

Report to Pennines Township Committee



Date of Meeting	16 th October 2018
Portfolio	Neighbourhoods, Community & Culture
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Public/Private Document	Public Document

**Consultation on the review by the
Townships Review Steering Group**

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In January 2018, Township Chairs and a cross-party group of Elected Members formed a working group to look at how we engage with our communities, and the workings of the Townships. Members of the Townships Review Steering Group were appointed by Group Leaders.
- 1.2 The group was facilitated by Sir Steve Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council, and officers from the Local Government Association.
- 1.3 The purpose of the group was to consider the following in the context of cooperative values – self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, and behaviours playing a key part in the future role of the Townships:
 - **Do we need to improve engagement with our communities?**
 - **Do Members and Townships need to link into the public service reform and Cooperative council agendas?**
 - **Do we need to work better with partners and our communities at a neighbourhood level?**
 - **Are we aiming to ‘tidy up’ existing Township structures/processes, or should we aim for more radical change?**
- 1.4 The report of the Township Review Members Panel contains a number of recommendations for consideration and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 Views from Townships are sought as part of this consultation. Any changes to Township governance would require approval by Full Council.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members –

- (i) Note the report and consider the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 attached - Report of Township Review Members Panel 30th May 2018.
- (ii) Offer comments on the findings of the review.
- (iii) Offer views as part of the consultation and note that any changes to Townships structure or governance would require subsequent approval at full Council.

3. Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Following the outcome of the Members' review of Townships, it is considered appropriate to now consult with all Members and with individual Townships. This is to ensure transparency prior to any changes in Township arrangements.

4. Key Points for Consideration

The key recommendations are highlighted in the attached report (Appendix 1). The Townships Review highlighted the following key issues:

Members should have a broader role in having oversight of issues such as Health & Social Care and other issues at a township level, and should play a stronger role in developing more resilient communities

There should be a continued recognition of different needs and priorities throughout the Borough, across townships and at a neighbourhood level

Members should have a role in encouraging co-creation within communities

A re-structure of the Rochdale Township

Consideration should be given to developing greater core capacity of Township staffing levels

Creation of ward alliances

4.1 The creation of two Township areas in place of the existing Rochdale Township would increase the number of committees and sub-committees to five, increasing the resources required to facilitate these meetings.

4.2 The creation of two Township areas in place of the existing Rochdale Township would require a re-alignment of the Township Capital and Revenue budgets, in line with the population in each Township.

5.

Alternatives Considered

Following consultation with all Members and Township committees -

- 5.1 Cabinet Members could choose to go with all or part of this proposal, e.g. it may be that the new ways of working are favoured, but that the geographical changes to the Rochdale Township is not.
- 5.2 Cabinet Members could reject the proposal if they feel that their Townships are already effective in working co-creatively with their communities.

6.

Costs and Budget Summary

Subject to the consultation:

- 6.1 It is anticipated that any changes to the geographical make-up of the Townships will be achieved from within existing staffing budgets.
- 6.2 A geographical change to the make-up of the Townships would require re-alignment of the Townships' existing Capital and Revenue budgets.
- 6.3 Members would need to consider the need for additional resources and capacity from new funding or within existing services across the organisation to support greater capacity within the Townships team.

7.

Risk and Policy Implications

- 7.1 There are no risk or policy implications.

8.

Consultation

- 8.1 Informal Cabinet, Elected Members, Township Committees: Heywood 8th October 2018, Rochdale 10th October 2018, Middleton 11th October 2018, Pennines 16th October 2018/Informal Cabinet/Council

Background Papers	Place of Inspection

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