



Kirklees Democracy Commission

3rd October 2016

Challenges and Opportunities Facing Places,
Councils, Officers and Councillors



THE FUTURE OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

From Corporate to Community Governance?

From Leading/Managing the Council Leading to
Supporting Places?



FUTURE CONTEXT

Austerity – Ongoing Budget Reductions

Public Expectations – Have they Changed?

– Can they Change?

Devolution- New forms of governance

A New Relationship Between the Citizen and State?

From Paternalism / Dependency to Co-Production?



BUDGET REDUCTIONS

- Largest In History
- On going
- Can't Just Salami Slice
- Are Current Delivery Models Sustainable
- Impact of Business Rates Localisation
- Stronger Economic Focus (more spend)



DEVOLUTION

- More integrated working
- Sub regional strategies
- Sub regional decision making



DEVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION?

Devolution – Powers Coming Down

Or

Evolution – Powers Going Up

Or

Both?

Either Way New Governance Models are Being Developed



GOVERNANCE

Mayors

Combined Authorities

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Executive Boards

Regional Scrutiny

Audit



MEMBERS IN A VACUUM?





WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FUTURE COUNCIL?

Provider – of a 'Core' Offer

Leader – Vision / Direction

Regulator – Managing Behaviours

Facilitator – Helping things to Happen

Partner – Working alongside Agencies, Communities,
Citizens



WHAT ABOUT ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

A More Diffuse Model of Governance

How Do we Know Resources are Being Spent Well

Too Loose Arrangements Can Lead to Problems

Too Tight Arrangements Stifle Innovation and Engagement



CHANGING SERVICES

Less but More Targeted / Effective 'Core' Offer

Personalisation/Choice for Individual Service Users

Working Alongside Communities and Other Providers to Meet Local Needs

Investing in Communities to Solve their Own Problems

- Local Businesses
- Social Enterprise
- Voluntary/Community Sector
- Parish Councils



WHAT IS THE FUTURE ROLE FOR COUNCILLORS?

Local Leaders – Of Place/Behaviours

Problem Solvers – Finding Answers Locally

Negotiators – Between People, Groups,
Agencies

Influencing – To Achieve Outcomes

Representing – To Council and to Others

Building Participation – Active Communities



WHAT DO WE NEED?

- New Governance Models Around the Member Role
- Double Devolution within Councils
- Transparency / Information Processes
- Members Development

We Need Councillors More Than Ever But The Roles Are Different



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR KIRKLEES?

A Vision for the Future?

Key Priorities Moving Forward?

How To Support the Member Role?

Changing the Relationship with the Community?

Increase Joint Working and Community Participation?

New Ways of Working?