

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 28 April 2014 at 10.30 am.

Present:- County Councillor Tim Swales in the chair

County Councillors Val Arnold, Derek Bastiman, Bernard Bateman MBE, Margaret Atkinson (as substitute for John Blackburn), Jean Butterfield, Sam Cross, John Ennis, Andrew Lee, Stuart Parsons, Steve Shaw-Wright, Elizabeth Shields, Bob Packham (as substitute for Tony Randerson)

Also in Attendance

County Councillor Carl Les (Executive Member)

Officers Gary Fielding Corporate Director Strategic Resources, Neil Irving Assistant Director Policy & Partnerships, Trevor Clilverd Assistant Director Strategic Resources, Jon Learoyd, Head of ICT Architecture, Lorraine Laverton Corporate Development Officer

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors John Blackburn and Tony Randerson and Richard Flinton Chief Executive

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

16. Minutes

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2014, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements

The Chairman asked the Committee to agree a change in the running order of the agenda. Members agreed to move the item 'Proposal to create a North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership' to item 4 on the agenda

18. Executive Member Update

County Councillor Les provided an update to the Committee which was tabled at the meeting. A copy of which is held in the minute book. It outlined recent issues such as:

- Constitutional changes – Cllr Les advised the Committee that these will be reported to Executive for proposing to full Council. He went on to express his gratitude to the cross party Constitutional Working Group for their assistance in working through the proposed changes.

- Selby Summit – Cllr Les felt that a very useful discussion had been held with the Selby Area Committee about a way forward for Area Committees and District Council community engagement meetings.

Cllr Les listed the items contained in the Forward Plan for the Executive with particular relevance to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Video conferencing, Exec, 29 April
- Annual report on partnership governance, Exec, 8 July
- Review of contract, financial and property rules, Exec, 8 July
- Merger of Community Safety Partnerships, Exec, 8 July
- Quarterly outturn performance management, Exec, 19 August

He also went on to advise Members that further summits around the County were to be arranged, that North Yorkshire 2020 was the priority across the Authority and that the County Council now has a new Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services Mr Barry Khan.

Comments from Members included:

- Members of the Committee stated they would not want to see a move away from consultation with local Members about issues affecting roads in their areas. They stressed their belief that local knowledge is key when decisions are being taken.

C Cllr Les responded that consultation with local Members would still take place.

- A Member proposed that it might be useful to hold the next Area Committee summit in Ryedale.

Resolved -

To note the information provided in the Executive Member's progress report and invite such a report to each meeting of the Committee.

19. Proposal to create a North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships informing and consulting the Committee regarding the proposals to combine the six Community Safety Partnerships in North Yorkshire into one North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. All responsible authorities in North Yorkshire are being asked to consider and agree to the proposal by the end of July 2014. For North Yorkshire County Council, the decision will be taken by the Executive on 8 July 2014. The views of the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposal will be included in the report to the Executive.

Mr Irving suggested that as the scrutiny functions of 8 Local Authorities in the area had a statutory duty to consider crime and disorder matters it might be helpful to look at drafting a protocol between the Authorities so that there was a clear understanding of each Authority's role, for example the County Council OSC could work with the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership with the 7 District / Borough Councils OSCs continuing to look at crime and disorder at a local level through their Local Delivery Partnerships.

Comments and questions from members included:

- Where will the meetings of the NY CSP be held? Will it move around the County or be in Northallerton?
This has not been decided as yet but the Local Delivery Teams would meet in their own area.

- Some Members expressed concern that:
 - the Police and Crime Commissioner had changed the proposals and had only provided scant information. Members questioned whether the Police and Crime Commissioner may change her proposals again.
 - it would be difficult to secure the attendance of all 18 members of the NY CSP and it would be questionable whether the representative attending would have the authority to take a decision on behalf of their authority.
 - the representatives of the District / Borough Councils on the NY CSP would find it difficult to work together as they would all be fighting for their own bids for funding
 - having the NY CSP and the Local Delivery Teams creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy
 - each local area would be bidding against each other for funding and yet the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner are not known.
 - there would be no funding for the role of the manager at local level

Mr Irving responded that:

- the decision whether or not to merge the six existing CSPs rests with the 18 responsible authorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner does control the funding but does not have the legal authority to change the CSP structure.
 - there is already a County level forum (this is a statutory requirement) and having a NY CSP would not prevent local engagement as there would be Local Delivery Teams.
 - it is the responsibility of all the responsible authorities ie the police, local authorities, fire and rescue, NHS and probation service to use their mainstream resources to minimise crime and disorder (section 17 section of Crime & Disorder Act 1998).
- A Member asked whether the County Council would be running the NY CSP and how much of the £400,000 funds would be paid to the County Council for this role.

Mr Irving clarified that the £400,000 funding is for an 18 month period and not a yearly amount. The County Council has agreed to provide a basic secretariat function for meetings of the NY CSP but all project management costs and all projects undertaken on behalf of the NY CSP by the County Council will have to be paid out of the funding.

- Members concluded by saying that they would like to send a message that expresses their support for the work of local partnerships and that it should be highlighted to the Executive that Members were concerned how the Police and Crime Commissioner might direct funding.

C Cllr Les as chairman of the Police and Crime Panel reassured the Committee that there was scope for dialogue around concerns and that this was a regular agenda item for the Panel.

Resolved -

That the comments of the Committee were noted by the Assistant Director Policy and Partnerships and the Executive Member and would be included in the report to the Executive on the 8th July 2014

20. 2020 North Yorkshire

Considered -

As the Chief Executive had to extend his apologies for the meeting the Committee considered the oral report of the Corporate Director Strategic Resources Gary Fielding, updating the Committee on 2020 North Yorkshire.

Mr Fielding guided Members through a presentation that was tabled. A copy of the presentation is held in the minute book.

The presentation outlined:

- the aims of the 2020 North Yorkshire programme:
 - Focus on clear prioritisation
 - Focus on outcomes
 - Play to our strengths
 - Deliver financial savings
- The governance and management structures
- The Cross cutting themes
 - Stronger communities
 - Partnership working and alternative delivery models
 - Customer
 - Commercial focus
 - Property
 - Organisational development

Mr Fielding elaborated that the outcome of the 2020 programme would see a smaller more agile Council, with fewer staff working smartly to achieve greater productivity. It will be a Council that undertakes more of its work through commissioning and greater involvement of community and voluntary groups whilst providing leadership on key issues.

Comments and questions from the Committee included:

- A query on why there were no elected members on the Programme Board
- A Member questioned how much communication was happening between the County Council and local communities.
- A Member referred to the example of Hawes on achieving a community model and that developments across the County are at different stages.

Mr Fielding responded that the Programme Board was the delivery vehicle for the decisions taken on 2020 North Yorkshire and that a two way process of consultation was encouraged from Members. He envisaged that proposals would be considered by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee before any decision was taken. He encouraged Members to come forward with requests for further information and detail if this was required.

Regarding stronger communities Mr Irving advised Members that communications were on-going and that conversations would be spread over a number of areas over the next few years, but that there was no fixed, model approach as each area is different. Any communication would involve relevant partners and the local Member and would be an opportunity to look innovatively at how local communities might address local issues.

Resolved -

That the Committee noted the oral report of the Corporate Director Strategic Resources

21. Corporate Performance Management Framework

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources presenting the findings of the review of the new performance reporting implemented for the quarterly performance reports to the Executive and seeking the views of the Committee and feedback any matters for inclusion in the shaping of future reporting.

Comments and questions from members included:

- The Chairman of the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee referred to the successful regular meetings that have been held between the lead members of her Committee, the Corporate Director Children's and Young Peoples Service and the Executive Members which provided an opportunity to look more closely at the quarterly performance reports.
- Members agreed that the framework was working well with the opportunity to focus on one Directorate at each of the quarterly meetings but that the opportunity to review should always be taken to ensure that the approach was constantly refreshed.

The Executive Member C Cllr Les reminded members that it was the responsibility of all Members to do performance management.

Resolved -

That the Committee noted the review of the Q performance reports and the actions intended as set out in Paragraph 4.3 and Appendix B of the report.

22. Video Conferencing Solutions

C Cllr Swales introduced the report and asked members for comments or questions and whether they would like to amend or accept the recommendations proposed at section 9 of his report. He further advised that due to timescales the report was due to be presented to the Executive the following day and assured Members that any amendment would be tabled at that meeting.

Comments and questions from Members included:

- Feedback from the chairman of the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee on a mid cycle briefing that had taken place using the video conferencing facilities. The meeting although starting with some apprehensions had worked very well. Cllr Shields could see the system working very well for small meetings and could see how it could save time and money.
- The Chairman fed back on behalf of C Cllr Joe Plant that he could not have been involved in the meeting if it had not taken place via video conferencing.
- One Member questioned how those with limited broadband might be able to use video conferencing.
- A Member asked to what extent other councils were using video conferencing
- The provision of basic training on the use of the equipment was raised

C Cllr Swales asked that Jon Learoyd the Head of ICT Architecture respond to the technical queries. Mr Learoyd clarified that District / Borough council offices, local NYCC offices and libraries would have access to broadband so that either a personal hand held device could be used utilising the broadband or a video conferencing meeting space would be available to be booked.

In considering the use of video conferencing by other councils across the country there seems to be little evidence to suggest that it is being utilised to its potential. NYCC could be seen to be an exemplar but that the success of this was reliant on a culture change within the organisation. Driving to a meeting should not be considered as a priority. In order for this culture change to take place members and officers have

to feel confident in its use and discussions are already taking place on what training might look like including drop-in sessions for Members.

The Executive Member C Cllr Les commented that he is happy to endorse the report when it is considered by the Executive.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

The Committee agreed the recommendations to the Executive as set out in section 9 of the report.

23. Work Programme

Considered -

The future work programme of the Committee was discussed and the items listed within it agreed without amendment. The Corporate Development Officer asked that Members consider the focus of the next in depth scrutiny review.

Resolved –

Note the information in the report and accept the work programme unchanged.

The meeting concluded at 11:55am