

North Yorkshire County Council

Chief Executive Decision Session Consultation with the Executive

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Tuesday, 14 April 2020 commencing at 10.00 am.

County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Officers present via Skype: Richard Flinton, Barry Khan, Gary Fielding, Daniel Harry, and Melanie Carr.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

24. Welcome by the Leader

The session was chaired by County Councillor Carl Les, who confirmed that the role of the Executive at this informal session was to consider the reports and give a view to the Chief Executive. It was noted that this was not a formal decision making meeting and that where a decision was required, the Chief Executive would use his own discretion after considering the views of the Executive.

25. Minutes

That the Minutes of the decision session held on 7 April 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed by the Chief Executive as a correct record.

26. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Carl Les declared an interest in Agenda item 5 – the proposed extension of the loan facility to Welcome to Yorkshire, as a Board member of that organisation.

27. Shielding and Supporting Communities Update

Considered – a presentation from the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources providing updated data from across the County on:

- The number of vulnerable and shielded residents
- The work of the 23 Community Support Organisations (CSO)
- The process in place for accessing support
- Universal Plus – the CSO supplement offer
- The management of service requests

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director for Strategic Resources confirmed that the new guidance from

Government on personal protective equipment needed clarifying in regards preventing community transmission as it may impact on the County Council's guidelines. Members agreed it was important that the necessary clarification was provided urgently in order to maintain the protection of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) staff and external care providers.

Gary Fielding went on to confirm:

- A new testing facility was to be created, possible in York. When had yet to be clarified but it was expected that it would provide testing for NYCC social care staff.
- Nightingale Hospital in Harrogate was likely to take its first patients by the end of the week – approximately 30-50
- Hospitals across the region still had ICU capacity for new patients and were awaiting ventilators to be able to utilise additional hospital space
- Of the 10,019 residents identified as shielding and therefore requiring support, only 7202 had completed the necessary form to enable that to happen. Of those, 1856 had confirmed that they required support, and to date, 1209 of them had received supplies or were due to in the next few days. For the remaining 647, national food contracting had yet to schedule their delivery of supplies.
- GPs were responsible for checking their data to identify other residents who were clinically entitled to be on the shielded list. Whilst some GPs had been proactive, others had yet to do so and appeared unsure of their role in the process, suggesting the guidance for GPs was not clear enough.

In regard to the Community Support Organisations (CSO), it was confirmed that:

- There were no apparent gaps in coverage and they were working well on the whole but would require more support over the coming weeks
- There were no known funding issues but there had been some issues around capacity and expertise in some areas which had all been addressed through the Communities Team.
- Some CSO volunteers had also registered as volunteers on the NHS list creating some duplication.

Finally, it was confirmed that the following would likely to be areas of future focus:

- Mental Health (adults and children)
- Sustaining the CSOs
- Access to cash for those shielding residents who did not have access to online banking

Members expressed concern about the potential number of unknown residents still needing to be identified as requiring support, and questioned who was responsible for ensuring GPs were working effectively in support of the agreed process. It was confirmed that the CCG needed to contact all GPs to clarify and reinforce what was required.

County Councillor David Chance requested regular updates on the work of the Communities Team in support of the CSOs.

As the presentation was for information only, Members were pleased to note the update and agreed to receive further updates as necessary.

28. Proposed Extension of Loan Facility to Welcome to Yorkshire

County Councillor Gareth Dadd, introduced the report which provided background to the previous loan to Welcome to Yorkshire and the reasons for the proposed extension to the loan facility.

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director for Strategic Resources confirmed the interest rate of the loan was 7%

Having declared an interest, County Councillor Carl Les abstained from the debate on the item.

Having noted the reputational risk associated with extending the loan, as detailed in the original loan report at Appendix A, the remaining Members agreed the proposal to extend was a pragmatic approach at this time. They were therefore supportive of extending the loan and agreed to recommend to the Chief Executive that:

- (i) The secured loan facility of up to £500k to Welcome to Yorkshire be extended to 30 November 2021, and;
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) to complete the necessary loan funding arrangements with Welcome to Yorkshire.

Please note that this decision has been treated under the special urgency procedure in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 and call-in has therefore been exempted by the Chairman of the County Council under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

29. Other business which the Chief Executive considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 10:45am