

**REPORT TITLE: Kirklees Community Governance Review:
Summary of Stage 2 Consultation and Draft final recommendations**

Meeting	Corporate Governance & Audit Committee
Date	7 th August 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	N/A
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No N/A
Purpose of Report - To provide Corporate Governance and Audit Committee with a summary and analysis of responses received in the second stage of public consultation on the Community Governance Review (CGR). - To seek approval for the draft recommendations arising from stage two consultation that will form the final recommendations to Full Council.	
Recommendations That Corporate Governance and Audit Committee: - Approve the draft final recommendations arising from stage two consultation. - Note arrangements for the final recommendations to be presented to Full Council in September. Reasons for Recommendations - Corporate Governance & Audit Committee has delegated responsibility to agree the terms of reference for, and oversee delivery of, the Community Governance Review. - In accordance with the agreed terms of reference and timeline, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee is asked to consider and agree the draft initial recommendations to go to Council for approval.	
Resource Implications: The Community Governance Review will be delivered within existing resources and complements existing planned activity. Where additional resources are required to deliver specific actions within the plan, relevant council process and procedure rules will be followed, with value for money clearly demonstrated.	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Deputy Chief Executive 14 th July 2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director Finance 14 th July 2026

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal & Commissioning 14 th July 2026
---	---

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, no personal data is included in this report

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a process that allows upper-tier councils to review and make changes to the governance arrangements of parishes within their area to ensure they continue to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and are as effective and convenient as possible.
- 1.2 On 16th July 2025, Full Council agreed the undertaking of a CGR 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.
- 1.3 On 26th September 2025, CG&AC resolved to undertake a review of 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 The Terms of Reference for the CGR were published on 1st October 2025, and the first stage of the public consultation took place between 1st October – 12th December 2025.
- 1.5 Following analysis in accordance with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's guidance on community governance reviews a total of nine recommendations were proposed and agreed by CG&C 30th January 2026. The second stage of the public consultation commenced 9th February and closed 20th April 2026.
- 1.6 CG&AC is asked to note the summary of responses received during Stage 2 and approve the draft recommendations for approval at Council 16th September.

2. Information required to take a decision

Background

- 2.1 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a process that allows upper-tier councils to review and make changes to the governance arrangements of parishes within their area, to ensure they continue to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and are as effective and convenient as possible.
- 2.2 A Review must involve consultation with local people and stakeholders, and consider any representations received. It is deemed good practice to complete a review within 12 months, with the final recommendations subject to approval by Council.
- 2.3 According to guidance on CGRs from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, good practice for a principal council would be to consider conducting a review

every 10-15 years. The last CGR in Kirklees took place in 2009, 16 years ago, following a petition submitted to full Council in September 2006.

- 2.4 Parish/Town Councils pay for their own elections. 'All-out' elections for Parishes are already scheduled for May 2027. To reduce an extra cost burden the review will need to be completed in sufficient time to meet the May 2027 deadline. The intention, therefore, is that the final recommendations be considered by full Council in September 2026.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 On 16th July 2025, full Council agreed the undertaking of a CGR 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.
- 2.7 On 26th September 2025, CG&AC agreed terms of reference and a timeline resolving to undertake a review of 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.
- 2.8 The Terms of Reference for the CGR were published on 1 October 2025, and stage 1 of the public consultation took place between 1 October – 12 December 2025. Stage 2 started on 9 February and closed 20 April 2026.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Kirklees 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 During the first stage, 155 responses were received from residents, local businesses, community groups and organisations, parish and town councils, Kirklees borough councillors and the Returning Officer. The volume and nature of responses varied across the five parish and town councils.

- 3.4 In addition, several submissions referenced the potential creation of new parishes along with two detailed responses suggesting a new parished area in the Colne Valley. Officers replied to both submissions stating that as the proposed area didn't come under the current terms of reference i.e. those areas of Kirklees which are currently parished and relevant adjoining land, the proposals cannot be considered at this time.
- 3.5 Referencing guidance from the Boundary Commissions on how to progress such a proposal, officers suggested submitting a valid petition including a map defining the area to be parished which must be signed by the relevant number of local electors from the petition area. We have yet to receive any further correspondence on the matter.
- 3.6 Stage 2 took place between 9th February and closed on 20th April. 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 - shared via multiple channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Next door, at the start of the review, with reminder posts both midway and close to the end of the review – reaching 13,823 users and viewed 22,696 times.
 - 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 February's Rural newsletter, issued by the Council's Active People and Places Team (covering Denby Dale, Kirkburton, Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South) and in the Dewsbury and Mirfield newsletter, issued in March – both sent out to community groups, schools, businesses, residents, councillors and Kirklees staff who have a community remit.
 - Posters promoting the review and signposting people to the consultation were sent to Town and Parish Clerks and all public libraries across Kirklees.
 - Attendance at the Council's place-based working meetings in March – led by the Council's Active Citizens and Places Team - to brief frontline, community-based colleagues on the Review and seek their support in promoting the review.
 - Letters providing information on relevant recommendations, along with information on how to respond to the consultation, were also sent to households at Calder View, Spring Place Gardens and within Polling District KB1-D (Whitley and Brierfield).
- 3.7 As agreed by CG&AC in January, stakeholders were asked to submit their views on the following nine proposals:
1. Honley Central and East Ward, Honley South Ward and Honley West Ward be merged into a single parish ward, represented by 6 councillors.
 2. In line with the National Association of Local Councils guidance on Councillor numbers, the number of Councillors in Brockholes ward increase to 2.
 3. Propose the three Honley parish wards, together with the Brockholes Ward are separated, to form a new 'Honley Parish Council'.
 4. The names of Fulstone and Scholes Wards in Holme Valley Parish change to 'New Mill & Fulstone' and 'Scholes & Hade Edge' respectively.
 5. Kirkburton Parish Council – create a new parish ward named Whitley and Brierfield.

6. Propose that Meltham Town Council is split into two wards following the existing polling district boundaries.
7. Mirfield Town Council boundary is amended to include the voters in the MF4B-D polling district residing in Spring Place Gardens area.
8. Move the Calder View development, currently within the Kirkburton Parish Council boundary into the Mirfield Town Council.
9. In line with the National Association of Local Councils guidance on Councillor numbers, the number of Councillors in Mirfield Town Council increase to 21 from 16.

3.8 A total of 303 stakeholders responded to the online consultation and a further 9 submitted consultation responses via email. Appendix 1 provides a comprehensive analysis of all the submissions received during the Stage 2 consultation and sets out the final recommendations in more detail.

4. Engagement

- 4.1 Relevant council officers (including Service Directors and the Executive Leadership Team) plus Cabinet have been engaged in highlighting the need for a Community Governance Review.
- 4.2 On 16th July 2025, Council considered a report on Community Governance and resolved to undertake a CGR in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance and to delegate to the CG&AC to agree the terms of reference of the review and oversee delivery.
- 4.3 CG&AC considered a report at its meeting on 1st August, seeking agreement on the arrangements for producing the terms of reference for the CGR, to enable formal sign-off at the September 2025 meeting of the Committee. A second report seeking approval for the draft proposals arising from Stage 1 that formed the basis Stage Two was considered 30th January.
- 4.4 Informal conversations were held with Parish Councils prior to the commencement of the Review. As part of these conversations, support was sought in promoting the review within the communities they represent.
- 4.5 Frontline, community-based staff were briefed on the review at each of the Council's four place-based working meetings led by the Council's Active Citizens and Places Team during October.

5. Implications for the Council

5.1 Council Plan

Enhancing local levels of governance will improve on our engagement with people and build relationships. In terms of the 'place' outcome, it also recognises local areas and the governance structures that exist.

5.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from a CGR.

In relation to the proposal 7, amending the Mirfield Town Council Boundary to include voters from Spring Place Gardens, during the consultation stage officers wrote out to all residents explaining the implications of moving into a parished area and having to pay a precept. If the recommendation is agreed, the authority would be required to write out again explaining the changes to residents affected.

5.3 **Legal Implications**

Once the review is complete, should any changes be proposed, a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order under S.86 of the Act would be proposed for approval at Council.

5.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**

N/A

5.5 **Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

There are risks associated with any delays in delivering the CGR which could have significant financial implications in terms of elections costings for parishes.

6. **Key findings and recommendations**

6.1 Consultation responses received during Stage 2 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.

6.2 Members of a cross-service Community Governance Review Working Group have met to consider the responses to the consultation and draft the following proposals to CG&AC to explore as part of Stage 2 consultation. Appendix 1 provides a detailed summary and analysis of all submissions.

6.3 The key findings and recommendation for each proposal are as follows:

1. Honley Central and East Ward, Honley South Ward and Honley West Ward be merged into a single parish ward

Overall, consultation responses indicate broad support for the proposal to combine the three Honley parish wards into a single ward. Respondents commonly felt that Honley operates as one community with a shared identity, and that a single ward would provide a clearer and more effective structure for parish governance. While some concerns were raised about councillor numbers, the reduction in the number of Wards and the importance of ensuring fair representation and balanced outcomes across all areas, these were limited and did not outweigh the overall support expressed.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council considers approving the proposal to bring the three current Honley parish wards together (Honley Central & East, Honley South, and Honley West) – to form one single parish ward.

2. Increase the number of Councillors in Brockholes ward increase to 2.

Overall, consultation responses indicate support for increasing the number of councillors representing Brockholes from one to two. This is supported by feedback highlighting Brockholes' growing population, the need for improved local representation, and Holme Valley Parish Council's view that the current representation ratio is exceptional when compared with other wards. While a small number of concerns were raised about potential costs and the relationship with wider proposals affecting Honley and Brockholes, these were limited and did not outweigh the overall case for change.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council considers approving the proposal to increase the number of Councillors representing Brockholes Ward from 1 to 2 Councillors.

3. Create a new 'Honley Parish Council' (Honley & Brockholes)

Overall, consultation responses indicate a positive view of the proposal from those who responded, with many respondents highlighting the potential for stronger local representation, clearer accountability and a more focused voice for Honley and Brockholes. However, the overall number of responses received was very low in the context of a significant governance change affecting both the proposed new parish area and the remaining Holme Valley Parish Council area.

While the feedback received identifies potential benefits, it does not provide a sufficiently broad or robust evidence base to demonstrate clear community support for establishing a new parish council at this stage. Given the scale and long-term implications of creating a new council, including potential impacts on representation, administration, costs and the wider Holme Valley governance arrangements, the Council does not recommend progressing this proposal as part of the current review.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council does not approve the proposal to create a new Honley Parish Council covering the three Honley wards and Brockholes ward, and that current arrangements remain unchanged.

4. Renaming of Fulstone and Scholes Wards in Holme Valley Parish to 'New Mill & Fulstone' and 'Scholes & Hade Edge' respectively.

Overall, the consultation feedback supports the view that the proposed ward names would provide a clearer and more accurate reflection of the communities within each area. As the proposal does not alter ward boundaries or representation arrangements, and opposition was limited, the change is considered proportionate and consistent with the review's aim of ensuring parish arrangements reflect local identity and community interests.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council considers approving the proposal to rename Fulstone and Scholes Wards, to better reflect the communities they cover, to:

- **New Mill & Fulstone**
- **Scholes & Hade Edge**

5. Kirkburton Parish Council – create a new parish ward named Whitley and Bristfield.

Overall, consultation responses indicate a mixed position and do not demonstrate clear community consensus in favour of change. While some respondents identified potential benefits relating to local identity, alignment with Kirkburton and improved local representation, these were balanced by concerns regarding additional cost, rationale for change, geographic fit and the potential impact on existing community identity and local connection.

On balance, the feedback received does not provide a sufficiently strong or consistent basis to support progressing the proposal as consulted on. It is therefore recommended that the Council does not approve the proposal to extend the Kirkburton Parish Council boundary to include Whitley and Bristfield, and that current arrangements remain unchanged.

6. Meltham Town Council is split into two wards

Overall, consultation responses demonstrate clear and substantial opposition to the proposal to create separate Meltham North and Meltham South wards. Respondents consistently emphasised that Meltham is viewed as a single, cohesive community with shared services, facilities and identity, and raised concerns that dividing the town could undermine this unity, create unnecessary division, and lead to unequal representation between areas. Concerns were also raised about the lack of clear justification for the change, additional administrative complexity and potential costs.

Given the strength and consistency of opposition, and the absence of clear community support for the proposal, it is therefore recommended that the Council does not progress the proposal to create two new Meltham Wards – Meltham North and Meltham South - and that current arrangements remain unchanged.

7. Mirfield Town Council boundary is amended to include the voters in the MF4B-D polling district (Spring Place Gardens) area.

Overall, consultation responses indicate support for the proposal for the Spring Place Gardens area becoming part of Mirfield Town Council within the Northorpe ward. Support was particularly clear from respondents living the Spring Place Gardens postcode area, who highlighted identity and everyday connections with Mirfield, as well as the potential for clearer local representation. While a small number of concerns were raised about an increase in Council Tax and the level of direct benefit, these were limited and did not outweigh the overall support expressed.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council considers approving the proposal to amend the Mirfield Town Council boundary 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.

8. Move the Calder View development, currently within the Kirkburton Parish Council boundary into the Mirfield Town Council.

Overall, while survey responses suggest some moderate support for the proposal the level of engagement was limited, and no responses were received from households

within the Calder View development itself. Written submissions were also limited and did not provide clear evidence of community support from the area most directly affected. Although Mirfield Town Council supported the principle of moving the development within the Mirfield boundary, the consultation evidence does not demonstrate a clear or consistent basis for change at this stage.

Given the low level of engagement, the absence of responses from residents in the affected area, and the lack of clear community consensus in favour of change, it is therefore recommended that the Council does not approve the proposal to move the Calder View development from Kirkburton Parish Council into Mirfield Town Council and that current arrangements remain unchanged.

9. Increase the number of Councillors in Mirfield Town Council increase to 21 from 16.

Overall, consultation responses indicate support for the proposal to increase the number of Mirfield Town Councillors from 16 to 21. Although the number of written responses were limited and some concerns were raised about whether additional councillors were necessary, the survey results showed a positive overall response, with most respondents indicating that the proposal would have a positive impact. Increasing councillor numbers would also provide additional capacity to represent the electorate and support wider engagement across Mirfield's communities.

On this basis, it is recommended that the Council considers approving the proposal to increase the number of councillors on Mirfield Town Council from 16 to 21.

7. **Options considered**

That Corporate Governance and Audit Committee:

- Consider the summary and analysis of responses received in the second stage of public consultation on the Community Governance Review.
- Approve the draft recommendations arising set out above and in detail at [Appendix 1](#) of this report.

8. **Next steps and timelines**

- Final recommendations are scheduled to be considered by full Council, where a decision will be taken on the outcome of the review on 16th September 2026.

9. **Contact officer**

Nick Howe, Policy & Partnership Manager. Policy, Partnerships & Corporate Planning
Nick.howe@kirklees.gov.uk

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

- Community Governance Review, Council 16th July 2025: [Cover report and documents July 2026](#)
- Community Governance Review, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, 1st August 2025: [Community Governance Review report.pdf](#)

- Community Governance Review, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, 26th September 2025: [Cover report 26th September 25.pdf](#)
- Community Governance Review, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, 30th January 2026 [Cover report and documents 30 Jan 2026](#)
- Community Governance Review Terms of Reference and Timeline: [Terms of Reference, Kirklees Community Governance Review](#)
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Guidance on community governance reviews, March 2010: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England, New electoral arrangements for Kirklees Council, December 2024: [kirklees full report.pdf](#)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Kirklees Community Governance Review: Overview of Stage 2 Consultation and Final Recommendations.

12. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal & Commissioning