



Kirklees Democracy Commission Cross Party Working Group – Wednesday 18 July 2018

Commission Recommendations which Involve Informing / Influencing External Bodies

1. Background and Context

During the course of its work the Democracy Commission made a number of recommendations that are not in the gift of the Council to progress directly. These span a range of themes covered by the Commission.

In the interests of completeness it would be helpful if the Cross Party Working Group considered the relevant recommendations detailed below and agree the way forward. Thereafter officers will progress as directed and details will be shared on the Democracy Commission web site.

Recommendation	External Agency Responsible
The Local Government Association (LGA) should develop a core national framework for councillors' allowances, which councils can use now as a basis for determining the rates of allowances locally.	The Local Government Association
National government should revisit the legislation relating to councillors allowances, in light of the increased expectations now placed on the role and the tensions associated with the current approach to determining allowances.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
National government, in the context of corporate social responsibility, should address the real challenges faced by councillors who are employed.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
National government should amend legislation to introduce the compulsory registration of young people at the age of 16.	The Cabinet Office
National government should continue to explore all options (for example, online	The Cabinet Office

<p>voting, early or weekend voting and registration on polling day) to increase voter registration, accessibility and turnout.</p>	
<p>National government should consider the importance of local democracy when it is planning and legislating in respect of the timing and sequencing of elections. Local elections are important events and should be recognised as such. We do not wish to see a further dilution of local democracy.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Office</p>
<p>National government and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority should plan and sequence Mayoral elections for the region in a way that does not have a negative impact on local democracy.</p>	<p>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority</p>
<p>National government should provide clearer information about the purpose of (and processes for) regional devolution. This should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear about the outcomes that national government is seeking to achieve through regional devolution. • Provide greater clarity about the role, responsibilities and expectations of an Elected Mayor. • Provide greater clarity in terms of the power and responsibilities that exist at the relevant tiers of governance (region, district and local). This should involve more transparency about financial issues. 	<p>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</p>
<p>The West Yorkshire Combined Authority should improve the quality and flow of information in order to help citizens and local councillors understand (and have better awareness of) regional issues and their relevance. This should include improving the way in which its democratic content is produced, published and communicated.</p>	<p>West Yorkshire Combined Authority</p>