

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 MAY 2010

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Total Place

1. Having attended a number of conferences it strikes me there is still some misunderstanding about how Total Place works. For example it is sometimes wrongly assumed to be just “good partnership working” or simply an attempt to reduce costs by streamlining back office resources. Total Place is much more than that. It maps money flowing through the place (from central or local bodies) and makes links between services to identify where public money can be spent more effectively. Doing more for less. The key is the customer needs process which provides an insight to help to better understand customer need and identify opportunities for collaboration between agencies on service design and use of resources.
2. The Committee recognised the importance of the three aims around Total Place:
 - To make changes to services that can improve the lives of local residents and deliver better value.
 - To deliver early savings to validate the work.
 - To develop a body of knowledge and learning about how more effective cross agency working can deliver the above.
3. Taken together these three strands will help identify potential efficiencies and assist people in organisations to work together.
4. We are now beginning to see in other places the use of the principles of Total Place to develop cross sector initiatives. The Committee did foresee the danger that the impact of the economic downturn results could be seen as a way of using Total Place simply as a way of reducing costs and therefore neglecting the opportunity to better develop local services more tailored to local needs.
5. In terms of Committee activity this issue remains high on our work programme for the coming months but it is recognised an in-depth review would be premature as the results of the 13 national pilots are only now beginning to emerge.

Sustainable Communities Strategy

6. The Committee has decided it would like to be involved in the refresh process of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and Local Area Agreement. Partners are being asked to agree their priorities and as the Local Area Agreement was reviewed every three years, it makes sense to review the Sustainable Communities Strategy at the same time.
7. We decided however to defer substantial comment until the results of the consultation are known between July and October 2010. All scrutiny committees will have the opportunity to submit their views but the views of the Safe and Sustainable Committee are particularly important in view of our role regarding the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership.

Community Safety Matters

8. As part of the Committee's ambition to speak to strategic leaders of agencies and organisations that contribute to the NYSP Safer Communities Forum, Jeremy Holderness, Chief Officer of the North Yorkshire Police Authority will come to talk to us at our next meeting. We have asked him to cover the commitment the NYPA has to the Forum and what he believes the priorities are in terms of crime and disorder for the county. He will also comment more generally on the work of the Police Authority.

**County Councillor David Jeffels
Chairman
Safe and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**County Hall
Northallerton
6 May 2010**

Background Documents: Nil