

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**18 May 2011**

**Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Chairman's Statement**

**1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill**

- 1.1 At our Committee meeting on 28 March we discussed the implications of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Bill is to replace police authorities with a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner and a Police and Crime Panel, covering the Force area. If implemented these changes will come into effect from the spring of next year.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner will appoint the Chief Constable; produce a Police and Crime Plan; set the local precept and Police budget; and have powers to make community safety grants. The Commissioner will be accountable to the Police and Crime Panel.
- 1.4 Local authorities will be responsible for establishing and maintaining the panel. For York and North Yorkshire the panel will comprise 10 Councillors spread across the nine local authorities plus two independent members co-opted by the panel.
- 1.5 The Committee will be taking an active interest in these developments. As the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the County Council we will have a role in holding the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.

**2 York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust**

- 2.1 I have sent out to all Members details of the Community Payback scheme, which is being managed by the York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust. This followed from a presentation given by the Probation Trust at our Committee meeting in March.
- 2.2 The Committee was interested to note the role that the Probation Trust has in supporting victims of crime. We were informed that whilst the primary role of the Trust is to work with offenders, the Trust also has a statutory responsibility to work with victims of crime, where the offender receives a sentence of 12 months or more for a violent or sexual offence. The Trust's Victim Contact Scheme enables victims to receive information about an offender's progress through the prison system and allows the feelings of victims to be represented when cases are discussed at multi-agency meetings and when offenders are being considered for parole or release from prison under licence.

### **3 Human Resources**

- 3.1 Up to the end of March there have been 48 restructures across the County Council since mid 2010. Redundancy and redeployment support is being offered to staff affected by the restructures.
- 3.2 Changes to staff terms and conditions of service came into affect in April following a consultation exercise lasting a number of weeks. The changes will save almost £2 million and will be permanent unless reviewed and renegotiated with UNISON as part of the collective bargaining arrangements.
- 3.3 The next few years will see a reshaping of the workforce with a reduction in overheads and staff costs. The One Council change programme will play a central role in achieving this. From September, the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be scrutinising the implementation and progress of the One Council change programme. By then the programme plan for the various workstreams will have been produced.

### **4 Access to services**

- 4.1 We have set up a working group to review and report upon Access to Services in North Yorkshire. We hope to report back to the Committee in September. The focus is on community run/managed services, including broadband, and the aspirations of the Big Society. It is timely because although there are already a number of community run projects in the county there is likely to be increased demand. We need to know what the challenges and issues are for communities to successfully run services, and improvements that the County Council could make to help other communities manage services.
- 4.2 To date we have visited two good practice examples of community run services in the county - Stillington Village Post Office and the community run pub and shop in Hudswell. A visit to a local community broadband project is planned for later this month. We have also met with a number of voluntary sector organisations working in the field of community engagement and volunteer support. It is clear that we need to work closely with such organisations as they can provide community groups with independent support, advice and expertise.

**County Councillor Liz Casling**  
**Chairman**

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall  
Northallerton

5 May 2011

Background Documents: Nil