

21 May, 2008

## The Report of the Executive

The Executive met on Tuesday, 19 February 2008. Present:- County Councillor John Weighell in the Chair. County Councillors John Fort BEM, Carl Les, Chris Metcalfe, Caroline Patmore, John Watson OBE and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillors John Blackburn, Eric Broadbent, Margaret-Ann de Coursey-Bayley, Heather Garnett, Paul Richardson and John Savage.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 4 March 2008. Present:- County Councillor Chris Metcalfe in the Chair. County Councillors John Fort BEM, Carl Les, Caroline Patmore, Helen Swiers and John Watson OBE.

Also in attendance: County Councillors John Blackburn and Melva Steckles.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 25 March 2008. Present:- County Councillor Chris Metcalfe in the Chair. County Councillors John Fort BEM, Carl Les, Caroline Patmore, Helen Swiers, John Watson OBE and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Tony Hall, Robert Heseltine, Gillian Ivey and Michael Knaggs.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 15 April 2008. Present:- County Councillor John Weighell in the Chair. County Councillors John Fort BEM, Carl Les, Chris Metcalfe, Caroline Patmore, John Watson OBE and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Ron Haigh.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 6 May 2008. Present:- County Councillor John Weighell in the Chair. County Councillors John Fort BEM, Carl Les, Chris Metcalfe, Caroline Patmore, Helen Swiers and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillors William F Barton OBE and Michael Knaggs.

**1. Council Plan 2008/11:** The text for the Council Plan for 2008/11 is attached as Appendix 1 to the report and is recommended for approval. The text of the Plan is not radically different from the Council Plan in the previous year, following the review, last year, which led to a more succinct and user-friendly document. The financial information included in it will be familiar to Members as part of the County Council's Budget. Once the text has the approval of the County Council, it will be going to designers for layout to be agreed and for photographs to be inserted, with the expectation that formal printed copies will be available by the end of June.

### **The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That the draft Council Plan 2008/11, a copy of the text of which is attached marked Appendix 1, be approved.

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**2. Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/18:** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires local authorities to consult and seek the participation of partners in the development and subsequent modification of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for their area, which replaces the existing Community Strategy. The change of terminology emphasises that sustainability should be at the heart of decisions taken on the content of the strategy.

The purpose of a SCS is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area - typically 10-20 years - in a way that contributes to sustainable development in the UK. It should tell the 'story of the place' - the distinctive vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis. It should also provide a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult and cross cutting issues such as the economic direction of an area, cohesion, social exclusion and climate change. It should contain:

- The long-term vision based firmly on local needs - underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations.
- Key priorities for the local area, based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term - these will inform the strategy's delivery agreement - the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The SCS is a key building block for the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the priorities in the SCS will guide the selection of the indicators to be included in the LAA. Once prepared, the SCS must be agreed at full Council in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000.

The County Council has worked through the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP) to develop the proposed SCS for North Yorkshire. The process has actively involved the seven district-level Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), the six county-wide NYSP Thematic Partnerships (TPs), and many local partners.

The proposed SCS is a refresh of the first NYSP Community Strategy (2005/08). In developing the proposed SCS, partners did not want the NYSP simply to replicate the seven existing district-level sustainable community strategies developed by LSPs, or the existing plans of the six county-wide TPs. Instead, it was agreed that the focus should be on the high level issues, or priorities that need to be addressed in North Yorkshire over the next three years, that require an effective partnership response. The proposed SCS does not contain details of the specific actions and outcomes as these will be in the North Yorkshire LAA.

Development of the proposed SCS started in July 2007 when partners were asked to identify high level issues that need to be addressed, over the medium to long term, to help secure the quality of life for our communities. These are cross cutting issues that depend on an effective partnership response if they are to be tackled. The outcomes were shared with the NYSP Wider Partnership, at its conference in October 2007, and further refined as a result. A detailed evidence base was also developed focusing on the identified high level issues.

The consultation draft SCS was prepared, based on the views of partners, the discussions at the NYSP Wider Partnership, and the evidence base. This was widely

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circulated to partners directly and via the LSPs and TPs, and published on the NYSP website, in early January 2008, with comments requested by 22 February 2008. In total, 44 organisations or partnerships responded to the consultation. Many of the comments and changes suggested by partners were incorporated into the revised draft SCS.

The revised draft SCS was considered at the first meeting of the NYSP Partnership on 13 March 2008. The NYSP Partnership comprises representatives of about 60 organisations, including all partners with a statutory duty to cooperate in the development of the LAA, together with others identified as important locally, for example LSPs and representatives of the business and voluntary sectors. The NYSP Partnership voted on the proposed SCS, with an overwhelming majority in favour of its adoption.

The proposed SCS, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, sets out the collective vision: "North Yorkshire - a place of equal opportunity where all can develop their full potential, participate in a flourishing economy, live and thrive in secure communities, see their high-quality environment and cultural assets maintained and enhanced and receive effective support when they need it." The proposed SCS also sets out the ten priorities identified by partners as the most important issues for the County in the medium term, that depend on an effective partnership response and joint working if they are to be tackled effectively:

- Access to services and public transport
- Affordable housing
- Alcohol
- Children and young people
- Community cohesion
- Community safety
- Economy and enterprise
- Environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Older people

The proposed SCS identifies four cross cutting actions that need to be taken into account when tackling each of the priorities:

- Enable equality and access to services
- Look at the bigger picture
- Involve local third sector organisations in the planning and delivery of public services
- Invest now for a better future

The proposed SCS does not contain details of specific actions or outcomes. Many of these will be in the North Yorkshire LAA. After adoption by the County Council, the SCS will be published alongside the LAA. The NYSP will have a key role in ensuring that progress is monitored and that the SCS is reviewed as required.

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**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) That the proposed Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/18, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted.</li><li>(ii) That Article 4 of the Council's Constitution be amended to refer to "Sustainable Community strategy" rather than "Community Strategy".</li></ul> |
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3. **Draft Local Area Agreement:** The new statutory duty to prepare a LAA applies to county and unitary councils, which must:

- Establish, before negotiations begin, a clear process and timetable which is understood by all partners, so that they feel they have sufficient opportunity to influence the outcome.
- Have regard to their Sustainable Community Strategy ("SCS") and any Secretary of State guidance when preparing the LAA.
- Consult and co-operate with other relevant organisations and local residents, together with neighbouring local authorities, where there are cross-boundary issues.
- Work through the Local Strategic Partnership ("LSP") and its thematic partnerships to agree collectively a shared set of priorities.
- Work with partner authorities to determine which partners will be helping to deliver each target and how each target is drafted.
- Formally approve the LAA or delegate power to approve it to the Council's Executive prior to submitting it to the Secretary of State.
- Publish information about the LAA, including the targets and relevant partners, and publish updated information whenever any modification is made to the LAA.

Local authorities and their partners should view the LAA as an opportunity to present to local citizens a clear statement of how the partners are going to tackle and measure progress against the identified targets.

The first round of LAAs between the Government, local authorities and their partners were brought forward in three tranches over three years. North Yorkshire's current LAA was in the third tranche and runs from April 2007 to March 2010. The 19 'stretch' targets included in the current agreement have a particular importance and their achievement in full will provide up to £16m reward grant at the end of the agreement at 31 March 2010. These targets are to be carried forward into NYLAA2 (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011) under the terms that currently apply. So, if the targets are achieved in full, the reward grant will be paid after 31 March 2010. The reward grant in respect of targets in the new agreement has yet to be determined.

Progress against the targets in the LAA is monitored quarterly by the six Thematic Partnerships of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership ("NYSP"), the County level LSP, and by the NYSP Executive. GOYH requires a progress report at six monthly intervals and it accepted the report as submitted to the LAA Management Group/NYSP Steering Group, on 13 December 2007, for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007. GOYH will accept the

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end of year report to be presented to the NYSP Executive as its end of year report. NYLAA1 comprises over 100 principal indicators but many are sub-divided/dis-aggregated. So the total number of indicators is 156, each with targets.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 has revamped the Local Area Agreement framework, putting it on a statutory footing, linked to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07), the new Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and the National Indicator Set (NIS) for local authorities and their partners. All top tier and unitary authorities have to work with their partners to produce a new LAA, under the new framework, to run from April 2008 to March 2011, in line with the three years of CSR07. The NYLAA2 is based on the priorities within the SCS and translates these into targets to secure improvements over the three years of the Agreement.

The draft Agreement contains 32 designated indicators, drawn from the National Indicator Set, 16 statutory education and early years indicators and 25 local non-designated indicators, 24 of which are carried forward from the current LAA. Local partners have committed themselves to delivering the targets set for these indicators and will be under the new duty to co-operate in doing so.

Targets are being negotiated with Government Office for the 32 designated indicators. The County Council sets its own targets for the local indicators.

The draft LAA was approved by the NYSP Partnership on 13 March 2008 and the Association of North Yorkshire Councils, at its meeting on 30 April 2008, recommended it for approval.

After approval by the County Council the final draft LAA, including all targets, will be submitted to Government Office. In June Government Office Regional Directors will make recommendations to central government; which will be followed by Ministerial sign off.

Although the LAA is being developed through the NYSP, regulations require that the preparation and submission of a final draft LAA have to be approved either by full Council or the Executive before being formally signed off by Ministers. It is a local choice matter as to where responsibility for LAA functions should lie within the authority. The draft LAA is presented to the County Council for approval at this meeting but, as the LAA is about the delivery of targets relating to the SCS, which forms part of the Policy Framework already approved by full Council, and as the LAA is able to be modified during its term, it is proposed that, in future, all functions relating to the LAA (including approval and modification of it) should be Executive functions. This would require the amendment of the Council's Constitution by the inclusion of the relevant wording at the end of the Table of Local Choice Functions at paragraph 4 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) That the draft North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement 2, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;</li><li>(ii) That all functions relating to the Local Area Agreement (including approval and modification of it) be Executive functions; and that the Council's Constitution be amended to make clear that functions under Sections 106, 110, 111 and 113 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, relating to Local Area Agreements, is an Executive function.</li></ul> |
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4. **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies:** Nominations have been received to fill the two parent governor representative vacancies on the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommendations for those appointments are set out below, together with the usual recommendation that any proposal for changes to Memberships or substitute memberships of Committees, or other bodies to which the County Council make appointments, put forward by the relevant political group, at or before the meeting of the Council, be approved.

The County Council has now been invited to appoint a representative on the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee and that appointment has been made by the Executive, which recommends that appointments to that Committee be added to Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Constitution. The Executive has also appointed Members to the Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units but, recognising that these are similar to appointments of local authority members to school governing bodies, recommends that the power to make future appointments be delegated to the Corporate Director – Children and Young Peoples Service, on the nomination of the political group to whom the right of nomination has been allocated, and that that power be added to paragraph 4.2(c) of Schedule 4 to the Constitution.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

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- (i) That Mrs Suzanne Morris (a parent governor at King James School, Knaresborough) and Dr. Patricia Stowell (a parent governor at Western Primary School, Harrogate) be appointed to the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as parent governor representatives.
- (ii) That any proposals for changes to memberships or substitute memberships of Committees, or other bodies to which the County Council make appointments, put forward by the relevant political group, at or before the meeting of the Council, be approved.
- (iii) That the appointment of a representative to the Robin Airport Consultative Committee, by the Executive, be added to Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Constitution.
- (iv) That the appointment of local authority Members to the Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units on the nomination of the political group to whom the right of nomination has been allocated, be delegated to the Corporate Director – Children and Young Peoples Service and be added to paragraph 4.2(c) of Schedule 4 to the Constitution.

**CHRIS METCALFE**

Chairman, 4 and 25 March 2008

**JOHN WEIGHELL**

Chairman

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON.

**13 May, 2008**