

North Yorkshire County Council**18 February 2015****Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting held on 19 January 2015.

Committee – 19 JanuaryNewspaper partnership

- 2 The County Council's partnership with the local newspaper group Johnston Press is due to be reviewed. Having started the partnership in February 2012, the Council has been including one page of information in six local papers each month.
- 3 The Committee agreed that the partnership with Johnston Press should continue. We felt that it provides good value for money for keeping residents up to date with important Council information following the cancellation of the monthly Council newspaper NY Times. It also provides the Council with a means to publish Public Notices, which it's required to do anyway.

2020 cross cutting themes

- 4 The Committee will be monitoring the development and delivery of the Council's 2020 cross cutting themes, which are about reshaping the Council in the face of significantly reduced funding:
 - stronger communities
 - alternative delivery models & commercial focus
 - property
 - customer
 - organisational delivery.
- 5 The Committee's aim is to provide sufficient challenge to officers to ensure that the desired benefits and outcomes of the 2020 cross cutting themes are delivered and the savings targets are met.
- 6 We were provided with an overview of the themes at our meeting and the progress of each will be scrutinised in greater detail at subsequent meetings.
- 7 Members made the point that the cross-cutting themes need to ensure that when savings are made in one service area the likely impact on others is flagged up and mitigating measures put in place if possible. In other words the reverse of a 'silo' approach to decision-making. We noted that ideally all public services operating across the county should do a similar exercise together. Admittedly this is difficult to do in practice when each is pre-

occupied with responding to their own budget pressures. However the Selby Better Together project between the district council and county council represents a starting point.

Transforming Rehabilitation – changes to the Probation Service

- 8 The government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda implemented last year marked major changes for the Probation Service. As from 1 February 2015 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) are working with low to medium risk individuals serving less than 12 months sentences to try to stop them reoffending. The Probation Trusts were dissolved in May last year and replaced with a National Probation Service. Probation will continue to deal with offenders serving longer sentences and retain responsibility for most dangers ex-offenders including those with convictions for violence and sex offences.
- 9 A representative from the Probation Service attended our meeting, informing us about the actions being taken locally to get to grips with this new agenda. The rationale for the government's policy is hard to argue with when it is considered offenders serving less than 12 months are the group with the highest offending rates but until very recently there was no legal requirement for them to be supervised.
- 10 The successful bidder for Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire CRC is Purple Futures - a national consortium of private sector and voluntary sector partners. Disappointingly a representative from Purple Futures was not able to attend our meeting. The Committee will be inviting representatives from Purple Futures and the Probation Service to attend a meeting early next year.
- 11 We won't know until almost two years down the line the impact that the changes have had on reoffending rates. However the Committee in the meantime will be keen to see that arrangements have been put in place in our area between the Probation Service and the CRC to ensure very good lines of communication and cooperation. Collaborative working between the two will be fundamental to the success of driving down offending rates. Hopefully in this regard it will help that some staff from the previous Probation Trust have been transferred over to the CRC. Another issue to explore will be the extent to which the CRC is working with local partners to reduce reoffending.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman
Chairman

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Northallerton

5 February 2015