

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 OCTOBER 2010

### CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

##### Rationalising the Work Programme

1. When the County Council reduced the number of scrutiny committees, the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee inherited the business of three former committees; Communications, Corporate Affairs and Safe and Sustainable Communities.
2. Merging three work programmes inevitably resulted in a long list of potential lines of enquiry. Retaining that level of workload is neither sustainable nor desirable. At our first meeting in September we were able to prune this list in a way that reflects the key areas of our remit, particularly partnership working, community development and use of resources.
3. Some themes we intend to concentrate upon include:
  - In conjunction with Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee, an assessment of how effectively the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) serves the community. This will focus on the balance of commissioning activity between drugs and alcohol treatment.
  - Access to Services in Rural Areas, including the implications of the "Big Society" but also incorporating the roll out of broadband in rural areas.
  - Future Performance Monitoring: We will contribute to the process of deciding future arrangements in the light of the national decision to move away from a comprehensive national indicator set.
  - A potential project which invites corporate directors to list and report to Committee on partnerships they are involved or associated with. The information we will look at could include resources that have been committed, objectives achieved and outcomes. The Committee might then be in a position to assess which partnerships were central to the County Council's work, which are peripheral and might in the light of budgetary pressure be critically reviewed.

##### Scrutiny of Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Matters

4. Our first meeting was about honouring commitments the Safe and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee entered into in the context of crime and disorder matters. Jeremy Holderness, Chief

Officer from the North Yorkshire Police Authority explained how his organisation contributes to the Community Safety agenda. Nigel Hutchinson, current Chair of the Forum helped complete this picture by explaining the aims and objectives and structure of the Forum and what the Community Safety Agreement seeks to achieve. We saw evidence that partners remain committed to tackling crime and disorder and its causes at a local level and continue to work effectively both individually and collectively to address priorities and deliver outcomes.

5. Jeremy's attendance was timely in the light of the Coalition Government's "Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reconnecting Police and the people". A number of proposals of this consultation directly impact upon the County Council and this Scrutiny Committee's remit and functions. NYCC's response was not dissimilar from that of the North Yorkshire Police Authority. It emphasised the importance of partnership working in order to help dispel the notion that tackling crime and disorder should only be the responsibility of the Police and the elected Police and Crime Commissioner. There are risks, highlighted in our response, about the difficulties in understanding the differing roles of the Commission and the Chief Constable. Additionally, there is a risk that strategic co-operation, sharing of resources with partners and other police forces might be jeopardised as the focus shifts to a local level of policing. Some of the other proposals around reducing the burden on Community Safety Partnerships are though to be welcomed.
6. We will continue to enter into dialogue with strategic leaders and organisations and agencies that contribute to making our communities safe places to live in. With a crowded work programme however, it is unlikely we will be able to do this as regularly as the Safe and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee originally planned. That said, the community safety agenda remains a key priority for the Committee.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIZ CASLING**

**Chairman**

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

30 September 2010

Background Documents: Nil