

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 FEBRUARY 2015

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

Performance

During the course of this year we have included directorate performance items on Members Seminars. So far this has covered Business and Environmental Services and Health and Adult Services. These provide further opportunity for Members to discuss performance issues directly with lead officers about our services. They have proven valuable so far and the Seminar in March will focus on the Children and Young People's service.

The County Council's services are refreshing Service Plans as they look ahead to the challenges we face and meeting the vision set out in our new Council Plan. These plans will be another part of ensuring that we are all focussed on the right things and work together to get the best outcomes and value for money for the people in our county.

Procurement

A new Corporate Procurement Strategy and detailed Action Plan, looking to 2020, has been worked on and is setting a more ambitious agenda. Previously the main focus has been on tendering, whereas now the strategy is focussed on the whole life cycle - influencing thinking prior to tendering through to contract management. Greater emphasis will be placed on supporting SMEs and local suppliers when it is appropriate to do so. The next stage is for the Audit Committee to review and further Member engagement will be considered in the light of that meeting and input from Executive Members.

An updated Procurement Manual has also been launched. The new format is easier to read and fully delivered through the intranet. Users will be able to instantly draw down the precise process and documentation relevant to their procurement needs.

Revenue Budget 2015/16

The Revenue Budget is dealt with elsewhere on the agenda and is clearly a key decision for the County Council as a whole. The Final Local Government Settlement was received on 3 February 2015 (the afternoon of the Executive consideration of the report) and I am pleased to report that we received an additional £545k. The budget report which is before County Council has therefore been updated to reflect this Settlement – see highlighted figures.

Other Developments

As a good example of partnership working, we have recently entered into an agreement with the City of York Council to jointly fund and manage a Shared Head of Health and Safety and we appointed to this post just before Christmas. This will bring about the sharing of good practice across the two councils as well as seeking areas of working more efficiently. As well as continuing to provide a Health and Safety function for Hambleton District Council I am pleased to say that we have now signed a similar contract with Selby District too.

The selling of services to other authorities and customers reflects a more commercial approach in the Council, and this is exemplified well by SmartSolutions – our new way of providing traded services to schools and other organisations. Members will have received a presentation about this at the last seminar (12th February) and that presentation is available on the website. This is an exciting initiative – an area of potential growth for the council at a time when other services face budget pressures, and also an area which, through income generation, will help to sustain those other services.

Closer to home, members will be aware of the work which is now well underway to repair the County Hall ceilings and to address the related structural issues. At this stage I am pleased to say that our contractors are making good progress.

Timescales remain as per the Members Seminar held on 3 December 2014, details of which can still be retrieved from the intranet on

<http://nyccintranet/content/december-2014>

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