

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 JULY 2014

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

Property

The County Council's contract with Jacobs for the provision of Property and Engineering Services expires on 31 March 2016. Officers have undertaken work to consider the requirements for those services after that date and alternative options for their provision. The Executive will consider a confidential report on the issue on 29 July and, subject to the report being approved, a re-procurement exercise will commence thereafter.

Detailed planning is being undertaken to ensure that there will be a smooth transition between the existing and proposed arrangements.

National Day of Action

A national day of action took place on 10 July and affected the whole of the public sector.

In NYCC we had 19 schools closed and 44 partially closed. With the exception of the closure of 2 Adult Day Centres in Scarborough and Selby and a Children's Centre in Northallerton there were no other services affected. In total some 180 (non school) staff went on strike. There were picket lines outside larger offices and libraries which were peaceful and small in number.

This national dispute relates to the national pay offer and is not something individual authorities can determine.

The local government employers side have stated that the industrial action will not affect the existing national pay offer of 1% for most staff increasing to up to 4% for lowest paid staff, so there may be further strike action later in the year if a national agreement cannot be reached.

Local Government Yorkshire and Humber

Local Government Yorkshire and Humber represents the 22 councils across Yorkshire and the Humber. In recent years its role has reduced but further discussions took place on 14 July when Leaders considered its on-going role.

Views were expressed prior to the meeting that its role should be narrow in supporting Leaders and Chief Executives of the 22 councils to come together but any subsequent work should be shared out amongst the councils. I will be able to provide a further verbal update at County Council following the meeting of 14 July.

Financial Outturn 2013/14

On 17 June the Executive considered the 4th Quarter Performance Monitoring Report. This included details of the financial outturn for both the Revenue Budget and Capital Plan for 2013/14. As the Leader notes in his statement, we are managing our financial position well. The Council is continuing to deliver on its savings, some of them ahead of schedule which means that we are as well placed as we can be as we prepare for the next round of significant savings. These additional one-off savings also provide us with the opportunity to make the necessary investments so the Council is well placed for the future.

The financial outturn position is now being reflected in the Council's draft Statement of Accounts which is currently being considered by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will consider the final draft on 25 September 2014 which will permit it to sign off the Statement of Accounts in line with our statutory obligations.

2020 North Yorkshire Staff Support

It is important as we move forward with the 2020 Programme that we support staff as they are directly affected. HR are providing support for staff who are likely to be in a redundancy position by helping them look for and find another job or opportunities, often outside the council. Unfortunately redeployment into other jobs in the council will be much less of an option than in earlier restructures. We are helping staff affected by support such as interview training, preparing a CV and job applications, job search, information on setting up in business, training for different roles etc. Because of the size and scope all staff will be affected in some way, so we are also providing general support and information. There is now a dedicated online staff resource providing information on a range of issues including how to manage any personal worry and anxiety, financial planning, how to update skills such as IT, alternative options staff may not have considered such as fostering. Information events are being run to cover all these issues and more for staff to drop in and find out about if they want.

We want staff who have to leave our employment, often after many years, to leave well with as much support and help as they need.

CARL LES