

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**20 February 2013**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES**

**Apprenticeship Provision – Executive Funding**

Despite reduced recruitment the County Council's Apprentice scheme continues to provide jobs for young people aged 16 – 18 with 70 apprentices appointed to vacancies in 2012, an increase on the previous 2 years when significant restructuring affected the availability of opportunities for young people.

The £400k funding to support the provision of apprenticeships in the local economy continues to have an impact with 53 apprenticeships provided to date as well as employability training as a precursor to employment. These apprenticeships include some in Community and Council Libraries with the majority in small/medium sized employers many of which are contractors in NYCC's supply chain.

**One Council' Organisational Change Programme**

The One Council Programme is currently on track to deliver £1.3m of savings in this financial year, all of which is ahead of schedule. The overall savings target of £7.644m by 2014/15 remains in place and good progress is being made. This area remains challenging given the nature of cross-council working and it is likely that some areas will require some one-off investment in order to deliver both savings and the outcomes in line with One Council ways of working.

**One Council - Business Support Redesign**

The majority of Business Support staff moved to Central Services from Directorates in July. Since then there has been much work looking at how Business Support is delivered now and how this can change. Proposals are being developed to completely redesign Business Support based on standard processes and ways of working, better use of new technology, self-service for managers and staff, and centralising some activities on a Countywide and site basis to work across directorates. The changes will be far reaching and affect all areas of the council in terms of the support provided by Business Support. Over £0.5 million has already been saved from initial changes. New structures based on the design proposals will not be in place until the summer with consultation with the 700 staff affected due to start in March. It is anticipated the changes will save in the region of £1 million on staffing and consumables over the next couple of years.

**North Yorkshire police and crime panel**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced significant changes in police governance and accountability; in particular replacing Police Authorities by directly

elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The Police and Crime Commissioner sets the strategic objectives for policing their area, in consultation with the Chief Constable. The Commissioner is accountable to the electorate; the Chief Constable is accountable to the Commissioner. Julia Mulligan was elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire in November 2012.

Every police force area also has a Police and Crime Panel to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the Commissioner. Each panel is a joint committee of the local authorities in the area – in our case Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Selby District Council and City of York Council.

The North Yorkshire panel comprises ten Councillors (appointed by the local authorities) plus two co-opted community representatives, independent of any council (appointed by the Panel following open advertisement). North Yorkshire County Council is host local authority for the panel and provides administrative and other support to the panel and its members. I have been elected Chairman for the current municipal year, with two Vice-Chairmen: Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick (City of York Council) and Cllr Gillian Ivey (Selby District Council).

Following an essential period of preparation and briefing, the panel has started its work in earnest. Earlier this month the panel considered and approved the Commissioner's proposed precept. In a few days time the panel will hold a confirmation hearing to review the Commissioner's preferred candidate for the post of Chief Constable. And in the second half of March the panel will be asked to consider the Commissioner's proposed Police and Crime Plan.

I encourage all members of the County Council to read and respond to the Commissioner's proposed Police and Crime Plan for North Yorkshire and York. Commissioners are required to consult on and publish a plan that sets out how the police, community safety partnerships and other partners in the criminal justice system will work together to reduce crime. The consultation lasts until 18 March 2013 and the draft plan can be accessed at [www.crimeplan.org.uk](http://www.crimeplan.org.uk).

For more information about the Police and Crime Panel and its work please go to [www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp).

CARL LES