

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 DECEMBER 2008

CORPORATE AFFAIRS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Corporate Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last full Council meeting. The following items were considered:

Committee Meeting – 13 October 2008

Health and Safety Performance

Report of the Corporate Director – Finance and Central Services reviewing the County Council's health and safety performance during 2007-2008 and outlining developments proposed for 2008/09.

Members noted the improvement in performance outcomes and the reduction in the overall number of incidents reported. We were pleased with the progress that had been made and whilst we acknowledge that there remains a lot of work still to do we are satisfied with the overall direction of travel.

Use of Resources

Report of the Corporate Director – Finance and Central Services updating Members on the Use of Resources assessment for 2008 and the changed requirements for 2009.

Members noted that whilst the report had been resource intensive to produce it had resulted in the County Council having a very clear baseline assessment position which would enable the Committee to accurately monitor future performance.

Public Liability Claims

The Committee welcomed the commitment to produce the report on an annual basis. Members noted the improvement in the initial figures for 2007/08 which had yet to be finalised and agreed that we were satisfied with the measures outlined in the report.

Corporate Risk Register

Report of the Corporate Director – Finance and Central Services notifying the Committee of the updated Corporate Risk Register. We were advised of changes made to the Register since the previous year and we commended the Corporate Director – Finance and Central Services on the quality and comprehensiveness of the report.

Equality Standard for Local Government

Update report of the Head of Policy and Partnerships Unit on the review of the equality standard for local government and its implications for North Yorkshire County Council.

Members noted that corporate responsibility for equalities now rested with the Policy and Partnership Unit.

We were disappointed that little progress appears to have been made since the previous report and that it was now anticipated that it would be a further 12 to 24 months before the County Council was in a position to apply for Level 3 "Achieving". We will maintain an interest in this and look forward to an update on progress in six months time.

Casual Agency and Relief Staff (CAR) Project – (Formerly named the Use of relief and agency staff)

Report of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development updating the Committee on implementation of the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review into the "Use of Relief and Agency Staff".

Members were pleased with the progress made to date and look forward to finding out the results of the Selby pilot when available.

Succession Planning Targeted Progression for future leaders

Report of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development updating the Committee on progress and process for piloting a succession planning approach labelled "Targeted Development".

Members were delighted with the progress made and pleased to hear that if the pilot was successful the development programme would be made available to district councils in North Yorkshire together with partner organisations such as Health, Police and Fire.

Enhanced two tier working

The report on enhanced two tier working was presented to the Executive on the 4th November 2008 and as is customary for scrutiny reports it was referred to the Executive Member with the appropriate responsibility, in this case Corporate Affairs. The final report has now been sent out to all the District and Borough Councils and we look forward to an annual review of progress. We hope that in some small way the overview and scrutiny process can assist our councils to maintain the momentum on enhanced two tier working.

In-depth review - The role of the Manager in NYCC

This Task and Finish Group is looking at how we can ensure that North Yorkshire County Council has the required management capability through its processes of recruiting, developing and managing managers. The Task Group is made up of County Councillors Keith Barnes (Task Group Chairman), Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley and John Savage.

Four focus groups have now been held with officers of NYCC and the Task Group learnt much from talking direct to officers. The Committee looks forward to the final report in the New Year.

**County Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley
Chairman – Corporate Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

1 December 2008