

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 NOVEMBER 2013****COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES****North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

I am now into my second year as your representative (and Chair) of the Police and Crime Panel - established as a joint committee to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan, to account. These new arrangements were not the most popular and many doubted they could be made to work. But, in this short time the North Yorkshire Panel has handled a busy programme with some success. It has: reviewed the setting of the Precept; held confirmation hearings for a new Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; scrutinised the Police and Crime Plan and the Annual Report; examined the plans to relocate Police Headquarters and; and kept a weather-eye over new arrangements for commissioning services for community safety outcomes.

We will start 2014 as we began this one - with the Commissioner's precept proposals, over which we have certain powers notably the right to veto. The latest key messages, recently sent to all Members, sets out our latest discussions and our programme ahead.

Community covenant grants

The County Council is the accountable body for organisations in North Yorkshire applying to the Military of Defence community covenant grants programme. This programme aims to support projects that strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the armed forces community (serving personnel, veterans and their families) and the wider community in which they live.

Over £1.2m has now been accessed for local communities in North Yorkshire. Recent grants include:

- £31k - Alne Pre-school Playgroup - new building
- £21k - Clervaux Trust - family support programme
- £50k - Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary School - Building for out-of-school club
- £20k - Hunton Primary School - Extend early years teaching area to develop a covered outdoor area and add additional toilet facilities
- £56k - Richmond Cricket Club - Four-lane net-practice facility and artificial match play wicket
- £150k - Richmond School - Sports Pavilion
- £7k - Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Primary School - ICT Hub and Café
- £21k - Carnagill Community Primary School - Adventure Trim Trail
- £4k - Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary School - Performing arts project
- £25k - Linton on Ouse Village Hall - refurbishment and improving access
- £5k - Swaledale Festival - Instrument Making / Percussion Music Project
- £20k - Rural Arts North Yorkshire - families from Alanbrooke Barracks creating artwork linked to the Deer Shed music festival

- £1k - British American Committee RAF Menwith Hill - Exhibition tent and equipment
- £18k - Le Cateau Community Primary School - International Cafe and Community Garden
- £2k - NYCC Youth Support Service - Richmondshire Youth Arts and Community Festival
- £25k - Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary School - Multi-Use Games Area and Playground Improvements
- £13k – NYCC Archives Service - Garrison Origins (oral history project)
- £35k - Colburn Town Council - children's playground
- £10k - Scotton Parish Council - Multi Use Games Area
- £70k - Pendragon Community Trust - Multi-Sensory Centre

Further information and the application form are available at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/ccgrant

Procurement

The demands on procurement are developing further within the Council in line with the approach set out in the One Council Programme. Over £85m worth of contracts have been awarded over the past 6 months. There has been a good mix of projects across all four directorates including the innovative 'ProcureOne' framework within Corporate Property Management which is pulling together a range of contractors to support our building needs.

A further £175m worth of projects are in the pipeline for the coming 6 months, again seeing activity across all of the directorates.

Procurement continues with its objective of value creation. Savings are being captured on all activity rather than on an ad-hoc basis. This reporting year has seen procurement savings in excess of £700k. Satisfaction surveys are now being reported on all projects. Technology is playing its role – most recently in a number of e-Auctions that have been run on the Councils eTendering portal. Spend visibility is moving from a project by project basis to a council wide approach using a new spend analysis tool, which will better inform the future procurement activity and proactive supplier management.

The Council can also show strong support to the local economy and small and medium enterprises (SME's). 62% of third party spend is with SMEs and 42% is within the NYCC boundary (of which 79% was with SMEs). 64% is within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

I intend to bring regular updates on Procurement to County Council.

Business Support Restructure

The Business Support restructure affecting over 600 staff has now been completed with the new structure implemented on 1st Nov. This has moved business support to a number of centralised services in line with the One Council approach as previously agreed. Business Support staff based across the County now have a single management structure whilst some functions such as financial administration have

been retained as a discrete Business Support team. So far these changes have saved £1.5m per annum.

Graduates and Apprentices

In the last quarter we have appointed 9 apprentices, compared to 18 in the same period last year, the reduction being largely as a result of vacancies being held pending the business support restructure. Whilst the number of newly appointed apprentices has reduced we have increased the number of graduate recruits to 12, compared with 4 in the same period last year. In addition 15 North Yorkshire graduates on 2 year contracts starting in October / November have been appointed to the new in-house graduate scheme. This displays an on-going commitment to local young people against a backdrop of reducing finances as the graduate training roles are 'real' roles converted into this development opportunities.

Over the past 14 months we have appointed 50 apprentices and 3 in the process of being recruited as part of the Executive funded project. Of these apprentices we know that 34% were not in education, employment or training (NEET) displaying the long term positive effect on those young people with the greatest need. 17 of the first recruits have now completed their apprenticeship, 14 of which have secured a long term position in their post and a further 2 have secured employment with alternative organisations.

Performance Management

We are currently preparing the second quarter's performance report that will be considered by the Executive on 19 November. This is the second in a new style of performance report, which focusses on services identified as benefiting from in-depth analysis. The Q2 report will focus on Residential and Community Services in HAS.

Work continues to further develop the performance management framework of the Council. This covers council and service planning, practical training and advice through to performance management at team and individual level. This is aimed at ensuring our resources are aligned to meeting future council objectives and help to maximise our productivity.

Finance update

As the Leader's statement has indicated, further news will be with us shortly on the funding outlook for the next 2 years.

One development that it is worth noting is that the County Council has submitted an expression of interest to join a Business Rates Pool with 5 of the District Council's. Harrogate Borough Council is currently excluded as it already pools within the Leeds City Region and further work needs to be undertaken to determine whether or not there is a business case for Selby District Council to be included within the North Yorkshire Pool. As well as encouraging closer working, the Pool should result in additional income coming into the Pool of Councils. The arrangements relating to Business Rates are relatively complex but clearly it is welcome that additional monies can be secured for the tax payers of North Yorkshire. We hope to learn whether or not our expression of interest has been successful over the next few

months and it is likely that County Council will receive an update in the budget report in February 2014.

Superfast North Yorkshire

The Vision for the Superfast North Yorkshire (SFNY) project is to get access to high quality broadband for 100 % of the premises (both residential and commercial) in North Yorkshire, and the City of York, by the end of 2017.

High quality (=superfast) broadband is defined as having a speed in excess of 25 mbps. Before the SFNY project started the average, including the urban areas ,was <5mbps.

There are 379000 premises in North Yorkshire, and the City of York, of which 184000 are due to be upgraded to superfast by BT and Virgin on a commercial basis. This leaves 195000 to be addressed by the SFNY project.

The contract with BT will see 150000 of these premises able to access superfast broadband by the end of 2014. The remainder (45000 premises) are guaranteed to get at least 2mbps but in most cases they will be able to receive more albeit not the 25mbps target. The BT roll out is on schedule and within budget.

The cost of `Phase 1` above is £27m of which £10m is funded from Europe and the balance from Central Government.

What to do to get the remaining 45000 premises up to 25 mbps is now the challenge.

Because of its status as the leading project in the country (in terms of progress with over 70000 premises upgraded to date) SFNY has been able to secure additional funding of £5m from Europe and Central Government , to which NYCC has agreed to add £3m, creating a pot of £8m for further investment. This pot will not be sufficient to achieve 100% coverage but should reach between 93-95% of premises. Further funding opportunities are being pursued.

SFNY is also promoting community based wireless schemes as a sustainable alternative to fibre provided BT/Virgin. It may well be that further schemes of this nature will be the only cost effective way of achieving universal coverage availability of at least 25 mbps.

As part of the SFNY project the team also undertakes Demand Stimulation / Marketing (to raise awareness of the project, promote take up, maintain website etc) and Business Support (to help SMEs adopt IT, broadband and social media).

Further details of all aspects of the SFNY project are available on the website www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com

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