



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Northallerton on 12 October 2011, commencing at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor John Fort BEM in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Andrew Backhouse, Arthur Barker, Keith Barnes, Philip Barrett, Bernard Bateman, MBE, John Batt, John Blackburn, John Blackie, David Blades, John Clark, Michael Cockerill, Gareth Dadd, Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, Polly English, John Fox, Heather Garnett, Andrew Goss, Tony Hall, Roger Harrison-Topham, Michael Heseltine, Robert Heseltine, Bill Hault, Margaret Hulme, David Ireton, Janet Jefferson, Mike Jordan, Michael Knaggs, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Don Mackenzie, Pat Marsburg, Penny Marsden, Brian Marshall, J W Marshall, Shelagh Marshall, John McCartney, Chris Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Stuart Parsons, Caroline Patmore, Chris Pearson, Dave Peart, Joe Plant, Peter Popple, Paul Richardson, John Savage, Caroline Seymour, Stephen Shaw, Brian Simpson, Peter Sowray, Tim Swales, Helen Swiers, Herbert Tindall, Cliff Trotter, John Watson OBE, Geoff Webber, John Weighell, Richard Welch and Clare Wood.

The Chairman's Chaplain, the Reverend Matthew Evans, offered prayers.

MINUTES

RESOLVED -

102. That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday, 20 July 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Council that copies of two letters which Byram-cum-Sutton Parish Council wished to have drawn to the attention of the Council had been circulated in the Chamber.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

County Councillor John Weighell made a statement under Council Procedure Rule 2.3, as Leader of the Council, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (page 3271). He welcomed Helen Taylor, the new Director of Health and Adult Services to the Chamber. He responded to questions, including a written question from county Councillor Keith Barnes about a possible freeze on Council Tax.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Gary Edwards, resident and parent in Skipton, asked a question, of which notice had been received

"The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has been running in Craven for 37 years benefiting young people from all backgrounds and abilities, we are very concerned at what is effectively a dismantling of full access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in Craven and across North Yorkshire with little consultation, cynically done in just 4 weeks across the summer. Although access to the bronze award (without the expedition) apparently will continue, silver and gold will cease thus making any progression to the higher awards for 15-18 year olds impossible. What is this council doing to ensure continued, open and full access to the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award for young people in our District?

We request the Council halt the current plans and reconsider how best to serve young people across the County with this essential scheme that gives young people the opportunity for growth, to learn life skills and help with access to either further education, university and work at this much needed time of higher than ever youth unemployment."

County Councillor Arthur Barker responded to the question, saying:

"North Yorkshire County Council's Youth Support Service has two roles in relation to support for DoE,

Firstly, it acts as the Operating Authority which requires that it employs a co-ordinator and administrator to support the establishment and registration of groups wishing to deliver the award. Currently there are over 70 units, including those run by schools and a variety of voluntary and community youth groups. This function is not affected by the staffing review within the Youth Support Service - we will continue to support schools and other organisations to establish and develop the DoE award. There has been much dialogue with schools which wish to maintain the DoE but who have, in the past, relied on Youth Support staff to deliver their programme. Many of these schools have now assumed this responsibility – they now receive the same level of support as other units under the NYCC responsibility as the operating authority.

Secondly, there are services within NYCC which deliver the award and this includes those delivered by the Youth Support Service. Where the Youth Support Service offers the award it is as an 'open' unit, which means that young people can participate irrespective of which community they live in or school they attend.

The current provision is not equitable across the county and therefore the aim is to establish a programme of personal/social development and accredited learning that can be offered across the service. This will require a period of change during which all the workforce will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to support the development and delivery of the programme. In order to achieve this the service has looked at all the activities it offers and has made some choices about where to continue to invest resources. This has resulted in some activities being discontinued but we have committed to retain the DoE within our programme. However we do need to suspend some provision to allow more time to establish our structure and programmes. This includes the registration to the Silver and Gold Awards whilst we are concentrating on extending the provision at the Bronze level across the county.

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We have been working with colleagues from the Outdoor Education Service within the Children and Young People's Service to identify how we can work in partnership to deliver the expedition elements of the programme. We are confident that by 2012 this will be in place and young people will again have access to Silver and Gold level awards through 'open units'.

There is no specific connection between these changes and the new Children and Young People's Plan or the CYPs savings under the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The decision to make changes to the Youth Support Service's offer to young people is cost neutral and based on an internal review of staffing the service."

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

Capital Plan 2011/12

The recommendation in paragraph 1 of the report (page 3275) having been moved and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED -

103. That the updated Capital Plan 2011-12 is approved.

Prudential Indicators 2011/12 to 2013/14

The recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report (page 3286) having been moved and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED -

104. That the revised Prudential Indicators for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 2, are approved.

Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14

The recommendation in paragraph 3 of the report (page 3287) having been moved and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED -

105. That the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14, a copy of which is attached to this report as Appendix 3B, is approved.

The recommendations in paragraph 4 of the report (pages 3288) having been moved and seconded, it was moved and seconded as an amendment that recommendation a) be deleted.

**The Council divided and, on a show of hands, there were:
for the amendment – 3
against the amendment – more
and the amendment was declared lost.**

It was

RESOLVED -

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| 106. | <p>(a) That provision be made in the Constitution for a non-voting representative of the independent care sector, together with a substitute member, to be appointed to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(b) That the delegation of authority to allocate grant funding for community transport, to be assessed in accordance with agreed criteria, to the Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services, in conjunction with Executive Members, for grants which are less than £100k be added to section 4.4 of the scheme of delegation to officers in the Constitution.</p> <p>(c) That Groundwork North Yorkshire be transferred from section 2 of Schedule 5 to the Constitution to section 1.</p> |
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Appointments to Committees and other bodies

The recommendations in paragraph 5 of the report (page 3290) having been moved and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED -

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| 107. | <p>(a) That County Councillor Bill Hoults is appointed as the fourth named substitute for the Liberal Democrat Group on the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee, in place of County Councillor Geoff Webber, who is now a member of that Committee.</p> <p>(b) That County Councillor Peter Pople is appointed to serve on the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority as a North Yorkshire Independent in place of County Councillor Andrew Williams and that the substitute members for that Group on the Authority are 1. County Councillor John Blackie 2. County Councillor Bill Chatt 3. County Councillor Janet Jefferson.</p> <p>(c) That County Councillor Joe Plant is appointed to serve on the Audit Committee in place of County Councillor Roger Harrison-Topham; that County Councillor John Blackburn is appointed to the vacancy on the Employment Appeals Committee and County Councillor Stephen Shaw is appointed as a substitute member for the Conservative Group on that Committee, in his place.</p> |
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REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Local Code of Corporate Governance

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The recommendation in paragraph 1 of the report (page 3417) having been moved and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED -

108. That the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance, as set out at Appendix 1, is approved.

Annual Report of the Audit Committee

The recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report (page 3417) having been moved and seconded, it was

RESOLVED -

109. That the annual report of the Audit Committee, as set out at Appendix 2, is noted.

STATEMENTS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

County Councillor Gareth Dadd, the Executive Member for Highways and Planning Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages). He responded to questions.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, the Executive Member for Rural Services, Waste Disposal, Public Passenger Transport, Economic Development and Library Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages). He corrected two dates given in the written statement and responded to questions, including agreeing to investigate and respond on the matter raised by County Councillor Bill Hoult.

County Councillor John Watson OBE, the Executive Member for Financial Services, including assets, IT and procurement, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages). He responded to questions, including agreeing to investigate and respond, together with County Councillor Don Mackenzie, on the matter raised by County Councillor Keith Barnes.

County Councillor Carl Les, the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services, Special Educational Needs, Youth Justice and Chief Executive Group Services made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages). He responded to questions and agreed to provide a response to County Councillor Savage on adoption figures in the County.-

County Councillor Arthur Barker, the Executive Member for Schools, 16-19 year old education, Early Years Provision and Youth Service, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages) and responded to questions, including agreeing to make his response to the earlier public question available to Members by e-mail.

County Councillor Clare Wood, the Executive Member for Adult Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages) and responded to questions, including written questions from County Councillor Keith Barnes relating to public health activity costs and from County Councillor Bill Hoult relating to fluoridation proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill.

The written statements of the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (pages) having previously been circulated, the Chairman of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee spoke and responded to questions.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10 QUESTIONS

County Councillor Geoff Webber asked the following question directed to the Chairman of the North Yorkshire Police Authority:

“A motion of no confidence in the Chief Constable was comprehensively defeated at the last meeting of the county council, during which debate several senior members of the Conservative group stated that they had every confidence in the Chief Constable. Those sentiments were repeated in a TV interview with Cllr Kenyon after the meeting. Within less than 2 months, however, the Police Authority declined a request from the Chief Constable to extend his contract. Can Cllr Kenyon explain why the Police Authority completely failed to support her position and that of her group.

I understand that the decision of the Police Authority was made by a small group of authority members and not by the whole membership. Will Cllr Kenyon identify the members involved in making that decision.”

In County Councillor Jane Kenyon’s absence at the Police Authorities’ conference, County Councillor Carl Les indicated that she would respond in writing to the question, with copies of the response being made available to all Members of the Council.

The meeting concluded at 13.00.