

North Yorkshire County Council

12 October 2011

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman's Statement

One Council

- 1 As part of the delivery of the One Council organisational change Programme, the Committee has set up a task group to monitor the development and delivery of the programme – in essence to provide a Member-led sounding board. Our aim is to provide sufficient challenge to officers to ensure that the desired benefits and outcomes of One Council are delivered. We will also be providing advice on issues of internal and external communications for Members and the wider public.
- 2 Later this month the task group will meet to help prioritise which aspects of the programme should be delivered in the short, medium or long term. The intention is to ensure that wherever possible those areas that are going to deliver the most savings are implemented in Years 1 and 2 of the programme. This piece of work should enable a robust programme plan to be produced. The group will meet again in November to discuss the final draft of the programme plan, and then meet at set intervals thereafter. One Council is likely to be an ongoing piece of work for the Committee up to March 2015 but with more input required this financial year and the next.
- 3 The Committee as a whole will receive the One Council quarterly performance reports prior to presentation to the Executive, with a verbal update provided by the Programme Director, followed by a question and answer session. I also encourage all Members to look at the One Council section of the intranet, which contains the workstream plans and related 'FAQ's'. The monthly highlight reports will also be available to view there.

Access to Services: 'Building the Big Society locally'

- 4 The Committee has completed its review on Access to Services in North Yorkshire, which focussed on community run services, including the aspirations of the Big Society.
- 5 During our work, it became clear that there are a number of 'building blocks' that all communities need to have in place if they are to successfully deliver any local service. Our recommendations therefore centre upon the strategic part that the County Council can play in ensuring that all these 'building blocks' are in place wherever needed in North Yorkshire. I will be presenting the report to the Executive later this month.

- 6 Looking ahead, the County Council needs to consider having an overall approach towards the Big Society agenda in order to help shape its own plans for involving communities more in the delivery of public services locally. This is especially so in terms of how we respond to 'the right to challenge' and other aspects in the Localism Bill.

County Councillor Liz Casling

Chairman

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall

Northallerton

14th September 2011

Background Documents: Nil