council who understand the needs of our specific local area. We were able to apply for a grant to launch a new festival and without their support, this would not have been able to go ahead. At least half of the councillors from the HVPC came to the event or have actively supported, encouraged and promoted the event in the community. This is such a positive force in the local area to have"*
- *"The Holme Valley Parish Council do great things for our community. They are wanted and needed! They financially support key events and more permanent groups... without their support we would not be still running today. Very valuable asset to our community"*
- *"Our councillors are very proactive and visible in the community"*
- *There is no need to change the Parish Councils as they work perfectly well for the communities they cover. The Local Parish Councillors live locally and are easy to contact"*

2.4.6 Key themes raised during the initial consultation

2.4.7 Boundaries/Wards

2.4.8 The dominant theme emerging from consultation responses was strong support for splitting Honley and Brockholes from Holme Valley Parish to form two new councils. This included a formal request from Holme Valley Parish Council (outlined in its response below) for this option to be taken forward to the next stage of consultation to gather wider views.

Illustrative comments include:

- *"We need a parish council for Honley/ Brockholes because we are currently merged with Holmfirth and it has become too large and not enough is being done for Honley"*
- *"Holme valley council is too big and mainly represents Holmfirth and not the outlying areas. It should be split and a new parish of Honley and Brockholes created"*
- *"Honley and Brockholes should have its own local council and HVPC should just cover the area of the Kirklees HV South ward. The power of a local council is its direct connection to the community - focused on our issues and priorities – I believe that HVPC lost this connection many years ago. A more focused council offers the chance to cut through the delays and argument and ends the fairness issues of who gets what. The financial reality is that there are no cost efficiencies from a larger council – many smaller councils are more cost effective...Two smaller councils, one based around Holmfirth and the other around Honley would give a greater connection to place and a clearer focus on the issues and priorities of those communities. The two new councils should work together and co-operate on common issues but focus their efforts to their own priorities"*
- *Revert into Holmfirth Parish and Honley Parish... splitting the current parish into two by using Kirklees Holme Valley North and South boarder.... Assets from Holme Valley Parish will split into the new parish councils. Honley Parish Council, number of overall councillors: 9, keeping wards from HVPC: Honley East and Central (3), Brockholes (2),*

Honley South (2) and Honley West (2). Holmfirth Parish Council, number of overall councillors: 17, keeping wards from HVPC: Netherthong (2), Holmfirth Central (3), Wooddale (3), Fulstone (2), Upper Holme Valley (2), Upperthong (2), Hepworth (1) and Scholes (2).

2.4.9 A single submission proposed reducing the number of councillors within Holme Valley Parish Council but provided no suggestion on numbers and several additional submissions proposed alternative governance models for the Holme Valley area:

- One submission expressed strong support for extending the Holme Valley Parish to include Netherton Village and its immediate surroundings to align the natural geography and community ties of the area, citing overdue change, better representation, identity and access to resources and funding; suggesting the inclusion of the following polling districts: Netherton East (NH1), Netherton West (NH2) and South Crosland (NH3).
- One respondent proposed creating a new parish by splitting Honley from Holme Valley and combining it with nearby communities Netherton, Berry Brow, Armitage Bridge, Newsome, Almondbury, and Farnley Tyas. The submission highlighted shared characteristics, including mixed housing and strong community groups, and suggested that forming a single parish could foster greater collaboration, expand community activities, and deliver wider local benefits.
- One submission suggested that Honley, Netherton, Armitage Bridge, and South Crosland share more in common with each other than Honley does with the upper Holme Valley area. The respondent highlighted shared characteristics such as transport links, natural features, and school catchment areas.
- Another respondent proposed merging Holme Valley and Meltham Councils and extending the boundary to include the new Newsome Ward, suggesting this would create efficiencies and form a “true Holme Valley Council.”

2.4.10 Whilst most respondents who commented on boundaries and ward structures proposed alternative governance models for the existing parish, some expressed satisfaction with the current arrangements, with one suggesting an increase in localised powers:

- *“There is no need to change the Parish Councils as they work perfectly well for the communities they cover”*
- *“Leave Holme Valley parish council as it is”*
- *“Holme Valley Parish Council should be retained, and its powers should be increased since (a) its members know the area and its people well (b) its members are more interested in benefits to local people...”*

2.4.11 Parish Council submission

Ward or other name changes

2.4.12 There was very broad support for requesting that the wards of Fulstone and Scholes should have name changes which more appropriately reflect their present-day composition and to help the electorate to understand and identify with the ward in which they live but also retain the historic identity. We therefore propose the new names of New Mill & Fulstone and Scholes & Hade Edge and ask that this go forward in the next stages of the CGR Public Consultation.

We believe that, in addition to our local knowledge of the communities, the data on the distribution of the village populations justify this proposal.

2.4.13 The consultation has triggered debate about the style (name) of the Holme Valley Parish Council and significant, but not unanimous, opinion that the term 'Parish' is out-dated and inappropriate, causes confusion and possibly sometimes leads to the public's reluctance to engage with it. Having reviewed the relevant Local Government Boundary Commission rules based on the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 and taken advice from Kirklees Council officers, we understand that a change of style is an available option within the powers of the Parish Council itself, with 'Town Council' being an option. It does not form part of the CGR and would not change the legal powers and duties. We will ask the Clerk to schedule a formal debate on this matter at Full Council within the current municipal year.

Changes to ward sizes, distribution, or representation arrangements

2.4.14 It is our view that the sizes of the individual Parish Wards appear broadly proportionate and should remain unchanged. We do not want to divide established communities and there are no proposals to alter the boundaries.

2.4.15 There appears to be some interest amongst members of this Council in dividing the Council into two, separating the Honley and Brockholes wards from the rest of the Holme Valley and therefore forming two new Councils. We ask that this option goes forward in the next stages of the CGR Public Consultation and can provide greater detail if required.

2.4.16 We have noted that Brockholes stands out as a ward where the representation ratio appears exceptional, both in comparison with other wards in the Holme Valley and also with any Parish/ Town ward in Kirklees. We take the view that a second seat for the Brockholes ward would bring its representation ratio down to a more reasonable level. This would increase the whole Council to 24 seats, which appears to be consistent with the NALC guidance on appropriate representation for the size of our electorate.

2.4.17 Returning Officer Submission

2.4.18 In line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance on the recommended number of Councillors, the number of Councillors in Brockholes ward should increase to 2.

2.4.19 We would recommend that the three parish ward areas that cover the community of Honley – Honley Central and East Ward, Honley South Ward and Honley West Ward - including the outlying rural areas, due to their strong shared community identity should be merged into a single parish ward.

2.4.20 We would propose that the three Honley wards remain separate polling districts to allow adequate access to polling stations, but they make up a single ward 'Honley ward'. This new single ward would equate to approximately 5337 electors and should be represented by 6 Councillors.

2.4.18 Draft Proposals for Stage 2

2.4.19 The following proposals aim to retain and strengthen local governance where it is valued and effective, improve representation and community connection by considering changes for Honley and Brockholes, enhance clarity and engagement through ward name changes and adjustments to representation and respond to community feedback, while adhering to guidance and statutory requirements:

- In line with the National Association of Local Councils guidance on Councillor numbers, the number of Councillors in Brockholes ward increase to 2.
- Honley Central and East Ward, Honley South Ward and Honley West Ward be merged into a single parish ward, represented by 6 councillors, in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance, reflecting their strong shared community identity (see associated map).
- The three Honley parish wards, together with the Brockholes Ward (currently part of Holme Valley Parish Council), are separated, to form a new 'Honley Parish Council'. This new Parish Council would comprise of 6,806 electors.
- The remaining Holme Valley Parish Council would then comprise of the following Wards, made up of 16,663 electors:
 - Fulstone Ward
 - Hepworth Ward
 - Holmfirth Central Ward
 - Netherthong Ward
 - Scholes Ward
 - Upper Holme Valley Ward
 - Upperrthong Ward
 - Wooldale Ward
- The names of Fulstone and Scholes Wards change to New Mill & Fulstone and Scholes & Hade Edge

2.4.20 Section 3.1 of this appendix contains a map depicting the proposed parish boundary for Holme Valley Parish Council and Honley and Brockholes Parish Council.

2.5 Kirkburton Parish Council

2.5.1 Kirkburton Parish Council currently represents 19701 electors. The Parish Council is made up of 25 Councillors, across 8 Wards:

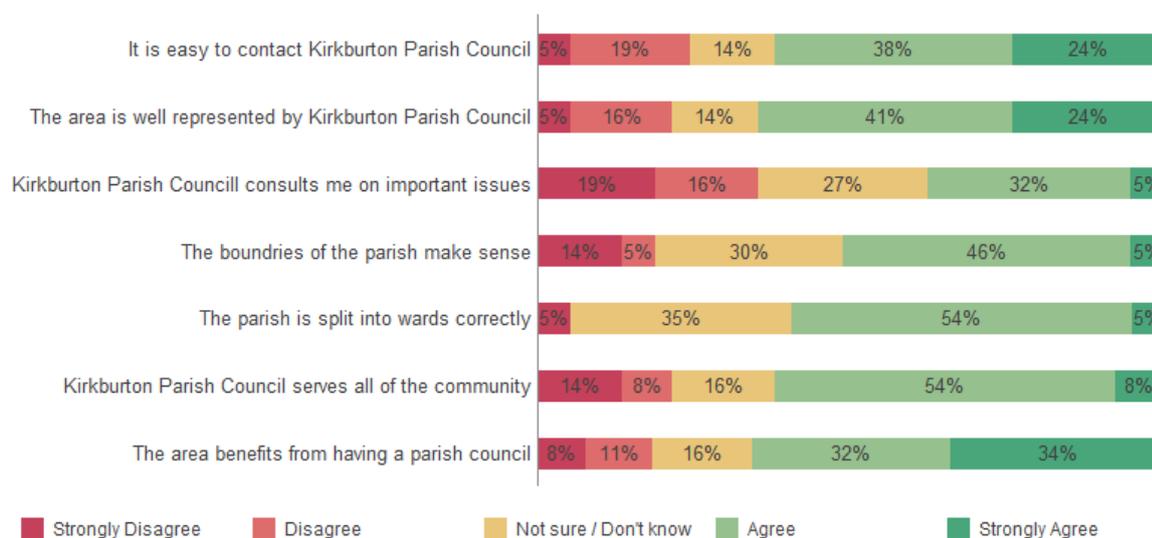
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	No. of Cllrs	Electorate forecast
Kirkburton Parish Council	Flockton	KB3-D	2	1709
	Kirkburton	KB6-O, KB5-O	4	3712
	Kirkheaton	DA6-S	4	3303
	Lepton	AL5-H, AL6-H, AL7-H	5	5040
	Lepton and Whitley Upper	KB2-D, KB4-D	2	1796
	Shelley	KB7-O	3	2359
	Shepley	KB8-O	3	2275
	Thurstonland/Farnley Tyas	KB9-O, KB10-O	2	2060

Current structure of Kirkburton Parish Council

2.5.2 Summary and analysis

2.5.3 A total of 40 responses were received regarding Kirkburton Parish Council. Over half of respondents agreed to some extent that the Parish Council is accessible, serves the whole community, represents the area well, is divided into wards correctly and believe that the area benefits from having a Parish Council. 37% of respondents agreed to some extent that the Council consults them on important issues.

Current Parish Arrangements - Kirkburton



Summary of responses on current Arrangements – Kirkburton Parish Council

2.5.4 Contact, representation, consultation and serving the community

2.5.5 There were 27 direct comments relating to Kirkburton Parish Council. Responses were generally positive about the Parish Council's role in serving the community, the contribution it makes, and the impact of its work.

2.5.6 Several respondents noted that Parish Councillors are visible and active locally and responsive to matters of concern, and welcomed the benefits of the Council's grants scheme, which supports and promotes community projects and volunteer initiatives across the villages. Illustrative comments include:

- *“Money well spent with first class active councillors putting local people front and centre”*
- *“Without the parish our views would not be represented evenly in a larger council”*
- *“I think we are well served by Kirkburton Parish Council ... being in a semi-rural area, having a local Parish Council gives a voice to people in the area, without which I feel we would be very much swallowed into the huge entity of Kirklees”*

2.5.7 A small number of respondents commented on the amount of information available to the public about Council activities and the current level of consultation with residents. One respondent suggested that the Council consider using Facebook to communicate governance information. Another proposed contacting residents via leaflets or an app. Additionally, a respondent expressed a desire for more updates on parish matters, including detailed analysis of how funds are spent, to assess whether they represent good value for money. Illustrative comments include:

- *“The idea of an active over-arching organisation in this area is good - and although we don't have official regular contact from KPC we do however have very active Parish Councillors and we are very grateful for their support. But we do sometimes feel that the biggest role of KPC is to distribute grants... What would be more effective would be to include more groups in their actions or to have a Newsletter that everyone can read. The KPC is not pro-active in reaching out but leaves this to individual councillors...”*
- *“It should look at ways of involving the locals and making local democracy more accessible to all”*

2.5.8 We note that the Council does maintain a website that provides key contact details, along with information on funding opportunities and available grants. In addition, an Annual Report is published each summer, summarising events and presenting financial information for the previous year. Copies of the report can be downloaded online, and printed versions are available upon request.

2.5.9 Key themes raised during the initial consultation

2.5.10 Boundaries/Wards

2.5.11 Boundary alignment was by far the strongest theme. Several respondents suggested incorporating Bristfield and Whitley into Kirkburton Parish Council. Illustrative comments include:

- *“With the reorganisation of Kirklees wards, the Kirkburton Parish Council area should be expanded to include all of the Kirklees Kirkburton Ward, particularly Whitley. This would align the village with its neighbour, Grange Moor, and allow residents to benefit from the parish council's grant-giving powers”*

- *“Living in Briestfield, I think it would benefit the village to have a voice on Kirkburton Parish Council”*
- *“Briestfield and Whitley should either have their own council (if supported locally) or be absorbed into Kirkburton Parish, given the proposed boundary changes. This would better reflect the character of the villages rather than linking them to Dewsbury”*
- *“Can Briestfield become part of Kirkburton Parish Council, it is now part of Kirkburton Ward (moving from Dewsbury South & Batley)”*

2.5.12 While many respondents supported incorporating Briestfield into the Parish Council, one respondent opposed this proposal.

2.5.13 There were also mixed opinions regarding the size of the current parish. Some representations suggested that the existing parish council is too large, while another raised concerns that expanding the council’s area could pose a risk to the unitary authority.

2.5.14 One respondent, although in favour of incorporating Whitley and Briestfield, proposed reducing the number of councillors:

- *“...I would suggest two for each ward, with three for Lepton and Highburton/Kirkburton. If Whitley/Briestfield had two councillors, this would reduce the total to 20”*

2.5.15 Returning Officer Submission

2.5.16 As part of the Local Government Boundary Review for England’s recent review of Kirklees District Council wards, polling district KB1-D (previously DS07) was moved from the Dewsbury South ward to the Kirkburton ward.

2.5.17 We would recommend that the external boundary of Kirkburton Parish Council is extended to include polling district KB1-D.

2.5.18 Due to the rurality of the ward and the clear sense of community in this area of Whitley and Briestfield, we would recommend that the area of KB1-D remains a separate parish ward, is named Whitley and Briestfield ward, and has 1 Councillor to represent the village on the parish council.

2.5.19 The polling district boundaries should remain as they currently are and should not be merged with neighbouring polling districts as the polling station in Whitley provides suitable access for the voters in this area. It would be unreasonable to ask voters to travel to neighbouring polling stations due to the distance.

2.5.20 Draft proposals for Stage 2

2.5.21 The following proposals aim to retain and strengthen local governance where it is valued and effective, make local democracy more accessible, align boundaries with community identity and recent ward changes, and improve accessibility and representation through the creation of a dedicated ward for Whitley and Briestfield:

- The external boundary of Kirkburton Parish Council is extended to include polling district KB1-D.

- Due to the rurality of the ward and the clear sense of community in this area of Whitley and Bristfield, it is proposed that the area of KB1-D remains a separate parish ward, is named Whitley and Bristfield ward, and has 1 Councillor to represent the village on the parish council.

2.5.22 Section 3.2 of this appendix contains a map depicting the proposed parish boundary, including polling district KB1-D.

2.6 Meltham Town Council

2.6.1 Meltham Town Council currently represents 7006 electors. The Parish Council is made up of 12 councillors and is not warded:

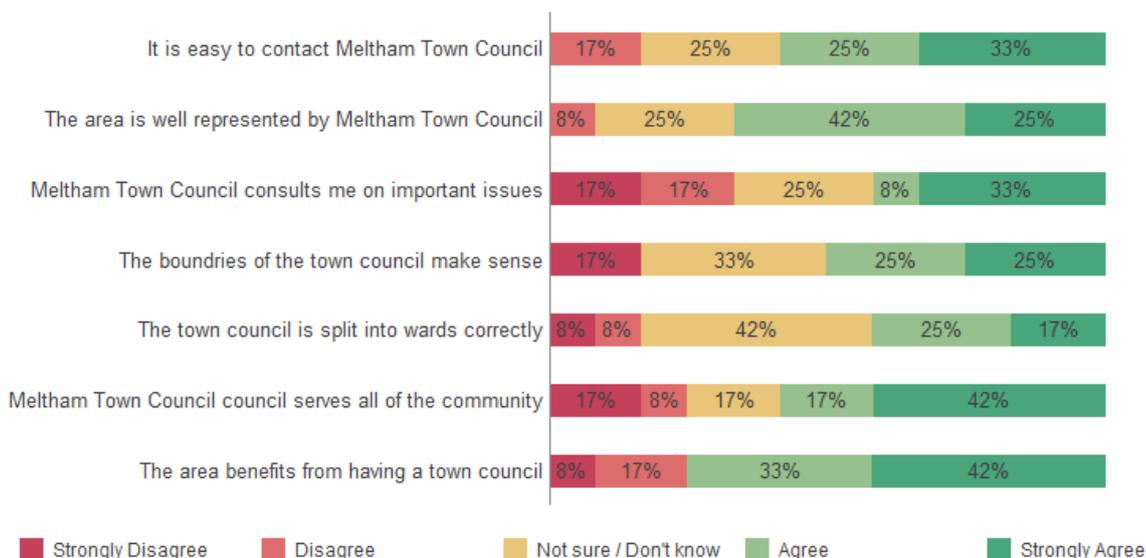
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	No. of Cllrs	Electorate forecast
Meltham Town Council		HN5-C, HN6-C	12	7640

Current structure of Meltham Town Council

2.6.2 Summary and analysis

2.6.3 A total of 12 responses were received regarding Meltham Town Council. Half, or over half of respondents agreed to some extent that it is easy to contact Meltham Town Council, it serves the whole community, represents the area well, the boundaries of the town make sense and the area benefits from having a Town Council. 41% of respondents agreed to some extent that the Council consults them on important issues and 42% agreed to some extent that the Council is split into ward correctly.

Current Parish Arrangements - Meltham



Summary of responses on current Arrangements – Meltham Town Council

2.6.4 Contact, representation, consultation and serving the community

2.6.5 There were seven direct comments regarding Meltham Town Council, its councillors, and its role in the community. One respondent described Meltham as a cohesive community, noting that councillors and the mayor live locally, actively participate in and organise events, and ensure that expenditure benefits local groups and amenities. Another respondent stated that the council “does a good job,” while a further submission expressed full support for its work.

2.6.6 Boundaries/Wards

2.6.7 Among the few additional comments, one respondent suggested that certain outlying areas of Meltham - such as houses at the top of the Knowle - would be better served if they were included within the Town Council boundary.

2.6.8 Another submission proposed a merger of Meltham, Almondbury, and Dalton into a single larger council area, recommending the name “Farnley Tyas” or “Elmet” to reflect and protect the area’s historic identity. This respondent also advocated for the introduction of a conservation area strategy to safeguard ancient sites and natural resources.

2.6.9 Returning Officer Submission

2.6.10 Meltham Town Council is currently unwarded and covers a large geographical area with 12 Council seats allocated. In May 2023, the Town Council elections were contested as 13 candidates were nominated, voters were therefore asked to vote for 12 candidates on a single ballot paper. This caused confusion and administrative issues when conducting the counting of votes due to the large multi-vacancy ballot paper.

2.6.11 In order for the large geographical area covered by Meltham Town Council to be better represented, and based on current electoral arrangements, we would recommend that Meltham Town Council is split into two wards, following the existing polling district boundaries.

2.6.12 Polling district HN5-C would have approximately 2471 voters, this area could become Meltham North ward and be represented by 4 Councillors.

2.6.13 Polling district HN6-C would have approximately 5169 voters, this area could become Meltham South ward and be represented by 8 Councillors.

2.6.14 Draft proposals for Stage 2

2.6.15 The following proposals aim to retain and strengthen local governance where it is valued and effective, improve electoral processes and governance clarity by introducing wards, ensure fair representation and minimise disruption by using existing polling district boundaries.

- Meltham Town Council is split into two wards following the existing polling district boundaries:
 - Polling district HN5-C would have approximately 2471 voters, this area could become Meltham North ward and be represented by 4 Councillors.
 - Polling district HN6-C would have approximately 5169 voters, this area could become Meltham South ward and be represented by 8 Councillors

2.6.16 Section 3.3 of this appendix contains a map depicting the proposed Town Council Wards, including polling districts HN5-C and HN6-C.

2.7 Mirfield Town Council

2.7.1 Mirfield Town Council currently represents 15,738 electors. The Parish Council is made up of 16 Councillors across 5 Wards:

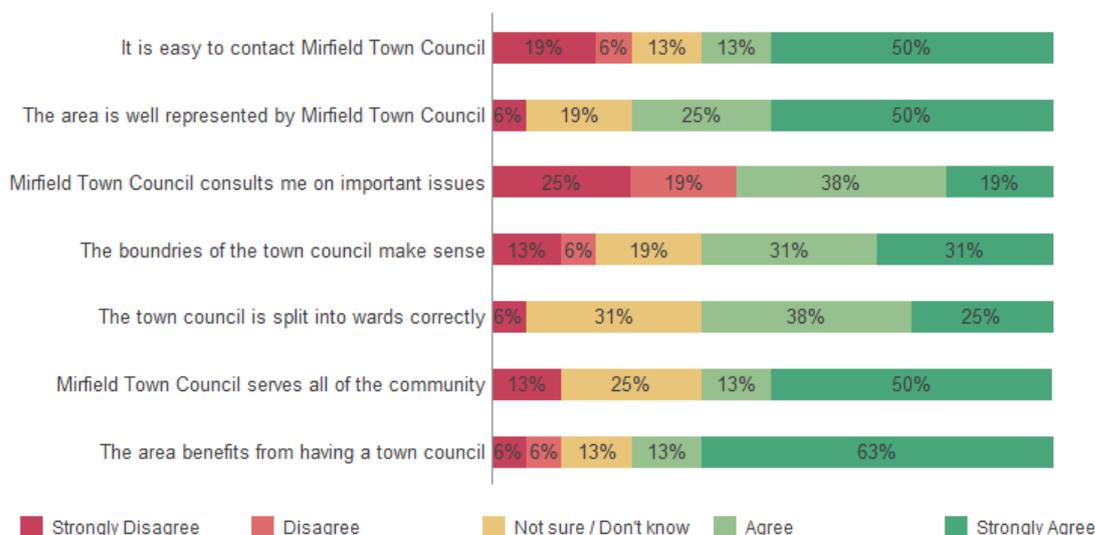
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	No. of Cllrs	Electorate forecast
Mirfield Town Council	Battleyford Ward	MF1-S, MF2-S	5	5702
	Hopton	MF7-S, MF8-S	2	2721
	Crossley	MF3-S	3	2878
	Northorpe	MF4A-S, MF5-S	3	2552
	Eastthorpe	MF6-S	3	2751

Current structure of Mirfield Town Council

2.7.2 Summary and analysis

2.7.3 A total of 17 responses were received regarding Mirfield Town Council. Over half of respondents agreed to some extent that the Parish Council is easy to contact, serves the whole community, is divided into wards correctly and the boundaries of the Town Council make sense. Over half also agreed to some extent that that the area benefits from having a Parish Council, that it represents the area well and that the Council consults on important issues.

Current Parish Arrangements - Mirfield



Summary of responses on current Arrangements – Mirfield Town Council

2.7.4 Contact, representation, consultation and serving the community

2.7.5 There were eleven direct comments regarding Mirfield Town Council, its councillors, and its role in the community, however, of the comments received, the majority were positive: Illustrative comments include:

- “The Town Council continues to make sure Mirfield continues to be somewhere really special. All Councillors are volunteers... With the small amount that residents pay on their rates for this, it is real value for money. Mirfield is frequently passed over for many things that its larger neighbours appear to receive. If it was not for the Town Council there would be no Christmas lights and switch on, and the Town Council were the main*

fundamentals of Mirfield in Bloom. They also sponsor the bonfire and the beer festival and Midfield Show which brings in hundreds of people each year. Without the Town Council Mirfield would be just another place to pass through on the way to Huddersfield. There would be no sense of belonging and community”

- *“Mirfield town council with its elected team reflects the area it represents. As Mirfield has a strong cultural identity which is represented in its councillors, any changes to the boundaries would then change the representation, which would not be representative of the people in Mirfield”*
- *“I value our Council”*

2.7.6 One respondent suggested there is room to build on existing communication channels.

2.7.7 Boundaries/Wards

2.7.8 Among the additional comments, respondents suggested incorporating areas currently outside the Town Council boundary - specifically Spring Place Gardens, Fisherman’s Walk, and Calder View. One respondent also noted that Mirfield Town Council may be underrepresented in terms of councillor numbers:

- *“I have a Mirfield address but am not in the boundary for the Town Council. Spring Place Gardens will be in the Mirfield ward when the Local Government ward changes take place, which we are happy about as the whole estate will be within the same ward. However, we will not be within the Town council boundary. This does not make sense and will cause division within the estate. I would like to be in the Town Council as they do many good things for the local area including funding all the defibrillators and community events”*
- *“To the west of the parish area a few homes are designated as being in neighbouring wards/parishes (Fisherman’s walk, Calder View etc), they identify with Mirfield, have a Mirfield address and postcode and if brought into the parish area could easily vote at the local school, whereas now their nearest polling station is several miles away. According to the ratio of elector to Councillors, Mirfield is under-represented as it has over 15000 electors in 2024 and the ratio of 16 Councillors has not changed since 1998.*

2.7.9 Town Council response

2.7.10 Commitment to Community Identity

Mirfield has a strong and well-established sense of community identity. Residents consistently identify themselves as part of Mirfield, supported by shared access to:

- local schools and educational catchments
- GP surgeries and health services
- transport links and rail services centred on Mirfield
- community facilities, including local parks, events, and civic groups
- established business, retail and social centres

This identity forms the basis of our approach to the CGR. The Council considers it essential that any changes to governance reflect the natural and lived identity of the community.

2.7.11 Boundary Considerations

Areas that identify with Mirfield. Mirfield Town Council believes that certain areas adjacent to the current parish boundary have stronger cultural, social, educational, and service-based links to Mirfield than to their existing parish centres. These areas look to Mirfield as their local service hub and would be better served within the Mirfield parish.

Part of the Calder View development is in the Kirkburton Parish Council boundary. Mirfield would request that areas are looked at to move all the dwellings in Calder View into the Mirfield Town Council Boundary. This would be the inclusion of approximately 13-14 houses.

The Council will undertake additional local consultation to identify these specific boundary anomalies and will submit detailed proposals supported by community evidence during the next stage of the review.

2.7.12 Protection of Existing Boundaries

The Council recognises that neighbouring parishes may also propose boundary changes. Mirfield Town Council will strongly resist any suggestion that areas of Mirfield parish be transferred elsewhere where such changes do not align with the principles of community identity or where residents have clear, long-standing ties to Mirfield.

Any boundary alteration must be justified by demonstrable community support and real-world functional identity.

2.7.13 Parish Governance and Effectiveness

Mirfield Town Council continues to deliver valued services and community initiatives. The current governance model is effective, recognised locally, and provides the following benefits:

- Local representation and accountability
- Delivery of community events and support to local groups
- Stewardship of key local assets
- Ability to respond quickly to local priorities
- A clear point of contact for residents

Given the strength of local identity and the positive performance of the Council, Mirfield Town Council opposes any proposal for abolition of the parish or transfer of its functions and assets to Kirklees Council.

2.7.14 Number of Councillors and Warding Arrangements

Mirfield Town Council is open to reviewing the number of councillors and warding arrangements to ensure fair and effective representation.

2.7.15 Number of Councillors

As Mirfield continues to grow—with several new residential developments either in progress or expected—the Council will review whether the current number of councillors remains proportionate to the electorate size. Any proposal for adjustment will be supported by evidence from local consultation and projected population growth. Based on the information in the CGR an electorate of 15,724 should have 21 councillors, Mirfield currently has 16, especially with areas of Northorpe potentially coming within the Mirfield boundary.

2.7.16 Warding Review

The Council will also consider whether current ward boundaries provide balanced and equitable representation, and whether any changes are required to reflect future development patterns.

2.7.17 Community Consultation

Mirfield Town Council is committed to running a public consultation to gather resident views on:

- Boundary identity and local service patterns
- Satisfaction with the existing governance arrangements
- Preferences on councillor numbers and ward representation
- Any community concerns or preferences regarding future governance

The outcomes of this consultation will form part of our detailed submission at the next stage of the CGR.

2.7.18 Returning Officer Submission

2.7.19 As part of the Local Government Boundary Review for England's recent review of Kirklees District Council wards, approximately 103 voters residing in Spring Place Gardens in the polling district MF4B-S were moved from the Dewsbury West ward into the Mirfield ward. These electors are not currently located within the boundary of Mirfield Town Council.

2.7.20 We would recommend that the external Town Council boundary is amended to include the voters in the MF4B-D polling district, and this area will be included in the adjoining Northorpe ward.

2.7.21 The polling district must remain separate to the neighbouring MF4A-S as these properties remain within the Parliamentary constituency boundary of Dewsbury & Batley.

2.7.22 Draft proposals

2.7.23 The following draft proposals aim to retain and strengthen local governance where it is valued and effective, align boundaries with community identity by addressing anomalies, ensure fair representation, protect Mirfield's strong identity and make local democracy more accessible:

- Mirfield Town Council boundary is amended to include the voters in the MF4B-D polling district residing in Spring Place Gardens, and this area be included in the adjoining Northorpe ward.
- All dwellings in the Calder View development, currently within the Kirkburton Parish Council boundary, be moved into the Mirfield Town Council Boundary. Should this proposal to amend the external Town Council Boundary receive support during stage 2 consultation, we would propose to seek a related alteration from the LGBCE to amend the Mirfield District ward boundary, so that the Town Council boundary is coterminous with the ward.
- Review the number of councillors and warding arrangements to ensure fair and effective representation, in line with the National Association of Local Councils guidance on Councillor numbers.

2.7.24 Section 3.4 of this appendix contains a map depicting the proposed amendments to Mirfield Town Council Boundary.

2.8 Suggestions for the creation of new parishes

2.8.1 Although the Terms of Reference specified that the Kirklees Community Governance Review would focus on areas of Kirklees that are already parished, a number of responses went beyond this scope, requesting the creation of new parish or town councils.

2.8.2 These suggestions varied considerably in detail. Some were brief statements of support for new councils, while others provided comprehensive proposals including maps, suggested wards and boundaries, along with indicative numbers of councillors.

New Parish Council	Number of requests
Colne Valley	5
Netherton Parish	3
Cleckheaton	1
Dewsbury	5
Huddersfield	3
Batley	1
Thornhill	1
Newsome and Primrose Hill	1
Birstall and Birkenshaw	1
Golcar/Scapegoat Hill, Milnesbridge, Slaithwaite and Marsden	1

Summary of the number of requests received for the creation of new town or parish councils

2.8.3 Colne Valley

2.8.4 There were 5 submissions suggesting the creation of a new Colne Valley Parish Council, including two detailed and evidenced submissions.

2.8.5 One detailed proposal advocates for creating a Colne Valley Parish Council to strengthen local representation and decision-making. It suggests that the parish boundaries should align with the existing Colne Valley East and Colne Valley West district wards to ensure administrative efficiency and cultural cohesion and maintain the valley's distinct identity, while fostering cooperation between villages and avoiding fragmentation. The boundaries would encompass communities such as Marsden, Slaithwaite, Golcar, Linthwaite, Milnsbridge, and Paddock, reflecting the valley's geography and shared heritage.

2.8.6 The submission recommends a structure based on Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) criteria: electoral equality, community identity, and effective governance. Under the proposal, each village would generally form its own ward unless too small, with polling districts used as building blocks. The proposed council size is 24 councillors, derived from an electorate of approximately 23,669, ensuring fair representation. Suggested

ward allocations range from one councillor for smaller areas like Milnsbridge to six for Golcar, balancing population size with local identity while keeping variance within acceptable limits.

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate	Electorate per councillor	Polling districts
Bolster Moor, Scapegoat Hill and Wellhouse	1	1125	1125	CW6-C CW7-C
Cowlersley	2	2225	1113	CE5-C
Golcar	6	5512	918	CE2-C CE3-C CE4-C
Linthwaite	3	3346	1115	CW1-C CW8-C
Longwood	2	1510	755	CE1-C CE7-C
Marsden	3	2819	940	CW3-C CW4-C
Milnsbridge	1	1394	1394	CE6-C
Paddock	2	1904	952	CE8-C CE9-H
Scammonden and Slaithwaite	4	3834	959	CW2-C CW5-C

Proposed structure of Colne Valley Parish Council

2.8.7 Another detailed submission proposes creating a Colne Valley Parish Council to cover areas including Golcar, Milnsbridge, Linthwaite, Marsden, Slaithwaite, Longwood, Scapegoat Hill, Bolster Moor, Scammonden, Outlane, and associated hamlets. Two boundary options are suggested: one based on a broader area incorporating all these places and another using the historic Colne Valley Urban District boundary, which excludes Longwood, Cowlersley, Milnsbridge, Outlane, and Nettleton Hill. The aim is to give these communities a stronger local voice on planning, community facilities, and local projects.

2.8.8 The first option proposes 10 wards with a total of 20 councillors, distributed as follows: Linthwaite and Cowlersley (3), Longwood (2), Slaithwaite (3), Marsden (3), Milnsbridge (2), Golcar (3), Scapegoat Hill (1), Bolster Moor (1), Scammonden & Pole Moor (1), and Outlane (1). The second option, based on the historic boundary, suggests 6 wards with 16 councillors: Linthwaite (3), Slaithwaite (3), Marsden (3), Golcar (3), Bolster Moor & Scapegoat Hill (2), and Scammonden & Pole Moor (1). Both options aim to balance representation with community identity while ensuring effective governance.

2.8.9 Netherton

2.8.10 Three respondents expressed strong support for establishing a Parish Council in Netherton and surrounding areas. Suggestions emphasised the area's distinct identity and geography, noting shared characteristics with nearby communities. Proposed benefits included improved representation, stronger community spirit, and better focus on local priorities. Specific ideas included using the existing neighbourhood plan map to define boundaries, basing operations at the village hall, and transferring the hall as a community asset. One submission outlined a detailed ward structure with 14 councillors, while another highlighted the opportunity to address infrastructure challenges and preserve local heritage:

- *Netherton and South Crosland have a strong identity some say part of the Holme Valley. Therefore, by using the map of the neighbourhood area to outline the Parish Boundary and by using the village hall as its base will help the village and surrounding areas, its identity and community spirit. Proposed wards and councillors, overall number: 14 • Dean Wood (1) • Delves Wood (1) • Netherton Central (3) • Netherton East and North (3) • Netherton West (2) • Netherton South (2) • South Crosland (2)*
- *Netherton with South Crosland to have its own Village or Parish Council called Netherton Parish/Village Council, as these places were part the ancient Holme Valley and great opportunity for the village hall to be asset transfer to the village and sound rounding areas by using the neighbourhood plan map 2021 as its boundary.*
- *Netherton to Newsome, incorporating Armitage Bridge, Magdale and Berry Brow makes strong geographical sense. It is a higher of mixed tenure and newbuild with varying levels of affluence and poverty. It is semi-rural in some parts but increasingly ignored in relation to poor infrastructure for traffic and it straddles two main routes into Huddersfield. The communities have very much been overlooked by the council but are experiencing a strong revival now that they have been put into a new ward. It would make for an excellent parish council and already operates under Church of England parish border*

2.8.11 Cleckheaton

2.8.12 One respondent suggested creating a parish council for Cleckheaton and nearby areas such as Scholes and Liversedge. The respondent notes that Cleckheaton has a distinct identity and is relatively separate from larger Kirklees districts like Dewsbury and Huddersfield:

- *“My proposal is for Cleckheaton including surrounding small areas e.g. Scholes and Liversedge. The area has its own identity and feels largely isolated from the main KC districts of Dewsbury and Huddersfield. Mirfield, Kirkburton and Holmfirth all have PCs so why not Cleckheaton which is a similar size”*

2.8.13 Batley, Dewsbury, and Huddersfield

2.8.14 Although there were no detailed submission, several responses proposed the creation of new Town Councils. Two respondents suggested establishing councils for Huddersfield, Dewsbury, and Batley, citing their distinct identities and historical significance. Three submissions focused specifically on a Town Council for Dewsbury, to provide greater local independence, reduce reliance on Kirklees Council, and support community initiatives. Additionally, there was a separate suggestion for Huddersfield, highlighting its size as justification for its own council:

- *“I would also like to suggest that Dewsbury Gets a Parish Council. This would alleviate some of the costs from Kirklees Council and allow them to run more community events. Their Meeting place could be the Town Hall until a more suitable venue is located. Initially it could be part of the Dewsbury Town Board until a transformation into a Town Council with votes for each of the elected representatives”*
- *“Dewsbury Town Council”*
- *“Giving Dewsbury its own council would give the area more independence and say”*
- *“Bring in a Town Council. Kirklees is not a place, it should be Huddersfield serves Huddersfield, Dewsbury serves Dewsbury and so on”*
- *“I wish to suggest 3 new Town Councils ... for Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley. These are well defined towns with long established histories & heritages”*

- *“Huddersfield town is large enough to warrant its own council”*

2.8.15 Birstall and Birkenshaw

2.8.16 The respondent suggested that a Parish Council for Birstall and Birkenshaw would give residents more say and support the reporting of local issues:

- *“Birstall and Birkenshaw, we want more local say and reporting on things that effect this area”*

2.8.16 Golcar/Scapegoat Hill, Milnesbridge, Slaithwaite and Marsden

2.8.17 The respondent proposed creating a parish council to cover Longwood, Golcar, Scapegoat Hill, Milnsbridge, Slaithwaite, and Marsden. They suggested that rural areas receive less focus compared to urban centres and highlighted persistent transport issues, including long-standing traffic congestion in Milnsbridge and limited bus services in Longwood. They also noted existing collaboration between Longwood and Golcar Parish Churches as a potential foundation for stronger local governance:

- *“We really could do with a council to cover Longwood, Golcar/Scapegoat Hill, Milnesbridge, Slaithwaite and Marsden please. We are not represented and for decades it shows as these areas have been totally neglected and ignored since I moved here in the late 1980s. Longwood and Golcar Parish Churches work well together and could potentially lead the way. It feels like everything is targeted at areas closer to the urban centres of Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury, rather than fairly spread out around more rural areas. Milnsbridge, in particular, has been grid-locked during rush hours for the last 40 years! Plus, in Longwood, the one bus an hour only goes to the bus station in town. I've yet to use my bus pass in Kirklees!”*

2.8.19 Newsome and Primrose Hill

2.8.20 One respondent highlighted Newsome and Primrose Hill’s diversity. They suggested creating a parish council to better address the needs and concerns of local residents and improve focus on local open spaces and services:

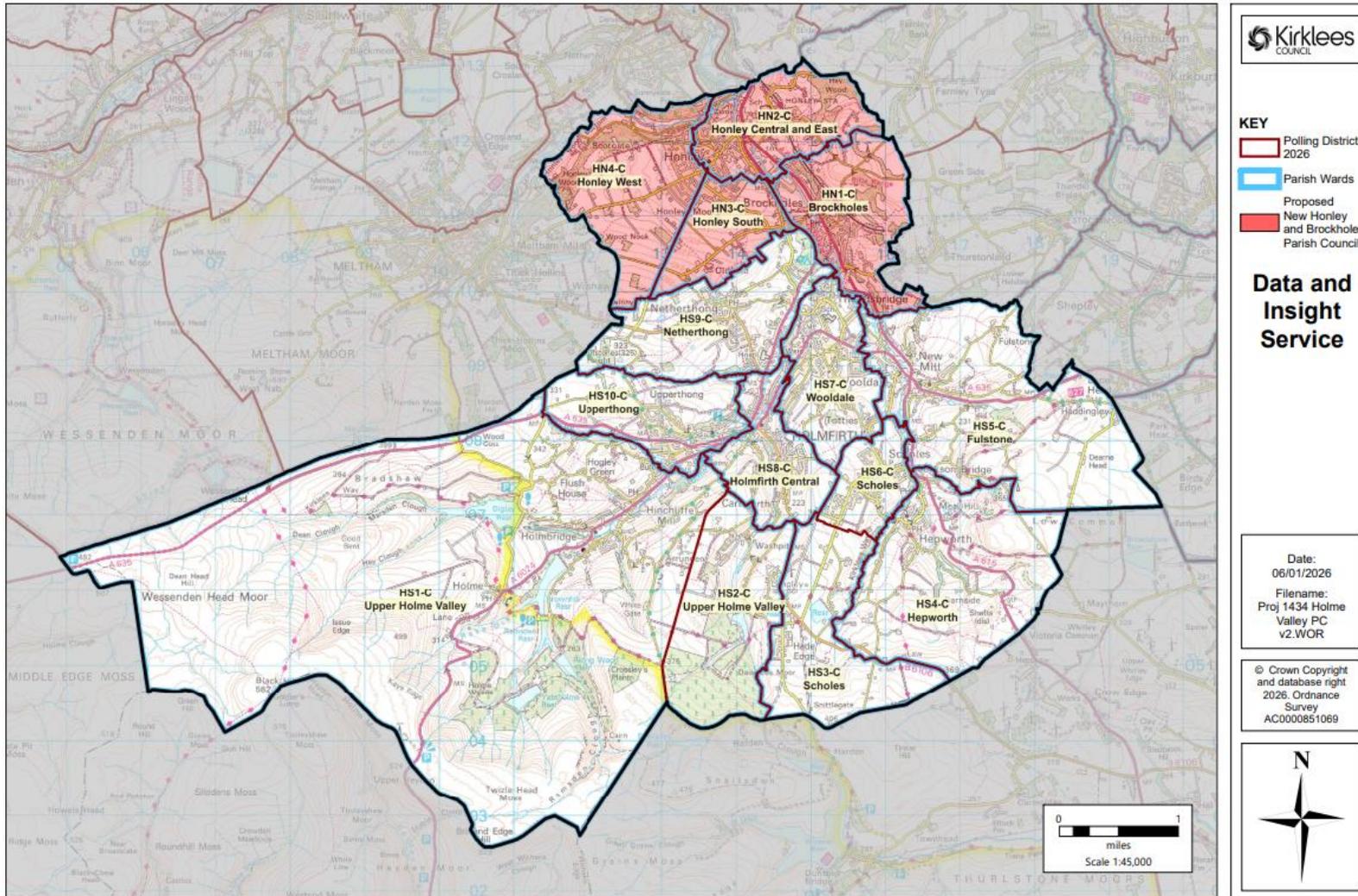
- *“We are a diverse and interesting area covering areas like castle hill to the area around the university. Our open spaces are not given the focus compared to the showcase of greenhead park. Having a parish which can look at how to improve the area for the locals, develop services which meet the needs of the locals. An avenue to address concerns to, rather than larger and can be unresponsive Kirklees Council”*

2.8.21 Thornhill Parish Council

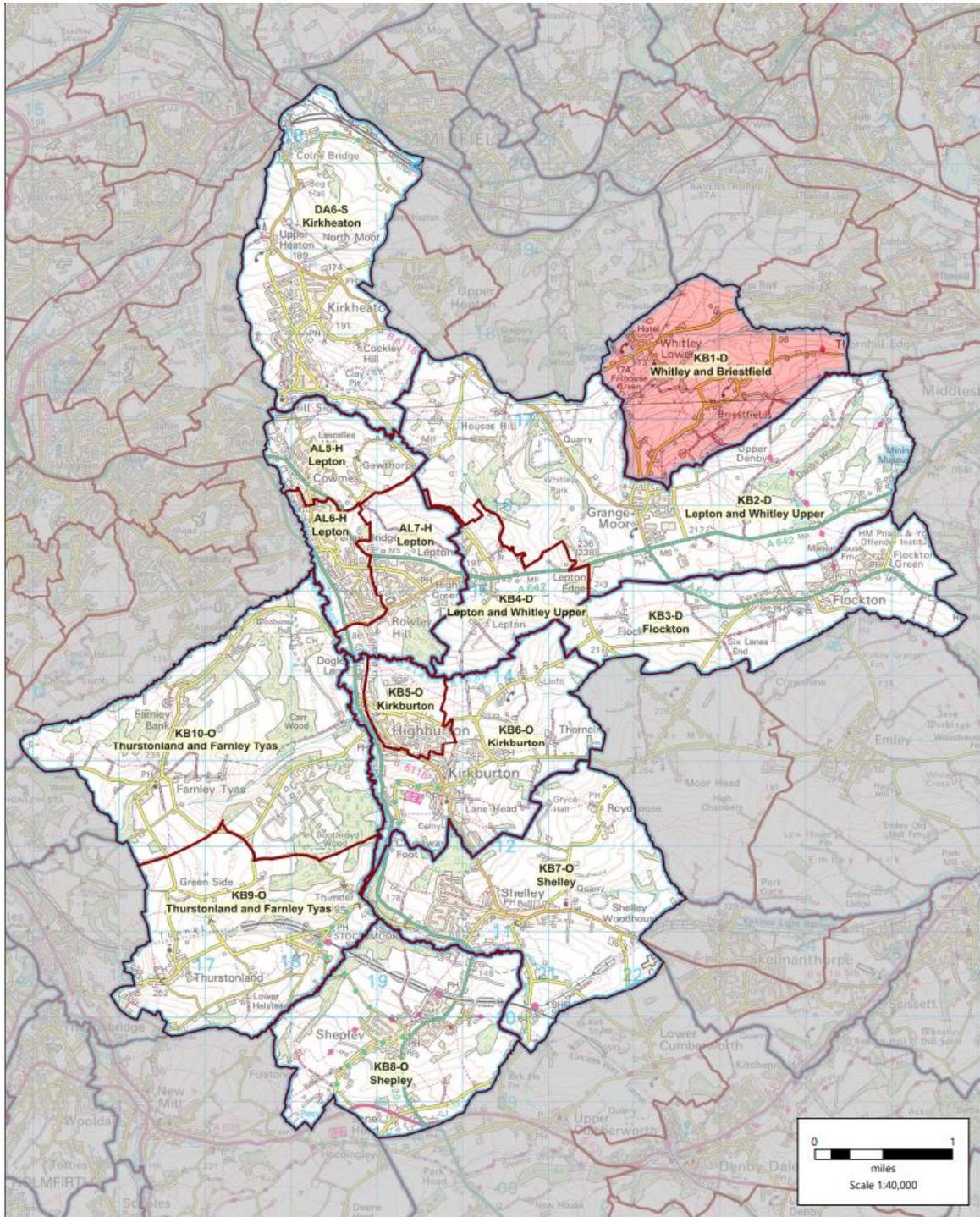
2.8.22 One respondent suggests creating a parish council for Thornhill would give the village a stronger voice and foster a sense of belonging:

- *“This would be great for Thornhill a village long forgotten and underrepresented by actual people who live in the village of Thornhill. This would create a sense of belonging and a better voice for the village”*

3.1 Proposed Parish Boundary – Holme Valley Parish Council & Honley and Brockholes Parish Council

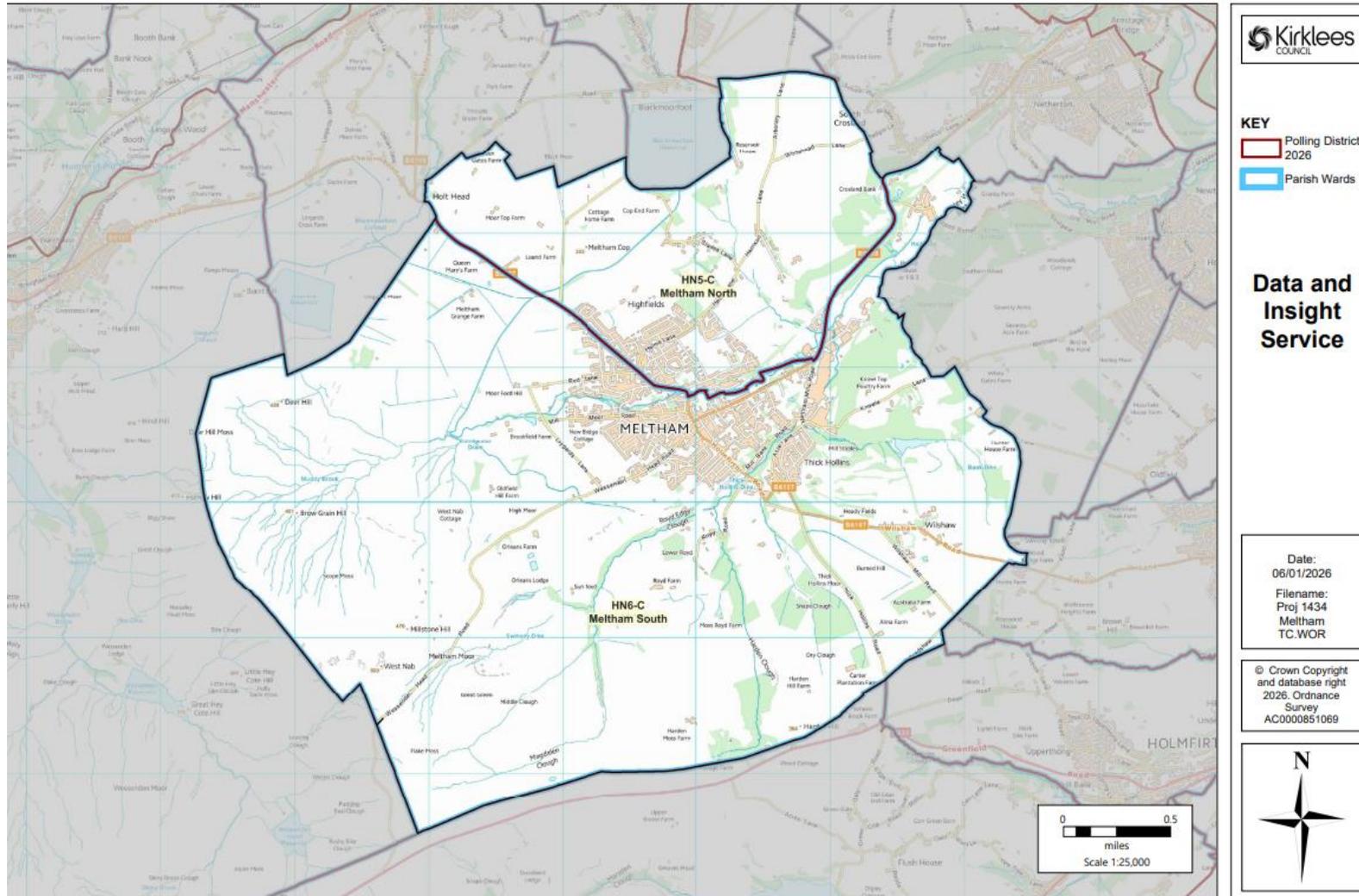


3.2 Proposed Parish Boundary, Kirkburton Parish Council, including polling district KB1-D

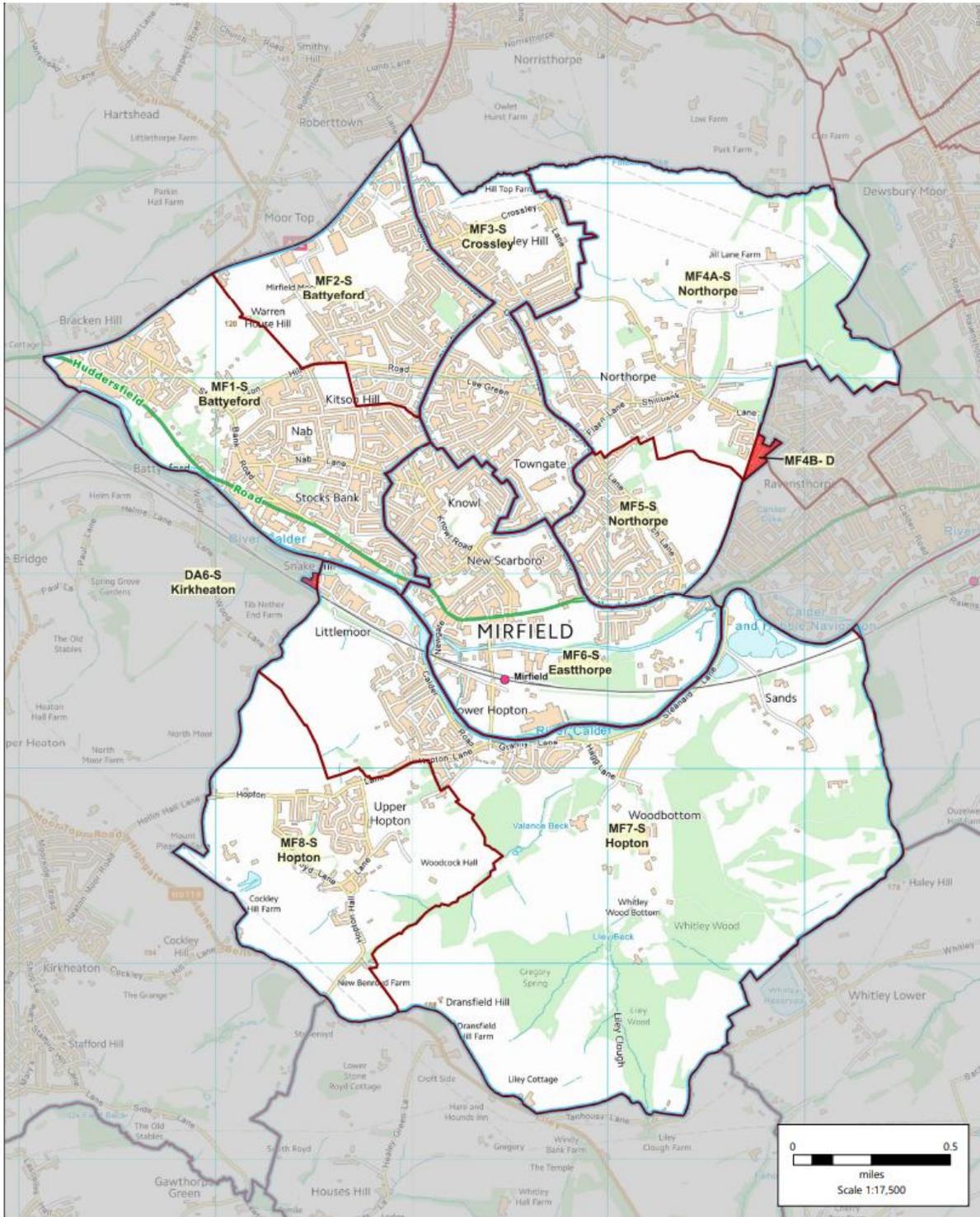


 Data and Insight Team	Kirkburton Parish Council, Proposed Polling Districts 2026		
	Date: 06/01/2026 Filename: Proj 1434 Kirkburton PC v2.WOR	 Polling Districts 2026  Parish Wards  Proposed Parish extension	
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3.3 Proposed Town Council Wards, Meltham Town Council, including polling districts HN5-C and HN6-C



3.4 Proposed amendments to Mirfield Town Council Boundary



 Data and Insight Team	Proposed Town Council Boundary – Mirfield Town Council		
	Date: 06/01/2026 Filename: Proj 1434 Mirfield TC.wor	 Polling Districts 2026  Parish Wards  Proposed Parish extension	
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