

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 17 June 2019 at 10.30 am.

Present:-

County Councillor in the Chair – Derek Bastiman

County Councillors Val Arnold, Margaret Atkinson, Caroline Goodrick, Bryn Griffiths, Mike Jordan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Stuart Parsons, Tony Randerson, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter and Annabel Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Executive Members: County Councillor David Chance

North Yorkshire County Council Officers: Odette Robson (Head of Community Safety), Chrys Mellor (General Manager of NYCC Libraries), Neil Irving (AD Policy Partnerships & Communities), Gary Fielding (Corporate Director Strategic Resources), Barry Khan (Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Democratic Services), Nigel Smith (Head of Highways Operations), and Melanie Carr (Principal Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies for Absence were received from County Councillors Paul Haslam and Stuart Parsons

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

85. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

86. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

87. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

88. Chairman's Announcements - Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman made no announcements.

89. Update on North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

Considered –

An update on North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership provided by Odette Robson, Head of Safer Communities, North Yorkshire County Council and Dr Justin Ives, Chair of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Dr Ives introduced the bi-annual update which provided an update on the roles and statutory responsibilities of the CSP, an overview of the agreed priority areas for delivery and an update on the arrangements in place to respond to domestic abuse

In regard to the Inter Board arrangements, it was confirmed that the Minutes of the meetings of the individual Boards were being shared to ensure each knew the other's business. County Councillor Bryn Griffiths sought reassurance that incidences of modern slavery would be identified and addressed through the inter board network.

It was confirmed that the Community Safety Hubs were going from strength to strength, with good practice being shared between them. Members noted that the Scarborough Hub was leading the way in regards to development and that the approach to multi-agency collaboration was considered a national exemplar. Odette Robson confirmed that the organisations involved were working well together to reduce crime and disorder and to promote community safety.

Members noted the implementation update on North Yorkshire & York's joint Domestic Abuse Strategy and questioned the funding contribution of the three partners. It was confirmed that pooled budget arrangements had been agreed between North Yorkshire County Council, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and City of York Council. This allows for a pooled budgets of £749, 000 per annum for services for victims and £224, 000 per annum for perpetrators services. Odette Robson confirmed the joint commissioned arrangements were unique and were generating lots of interest nationally.

Members noted there had been two recent Domestic Homicide Reviews, one in the Selby currently with the Home Office, and one in Filey close to completion. It was noted that post sign off, the lessons learnt would be looked at.

County Councillors Caroline Goodrick and Mike Jordon both queried the arrangements in place for issues that crossed county lines, and were given assurance that working arrangements were in place with neighbouring authorities to identify and address any such issues.

Resolved – That:

- i) The Dr Ives and Odette Robson be thanked for their update
- ii) A future update in six months be added to the Committee's work programme.

90. Update on Library Services

Considered -

The report of the General Manager of NYCC Libraries providing a detailed year two update on the delivery of library services and an overview of the planned review of NYCC's Library Strategy.

Chrys Mellow, General Manager introduced the report which provided background to the current arrangements, an overview of the model of service delivery and an update on the

lessons learned since its introduction. She also highlighted a number of areas of concern for libraries i.e.:

- GDPR
- IT parameters
- Procurement
- Short term leases on library buildings creating a barrier to making a library sustainable
- The challenge of maintaining community library committee membership

Members noted the model in place was considered a national trail blazer with positive articles appearing in various national newspapers, but agreed the strategy documents needed updating to reflect the positive changes made since its introduction.

They were also pleased to note that many community libraries were looking to extend their services, but expressed concern about volunteer recruitment e.g. the need to remove barriers to volunteering and maximize opportunities to attract new volunteers

County Council Tony Randerson raised concern that without NYCC support many community libraries would fail. The Committee acknowledged that county council support would have to remain part of the basic offer in order to ensure a community library service.

In regard to funding, it was noted that in some libraries management roles were being financially supported by local parish precepts.

Finally, County Councillor Val Arnold congratulated Grassington for its Library of the Year Award and members thanked the officer for the report.

Resolved - That:

- i) The report and its conclusions be noted and endorsed
- ii) A future update in 12 months be added to the Committee's work programme.

91. Locality Budgets

Considered –

The report of Neil Irving, AD Policy & Partnerships reviewing the fourth year of operation of the County Councillor Locality Budgets. The report provided a summary of the scheme and a breakdown of the committed funding for the financial year 2018/19.

Members noted the impact of the scheme as detailed in the report and welcomed the online submission process which had made it both easier and quicker to apply. They also noted that the proportion of funding going to voluntary organisations was the same as in previous years.

Members expressed concern that one member had not spent any of their locality budget, recognising the lost opportunity for community and voluntary organisations in that electoral division.

Members agreed it was a good tool for members particularly as it provided opportunities to access matched funding from elsewhere. With that in mind they agreed it was a shame the locality budgets were not more, particularly as it was noted that in other local authority areas Members were given greater funding to respond to local needs.

Finally, in regard to a forthcoming environmental budget decision, members expressed interest in how that element of funding might be delivered going forward.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman thanked Neil Irving for attending the meeting and asked that a further update be brought back to the Committee in 12 months' time.

Resolved - That:

- i) The operation of the County Councillor Locality Budgets during the 2018/19 financial year be noted
- ii) A future update in 12 months be added to the Committee's work programme.

92. Annual Report of the Brierley Group

Considered -

The joint report of the Chief Executive, Director Strategic Resources, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Assistant Director Strategic Resources.

As Gary Fielding Corporate Director of Strategic Resources was unable to attend, members agreed to defer the item to a future meeting.

Resolved – That:

Consideration of the report be deferred to the committee's next meeting on 2 September 2019.

93. Update on the Operation of the Parish Portal

Considered – A verbal update on the operation of the Parish Portal and on Parish Council engagement.

Nigel Smith, Head of NYCC Highways Operations provided an overview of the ongoing operation of the parish portal. He confirmed that since the last update a further 30 parish councils had signed up to using the portal, bringing the total number of Parish Council users to 390, and a 33% increase in search requests (total 4k+)

Members noted there were a number of other services that once integrated would further improve parish self-serve access to services and information. However, they drew attention to some of the barriers preventing its use e.g. technical issues and firewall permissions, and connectivity for more rural parishes etc. It was confirmed that those types of issues were being addressed through the provision of parish council workshops.

Members requested a list of parishes not already on the portal or those registered but not using it, so that they may encourage further take up and usage.

Nigel Smith went on to provide an overview of the considerations to providing a similar portal for Councillors and Daniel Harry, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager provided examples of the difficulties associated with providing usable data e.g. free school meals data or other sensitive data at a divisional level.

Members learned of an alternative tool under consideration, that of a Members Dashboard providing a snap shot of information on either a whole division, a particular parish or on a specific issue that a Councillor may wish to have visibility on. Members agreed that approach

would be a good way forward, and requested a future report on the Dashboard approach by the end of 2019.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman thanked Nigel Smith for his update.

Resolved – That:

- The update be noted
- Members be provided with a list of parish councils not registered on the portal, or registered but not using it.
- That an update on the provision of a Members Dashboard be provided at the Committee's meeting scheduled for 2 December 2019

94. Adult Reoffending Review

Considered -

Members considered the draft final report arising from their review of Adult Reoffending Rates in North Yorkshire. The report detailed the work undertaken by the Committee since 2017 to keep a watching brief on the ongoing work to embed changes to the delivery of probation services under the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

Members agreed the key finding of their review centered on the lack of appropriate and timely access to education and training, a recognised barrier to reducing re-offending rates. They were therefore pleased to note that the Ministry of Justice was aiming to drive down reoffending through a wider education and employment strategy.

Having considered the report in full, Members recognised the need for fast and efficient access to appropriate education, relevant to individual needs. They therefore agreed to:

- i) Recommend to the Executive that they write to the National Probation Service to seek assurance that the provision of fast and efficient access to appropriate education would be addressed through the design of its new delivery model.

They also agreed:

- ii) To continue to monitor the work of the NPS and CRC, by virtue of an annual update, until such time as the new model outlined in the report was introduced
- iii) That once the new model was in place, to identify an appropriate method of monitoring its effectiveness, with a particular focus on the provision of education and training

95. Work Programme 2019/20

Considered -

The report of Melanie Carr, Principal Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer, providing Members with a copy of the Committee's Work Programme for review and comment.

Members discussed the possibility of scrutinising:

- Opportunities for further partnership working
- NYCC land and property holding, with a focus on:
 - i) Identifying opportunities for improving best value e.g. through sharing premises with District Councils, and partner/voluntary organisations etc.

- ii) Considering rent/lease related issues experienced by community libraries

Melanie Carr asked Members to consider the Work Programme for the Committee and come back to her outside of the meeting if there were any other areas that people felt needed to be included.

Resolved – That:

- The Work Programme be noted.
- The officer explore the possible topics identified, for discussion at a future meeting.

96. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 12:10 pm.

MLC