



**Kirklees Council**  
**Kirklees Democracy Commission Cross Party Working Group**

**Monday 19 August 2019**

Present: Councillor Cathy Scott (Chair)  
 Councillor John Taylor  
 Councillor Alison Munro  
 Councillor Will Simpson  
 Councillor Yusra Hussain

Apologies: Councillor Michael Watson  
 Councillor Andrew Cooper

In Attendance: Rachel Spencer Henshall, Director of Corporate Strategy,  
 Commissioning and Public Health  
 Carl Whistlecraft – Head of Democracy Service  
 Vina Randhawa – Democracy Manager (Active Citizens and  
 Places)  
 Diane Sims – Senior Communications Officer

**1 Notes of Previous Meeting**

**AGREED** as a correct record.

**2 Place Based Working Update**

The Director of Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health provided the Working Group with a presentation setting out the progress to date in developing the approach to Place Based Working, specifically having regard to the Working Group's priority recommendations. The presentation specifically covered the following:

- The wider strategic context;
- The work that has taken place thus far to progress Place Partnerships;
- The work that has taken place thus far to progress Ward / Sub Ward Partnerships;

- Progress made in developing and rolling out the citizen engagement principles agreed by the Working group;
- Progress made in developing use of the Place Standard as the principle means of place based engagement;
- Strategic coordination of Place Based Working;
- Work that is underway to address operational support considerations;
- Next steps in terms of developing the programme of work.

In consideration of the information received the Working Group made reference to the following:

- The importance of building community capacity whilst being mindful of not being over-reliant on that capacity where it already exists. It is important to widen capacity beyond those who are already actively contributing;
- The importance of volunteers in the context of Place Based Working and recognising that many volunteers do so in a number of different areas;
- Being mindful of the possibility that putting citizens at the heart of our approach may result in challenging our established policies and strategies;
- A level of concern as to how we define places and the extent to which we impose geographical footprints on citizens. The issue of Primary Care Network boundaries crossing different Council boundaries was referenced as an example;
- The ways in which we work with Parish and Town Councils as part of Place Based Working;

The Working Group **AGREED:**

- The Director of Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health be thanked for her presentation;
- That more work take place to develop a Place Based Working narrative narrative that is clear for councillors, officers and partners;
- That specific work should take place to clarify and understand the Council's relationship with parish and Town Councils in the context of Place Based Working;
- That more work take place to clearly define the programme of work now that the core building blocks are in view;
- That a coherent communications plan is developed to support Place Based Working which incorporates the importance of story-telling as a means of fostering wider understanding and sharing achievements and success.

### 3. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Thursday 10 October 2019, 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m., Room 1b North, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civic Centre 3, Huddersfield.