

**North Yorkshire County Council****20 February 2013****Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My Chairman's statement for the County Council includes details of the Committee's meeting held on 21 January, which focused on community safety arrangements in the county.

**York & North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum**

- 2 The annual update of the Forum provided us with the opportunity to examine how the priority areas in the Community Safety Agreement are being addressed, and future challenges for community safety partnership working. The focus remains on Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Violent Crime and Road Safety. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be chairing the Forum from now on, replacing Nigel Hutchinson (Chief Fire Officer).
- 3 The funding situation means that the current community safety structures in the county are unsustainable in future financial years. Mainly because of this the Forum is developing a business case to present to the PCC on the various options for re-organising community safety structures in the county. It could be that the Forum becomes a single strategic board for Community Safety & Criminal Justice, and the district Community Safety Partnerships become 'local delivery groups'. The latter would continue to tackle local priorities but have slimmed down administrative structures and share resources more generally.
- 4 Whatever form the new structures take our Committee will continue to hold to account the work of the 'Responsible Authorities' - the police force, local authorities, fire & rescue authority, health and probation services - regarding their partnership work at county level. We have also approved a joint protocol with the Police and Crime Panel. This sets out our respective roles, avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort, and looks to see where we can work together on issues of common interest.

**Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 5 We welcomed Julia Mulligan, PCC for North Yorkshire to the meeting. She discussed the emerging priorities that she would be consulting on in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-17. These include:
  - 'Reduce harm' (responding effectively to crime, anti-social behaviour etc.)
  - 'Put people first' (improved victim support etc.)
  - 'Deliver more with less' (achieve maximum value for money)
  - 'Ensure that we are 'fit for the future' ' (police infrastructure)

- 'Drive justice' (deal more effectively with prolific offenders, ensure the appropriate use of cautions, restorative justice etc.)
  - 'Police UK' (meet strategic national policing requirements)
- 6 We were pleased to hear that Julia's future plans include putting victims of crime first and that rural areas will not be neglected in spite of the challenging financial times. In connection with this there will be an expansion of special constabulary and non-warranted volunteers to provide 'Parish Constables' in rural and urban areas. Parish Constables were first trialled in Hertfordshire over four years ago and seem to have been popular with local communities there in helping to tackle growing rural crime. Other Forces alongside North Yorkshire are also planning to use Parish Constables.
- 7 The PCC intends to do the rounds of Area Committees in the coming months to ensure that all County Councillors have the chance to meet with her to raise issues and concerns and to provide two-way communications back to residents.

#### **Additional savings for Central Services in 2013/14 and 2014/15**

- 8 We examined the outline proposals for additional savings to be made by the Central Services Directorate in response to the Provisional Government Settlement for 2013/14. These include:
- ICT Services (opportunities arising from the Microsoft transition and Wide Area Network procurement exercise);
  - Corporate Property Management (property running costs, minor property rationalisation and review of staffing);
  - library & community services (back office costs);
  - financial services (reviewing the finance function along One Council principles);
  - legal and democratic services and HR services (by managing vacancies and staff turnover); and
  - by reviewing the ways of working and management structures across Central Services.
- 9 Whilst these savings will affect staff we noted that there wouldn't be a noticeable impact felt by the public and so we were generally supportive of these proposals. In connection with the savings proposals around corporate property management we suggested that in the new Council a Property Working Group should be set up to enable more Members to have closer oversight of property issues.

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

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall  
Northallerton

6 February 2013

Background Documents: Nil