

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



QUARTERLY MEETING

22 July, 2015

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes
and Reports**



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the County Council to be held at County Hall, Northallerton, on **Wednesday, 22 July 2015 at 10.30 am**, at which the following business will be transacted.

Recording is allowed at County Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings, a copy of which is available to download below. Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact, prior to the start of the meeting, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) whose details are shown at item 4 of this Agenda. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive. <http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk>

BUSINESS

1. To move that the **Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 May 2015** having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(Pages 1 to 8)

2. **Chairman's Announcements** - Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chairman of the Council.

3. **A Statement by the Leader of the Council**

(Pages 9 to 10)

4. **Public Questions or Statements**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) – contact: barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk) by **midday on 17 July 2015**, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak

5. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Executive** and make decisions on them.

(Pages 11 to 18)
(Also see Accompanying Booklet)

- Revenue Budget 2014/2015
- Capital Outturn 2014/2015
- Working Together – North Yorkshire Compact
- Highway Infrastructure asset Management Plan (HAMP) Strategy
- Appointments to Committees

6. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)** and make a decisions on it.

- Constitution Review 2015 - Proposals to Change the Current Process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals

(Pages 19 to 28)

7. **Statements of Executive Members**, in the order set out below, **followed by Statements by the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

(Pages 29 to 65)

Executive Members:

- (a) Central services specifically Finance and HR issues (Portfolio holder: County Councillor Gareth Dadd).
- (b) Children and Young People's Services responsibilities for schools and early years. (Portfolio holder: County Councillor Arthur Barker).
- (c) Stronger communities, public health, Legal and Democratic Services and the role of area committees. (Portfolio holder: County Councillor David Chance).
- (d) Highways, road safety, access to the countryside (including Broadband, mobile phone coverage) public transport (Portfolio holder: County Councillor Don Mackenzie)
- (e) Waste Services, Library and Information Services, economic development, rail strategy, trading standards (Portfolio holder: County Councillor Chris Metcalfe).
- (f) Children and Young People's Services with responsibility for foster and adoption, children's social care and prevention (Portfolio holder: Janet Sanderson)
- (g) Adult social care and health integration (Portfolio holder: Clare Wood)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:

- (h) Scrutiny Board (Chairman: County Councillor Elizabeth Casling).
- (i) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman).
- (j) Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Andrew Backhouse).
- (k) Scrutiny of Health Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Jim Clark).
- (l) Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Janet Jefferson)

- (m) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan).

Members of the Council may, without notice, ask the Member who made the statement questions arising from matters raised in that statement or may ask any questions on matters in that portfolio not mentioned in the statement, but **unless notice has been given by 10 am on 21 July 2015**, the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, and this is then circulated to all Members.

8. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

RICHARD FLINTON
Chief Executive Officer

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON
14 July 2015

BARRY KHAN,
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

QUESTIONS

Council Procedure Rules 2.4 and 10 set out the procedures for asking questions at the County Council Meeting.

2.4 REPORTS, STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Any reports of the Executive or committees shall, whenever possible, be printed and circulated to Members of the Council before the meetings at which they are to be considered.
- (b) The Leader of the Council may make a statement to the Council on any matters relevant to the Council and any portfolio holder (including the Leader if he/she holds a portfolio) or Chairman of any overview and scrutiny committee may make a statement to the Council on any matters relevant to that portfolio or the work of that overview and scrutiny committee. Members of the Council may, without notice, ask the Member who made the statement questions arising from matters raised in that statement or may ask any questions on matters in that portfolio not mentioned in the statement, but unless notice has been given by 10 am the previous day the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, with a copy being placed in Members' Group Rooms. The provisions of Council Procedure Rule 10 (b), (c), (d) and (e) shall apply to questions under this Council Procedure Rule.
- (c) No Member shall speak more than once or for more than two minutes on any statement made by the Leader or a portfolio holder or Chairman of the Scrutiny Board or of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, except that one representative of each Group may speak for 5 minutes when responding to the statement made by the Leader. The Leader or portfolio holder or Chairman of the Scrutiny Board or of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee making the statement is not limited in the time allowed to make the statement or limited in time or frequency of speaking when responding to questions.

10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

- (a) In addition to his/her right under Council Procedure Rule 2.4 to ask questions of the Leader or a portfolio holder or Chairman of an overview and scrutiny committee or in any report, a Member may ask the Chairman of any committee, other than an overview and scrutiny committee, any questions relating to the business of the Council or may ask the Chairman or nominated member of the North Yorkshire Police Authority, the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, the North York Moors National Park Authority or the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, a question on the discharge of the functions of such Authority.
- (b) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.
- (c) With the consent of the Chairman of the Council, the Member who has asked a question may ask a supplementary question arising out of the reply.
- (d) Where the information asked for in a question is contained in any of the Council's publications, it shall be deemed a sufficient reply if the publication containing the information is indicated.
- (e) Where the reply to any question cannot conveniently be given orally, it shall be deemed a sufficient reply if the answer is supplied to the Member asking the question as soon as reasonably possible and copies shall at the same time be placed in the Members' Group Rooms.
- (f) The Chairman shall call on Members to ask questions under this Council Procedure Rule in the order of respondent set out below and, within that order, in the order in which notice of questions was given to the Head of Legal and Committee Services by noon the previous day. In the absence of prior notice having been given, Members must inform the Chairman of their wish to ask a question and these will be called in the order received, but after questions of which prior notice was given.
- (g) The time limit for questions under this Council Procedure Rule for each respondent will be 5 minutes. Once the time allocated for any respondent has expired at any meeting, the Chairman shall not permit any further questions to be asked of that respondent under this Council Procedure Rule but, if a question or response has been started it may be completed, irrespective of the time limit, as may any response to any question being asked when the time limit is reached.

Order of questions

- (i) to the Chairman of the Standards Committee;
- (ii) to the Chairman of an Area Committee;
- (iii) to the Chairman of any other of the Council's committees;
- (iv) to the Chairman or other representative of:-
 - North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
 - North Yorkshire Police Authority
 - North York Moors National Park Authority
 - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Northallerton on 20 May 2015 at 10.30 am.

Present:-

County Councillor Tim Swales in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Margaret Atkinson, Andrew Backhouse, Robert Baker, Arthur Barker, Derek Bastiman, Bernard Bateman MBE, David Billing, John Blackburn, John Blackie, David Blades, Eric Broadbent, Lindsey Burr, Jean Butterfield, Liz Casling, David Chance, Jim Clark, John Clark, Richard Cooper, Sam Cross, Gareth Dadd, Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, John Ennis, John Fort BEM, Andrew Goss, Bryn Griffiths, Tony Hall, Michael Harrison, Roger Harrison-Topham, Michael Heseltine, Robert Heseltine, Peter Horton, Bill Houtt, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Anne Jones, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackenzie, Penny Marsden, Brian Marshall, Chris Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Robert Packham, Stuart Parsons, Caroline Patmore, Chris Pearson, Joe Plant, Tony Randerson, John Ritchie, Janet Sanderson, John Savage, Steve Shaw-Wright, Elizabeth Shields, David Simister, Andy Solloway, Peter Sowray, Helen Swiers, Cliff Trotter, John Weighell, Robert Windass and Clare Wood.

Election of Chairman

It was moved by County Councillor Derek Bastiman and seconded by County Councillor Helen Swiers that County Councillor David Jeffels be elected as Chairman of the County Council to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016.

The Council divided and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with none against, and no abstentions.

Resolved -

83. That County Councillor David Jeffels is elected as Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016.

County Councillor David Jeffels then made his declaration of acceptance of the office of Chairman of the County Council.

County Councillor David Jeffels in the Chair

The Chairman thanked the Council for his election and it was then moved by him and seconded by County Councillor John Weighell:-

“That this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor Tim Swales as Vice-Chairman of the County Council from 2013 to 2014 and as Chairman of the County Council from 2014 to 2015 and also places on record its thanks to Sally Swales for the unfailing support which she has given the Chairman during his terms of office.”

Leaders of other political groups spoke in support.

The Council divided and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried with none against, and no abstentions.

Resolved –

84. That this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor Tim Swales as Vice-Chairman of the County Council from 2013 to 2014 and as Chairman of the County Council from 2014 to 2015 and also places on record its thanks to \$ for the unfailing support which she has given the Chairman during his terms of office.

The Chairman presented a past Chairman’s badge to County Councillor Tim Swales.

County Councillor Tim Swales responded.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015, the having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried with none against and no abstentions.

Resolved -

85. That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was moved by County Councillor John Fort BEM and seconded by County Councillor Cliff Lunn that County Councillor Val Arnold be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016.

The Council divided and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with none against and no abstentions.

Resolved –

86. That County Councillor Val Arnold is appointed as Vice-Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016.

County Councillor Val Arnold then made her declaration of acceptance of the office of Vice-Chairman of the County Council and thanked the Council for her appointment.

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman noted the apologies for absence received from County Councillors Philip Barrett, Helen Grant, Shelagh Marshall OBE, John McCartney, and Richard Welsh, and he welcomed Honorary Aldermen John Marshall and the graduate trainees who were present to the meeting.

Statement by the Leader of the Council

County Councillor John Weighell made a statement, under Council Procedure Rule 2.3, as Leader of the Council, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appear in the Minute Book (pages 7047-7048).

Public Questions or Statements

Mr Steve Hawley, Brigade Secretary of the North Yorkshire Fire Brigades Union made the following statement:

“North Yorkshire fire and rescue Service (NYFRS) has undertaken a review of the Fire cover within North Yorkshire. Fire cover is the term used by the Service to refer to; the number of fire appliances and equipment, available within the Service to respond to fires and other emergencies. This has led to seven proposals being put forward on alternative ways of providing fire cover within North Yorkshire with little or no evidence provided to support them.

The UK is facing ever-changing risks and the Fire and Rescue Service plays a vital role in managing these risks which in North Yorkshire include dealing with an ageing population which is disproportionate to the rest of the UK, an increase in the housing demand and the fact that many domestic premises are overcrowded. The vulnerability to climate change and freak weather means we need an effective emergency response backed up by professionally trained staff at all times.

NYFRS are looking at increasing response times in one of their proposals to 15 minutes and even an hour in some places. What if an incident occurred in the area of the station on an extended response time?

The Department for Communities and Local Government clearly state that the primary purpose of the fire and rescue service is the prompt and efficient mobilisation of the fire-

fighters in response to a fire or other related incident in order to save and protect property. This is a key aspect of public safety.

The Sir Ken Knight Report of May 2013 on behalf of the Government highlights the need for more part-time fire-fighters. One of the most difficult problems encountered by NYFRS is the recruiting and retaining of Retained Duty Staff (RDS). This system requires a massive commitment on staff and one NYFRS need to provide as part of a cost effective service to the public. Since January 2011, we have lost over 150 members of staff for various reasons including full time work commitments and the number of hours committed to being on-call. NYFRS regularly have up to 12 or 13 RDS Appliances unavailable per day and an average of 5 to 7 RDS appliances unavailable in any one period of the day. This is now becoming an increasing problem on a weekend. When crewing allows, Whole-time staff do provide cover which must continue, but will become increasingly difficult to achieve with any reduction of Whole –time staff. We must address our current RDS problems. The implementation of an RDS support manager since 2008 has not resolved this problem.

The geographical layout of North Yorkshire and its rural roads mean that attendance times to incidents are already affected in some areas. We know that attendance times have increased over the past decade since Fire and Rescue Authorities have implemented cuts and changes to frontline services. What reassurances will the public get that this will not be the case within in England's largest county?

Although incidents appear to have decreased between 2004 to 2014, the importance of prompt intervention remains a priority to prevent the public being put at risk. The number of Road Traffic Collisions in North Yorkshire continues to be a concern with casualty numbers not falling. We must continue to work to reduce our biggest risk which will become even more difficult if the on duty crew cannot be more than 4 minutes from the fire station? This limits the area they can cover to carry out important prevention work and evidence shows a lot of prevention work is undertaken outside of 4 minutes of the station.

The introduction of 12 hour shifts from 10:00hrs to 22:00hrs – will increase the risk to the public during their most vulnerable time (when asleep)?

Of the 18 fire deaths in York and North Yorkshire during the five years up to the end of January 2014, only 5 were within the 10:00hrs to 22:00hrs period and 13 outside this period.

Further evidence is of our latest fire fatality which occurred at approximately 01:00hrs on the 29th April 2015.

We ask you to look at preserving your Fire and Rescue Service by ensuring current problems are dealt with and ask the necessary questions before the wrong decisions are made. “

Report of the Executive Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) Policy

The recommendations in paragraph 1 of the report (page 7052) were moved and seconded.

The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with none against and one abstention.

87. That County Council approve the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.

Constitution Review 2015 – Tranche One

The recommendations in paragraph 2 of the report (pages 7062-7063) having been moved and seconded, it was moved by County Councillor Bill Hoult and seconded by County Councillor Bryn Griffiths as an amendment:

That at the end of recommendation (d) concerning proposed changes to the current process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals the following text be inserted:

“...subject to the inclusion of the right for the staff member submitting the appeal to choose for the appeal to be heard before an Employment Appeals Committee as currently constituted.”

After debate, the Council divided and, on a show of hands, the amendment was declared lost.

Points of clarification were raised regarding the content of the report concerning the proposed changes to the current process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals and as these could not be resolved during the meeting, it was agreed to defer this particular decision until the following meeting 22 July 2015.

Following further debate the Council divided on the motion, reflecting the deferral of decision taking on recommendation (d); the vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with none against and no abstentions.

Resolved –

88. (a) That County Council notes the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules following the change in legislation since the last meeting of County Council 18 February 2015.

That County Council approve:-

- b) The changes proposed to the remit and terms of reference for the Looked After Children Members' Group;
- c) The changes proposed to the Protocol on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at public meetings.
- d) To defer a decision on the proposed changes to the current process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals until the next meeting 22 July 2015.
- e) The changes proposed to clarify appeal arrangements for Chief Officers and Chief Executives.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The recommendations in paragraph 3 of the report (page 7063) having been moved and seconded, the Council was informed of a number of nominations.

The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with none against and no abstentions.

Resolved -

89. Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

County Councillor Bryn Griffiths (Liberal Democrat) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Elizabeth Shields (Liberal Democrat)

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

County Councillor Andrew Backhouse (Conservative) to be appointed Chairman in place of County Councillor David Jeffels (Conservative)

Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

County Councillor Janet Jefferson (NY Independent) to be appointed Chairman in place of County Councillor Elizabeth Shields (Liberal Democrat)

County Councillor Lindsay Burr (NY Independent) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Anne Jones (Liberal Democrat)

County Councillor Tony Hall (Conservative) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Janet Sanderson (Conservative)

Chief Officer Appointment and Disciplinary Committee:-

County Councillor John Blackie (NY Independent) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Bill Hault (Liberal Democrat)

Audit Committee:-

County Councillor Robert Baker (Conservative) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Andrew Backhouse (Conservative)

County Councillor John Fort BEM (Conservative) to be appointed in place of County Councillor David Chance (Conservative)

Planning and Regulatory Committee:-

County Councillor Robert Windass (Conservative) to be appointed in place of County Councillor Janet Sanderson (Conservative)

Statements of Executive Members and Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, the Executive Member for public health and prevention made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7117-7118).

County Councillor Carl Les, the Executive Member for central and financial services including assets, IT and procurement made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7119-7120).

County Councillor Tony Hall, the Executive Member for children's services, special education needs youth justice, youth service and adult learning made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7121-7124).

County Councillor Arthur Barker, the Executive Member for schools, 16-19 year old education and early years' provision made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7125-7128).

County Councillor Clare Wood, the Executive Member for adult social care and health integration made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7129-7130) and responded to a question.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd, the Executive Member for highways and planning services made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7131-7132) and responded to questions.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, the Executive Member for rural services, waste disposal, public passenger transport, trading standards, economic development and library services presented a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 7133-7139) and responded to questions.

The Scrutiny Annual report for 2014/2015 which incorporates statements from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Chairmen (pages 7141-7156) having previously been circulated; the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Board, the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny of Health Committee, the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented their statements and responded to questions.

Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

Appointment of new Council Leader

It was moved by County Councillor John Weighell and seconded by County Councillor Gareth Dadd that County Councillor Carl Les be elected as Chairman of the County Council to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2017.

The Council divided and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with one recorded vote against - County Councillor John Blackie, and no abstentions.

Resolved -

90. That County Councillor Carl Les is elected as Leader of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2017.

The Leader thanked the Council for his election and it was then moved and seconded:-

“That this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor John Weighell as Leader of the County Council from 2001 to 2015.”

Leaders of other political groups and other County Councillors spoke in support.

The Council divided and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried with none against, and no abstentions.

Resolved –

91. That this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor John Weighell as Leader of the County Council from 2001 to 2015.

County Councillor John Weighell responded.

Statement of New Leader

The newly elected Leader announced the membership of the Executive:

- Councillor County Carl Les - Leader, Budget, Communications;
- Councillor County Gareth Dadd - Deputy Leader, Performance Management, Assets, Staff, Central Services;
- Councillor County David Chance – Stronger Communities, Area Committees, Public Health;
- Councillor County Clare Wood – Adult Social Care and Health Integration;
- Councillor County Janet Sanderson – Children and Young People: Fostering and Adoption; Children’s Social Care; Prevention;
- Councillor County Arthur Barker - Children and Young People: Schools and early Years;
- County Councillor Don Mackenzie – Highways, Road Safety, Sccess to the Countryside (including broadband and mobile phone coverage), Public Transport;
- County Councillor Chris Metcalfe – Waste Services, Library and Information Services, Economic Development, Devolution, Rail Strategy, Trading Standards.

It was also noted that County Councillor Liz Casling was to be appointed as the Young People’s Champion.

Any other appointments to Committees

No other consequential appointments were made.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER
COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES**Devolution – “A once in a generation opportunity”**

Devolution featured as one of the key areas of legislation in the Queens speech and has been the subject of focus from both the Chancellor George Osborne and the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark. George Osborne in a speech on the Northern powerhouse described his view of devolution for cities but also for what he described as “towns and great counties” of the North. This has given the impetus to a number of local discussions looking at how devolution could be taken forward and the Budget on 8 July further emphasised devolution as a key policy driver.

I have in the last few weeks chaired two meetings of Leaders and Chief Executives from across North Yorkshire, York, East Riding and also involving colleagues from Hull and West Yorkshire to consider the question of devolution. There are three obvious issues that need to be addressed. Firstly, the question of geography; secondly, the issues that devolution should cover; and, finally the form of governance that should be applied to the geographical area. The meetings that have taken place to date have touched on all of these issues. However, further discussions with neighbouring councils will need to take place before definitive conclusions are reached.

In terms of geography there have been a number of options considered from our current LEP geography of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding through to a possible option of a Greater Yorkshire model taking in potentially all or a major part of the County of Yorkshire. Clearly, this latter model involves many local authority areas and requires a considerable level of discussion in order to understand the issues and the opportunities in devolving to such a geographic area. One of the issues raised by this size of geography is governance and it is clear that any alignment with a major city such as Leeds would require Mayoral governance. We recognise completely the economic importance the Leeds City Region plays to parts of our county area.

For my part I am clear that there are a number of fundamental issues that we should pursue through devolution. These are maintaining the integrity of the county area in a devolution settlement, ensuring close alignment of the City of York, winning significant local freedoms and flexibilities to improve transport, housing, skills, broadband and mobile telephone coverage amongst other issues and in addition putting into place effective and efficient governance that provides opportunities for other public service reform that will help maintain services and deliver value for money at what will become an increasingly financially challenging time for the public sector.

Discussions around devolution will carry on over the coming months and I will endeavour to keep County Councillors informed of progress.

Although I am happy to answer questions today, I feel a much better understanding of the complex issues can be achieved in a seminar setting probably in September.

Budget

The council's budget outturn figures for 2014/15 have been published and indeed feature in the papers for this meeting. They describe the council as making excellent progress financially through extremely difficult circumstances. I would like to commend all of the council staff and managers for the diligence that they continue to show in respect of financial issues. It is particularly pleasing to see all of the directorates, come within their budget limits for the year. Gareth will pick up points of detail.

A major feature of the outturn is that we are £4.4million ahead of programme in terms of our 2020 North Yorkshire savings. It is crucial at this stage of the present period of austerity that we manage budgets effectively and deliver savings early where possible given the enormity of the challenge that is likely to have to be faced over the next 3 years at least.

The Chancellors Budget Statement on 8 July concentrated on the balance between welfare and work it did not tell as much about what to expect for local government and its finances – we will have to await the Spending Review later this year. It was pleasing to note, however, that funding for 2015/16 was not re-opened although we await information about reductions in public health grant and the announcement on the new living wage will bring additional pressure on our budgets. I do not believe there is a need for in year adjustment as we have a sound Plan and the Chancellor's remarks about a smoother trajectory of cuts may be helpful. We will need to review the effects on the County Council of this Budget and the following Spending Review as part of next year's Budget / MTFS.

County Councillor Carl Les
Leader of the Council

The Report of the Executive

The Executive met on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 commencing at 11.00 am. Present: County Councillors Carl Les – Chairman, Arthur Barker, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Don Mackenzie, Janet Sanderson and Clare Wood.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 16 June 2015 commencing at 11.00 am. Present: County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Arthur Barker, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Don Mackenzie, Chris Metcalfe and Janet Sanderson.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Elizabeth Casling, Jim Clark, Janet Jefferson and Mike Jordan.

The Executive met on Tuesday, 7 July 2015 commencing at 11.00 am. Present: County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Arthur Barker, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Don Mackenzie, Chris Metcalfe and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Val Arnold, Derek Bastiman, John Blackie, John Clark, Roger Harrison-Topham, Bill Hault and Elizabeth Shields

1. Revenue Budget 2014/2015: The report which was considered by the Executive 16 June 2015 together with appendices A to J is attached in the accompanying booklet to enable all Members of Council to have the information which was available to the Executive in arriving at the recommendations below.

To summarise the position: there is an overall £40m cash saving but this includes the unspent corporate Pending Issues Provision (PIP) of £20.6m, the release of earmarked reserves of £6.1m and funding outturn variations of +£0.2m. After removing the impact of these three items (totalling £26.5m) the resulting savings on operational budgets is £13.5m (3.6%) (**paragraphs 4.6 to 4.9**).

The key elements of the £13.5m operational budget saving are (**paragraphs 4.9 to 4.10**):

- £2.8m to be carried forward and earmarked for spending in future years on a range of projects and initiatives spread across all Directorates and Corporate Budgets
- £10.7m which increases the unallocated GWB consisting of £4.4m early achievement of Budget / MTFS and 2020 North Yorkshire savings; £1.3m unused HAS demographic growth provision; £1.2m bonus Government grants on Business Rates; £1.7m unused contingencies for Pension Fund deficit payments; £3.5m other one off windfalls; offset by £1.4m additional spending on 2020 initiatives.

A breakdown of each Directorate's outturn variance is provided in **Appendices C to G** with the outturn for SmartSolutions at **Appendix H**.

There is currently £23.2m of unallocated PIP funding up to 2018/19 including £20.6m that is available as at 31 March 2015 (**paragraph 4.16**).

The proposed overall treatment of the £40m saving is that £23.4m is being recommended for carry forward to future years (£20.6m unallocated PIP funding referred to in 1 + £2.8m earmarked for Directorate projects and initiatives referred to in 2) with the remaining £16.6m being transferred into the GWB in 2015/16 (**paragraphs 4.19 to 4.21**).

Savings targets reflected in Directorate's 2014/15 Budgets totalling £17.9m were fully

achieved in the year as were the residual One Council savings target (**paragraphs 4.22 to 4.27**).

The GWB of £91.7m at 31 March 2015 (£78.5m at 31 March 2014) consists of £23.4m earmarked carry forwards from 2014/15 and £68.3m remaining unallocated GWB which is £40.8m above the current minimum level of 2% of the net revenue budget plus a £20m buffer (£27.5m) (**paragraphs 4.33 to 4.36**).

The £68.3m unallocated GWB at 31 March 2015 excludes future commitments to 2019/20 as agreed in the MTFs in February 2015. Reflecting these commitments totalling £23.5m reduces the unallocated GWB to £44.8m at 31 March 2020 which is only £17.8m above the current minimum. These lower figures also do not reflect further potential future GWB commitments of £14,054k on capital financing (£10m), new investments being proposed in the revenue report (£2,754k in 11 below) and capital ICT hardware (£1.3m) (**paragraphs 4.35 to 4.36 & 4.44 to 4.45**).

In addition to future commitments against the GWB, its level should also be considered alongside the many future risks and uncertainties that the authority faces with the GWB providing opportunity to help mitigate these risks if they materialised as well as providing opportunities for future investment (**paragraphs 4.39 to 4.40**).

Total earmarked reserves (sums set aside for specific purposes which include financial commitments plus the GWB) have increased from £191.6m at 31 March 2014 to £207.6m at 31 March 2015 primarily as a result of 7 above (**paragraph 4.51**).

Three investments totalling £2,754k were agreed by the Executive 16 June 2015 to be funded from the GWB (effectively from the savings achieved in 2014/15). These are South Cliff Scarborough (£1,212k), Education in Scarborough (£750k over a 3 year period) and County Council locality budgets (£792k over a two year trial period) (**paragraphs 4.54 to 4.74**).

Detail is provided on the Statutory Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 and how the Revenue Budget 2014/2015 report aligns with those accounts (**paragraphs 4.75 to 4.81**).

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That County Council:-

- (i) note the position on the draft outturn position for the County Council's 2014/15 Revenue Budget as summarised in **paragraph 4.6**
- (ii) approve the proposed carry forward of certain unspent budgets at Corporate and Directorate level totalling £23,397k as detailed in **paragraphs 4.19 and 4.20**
- (iii) note the latest position on the GWB (**paragraphs 4.31 to 4.45 and Appendix I**)
- (iv) note the position of other earmarked reserves as detailed in **paragraph 4.46 to 4.53 and Appendix J**
- (v) note the procedure that will be followed by the Audit Committee in respect of the approval of the statutory Statement of Accounts as described in **paragraphs 4.75 to 4.81**
- (vi) note the investments approved by the Executive (**paragraphs 4.54 to 4.74**) as below

- a) authority is delegated to the Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services in consultation with the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and the Executive Members for both Highways and Finance to agree terms as necessary to drawdown up to £1,212k of funding from General Working Balances for the South Cliff works in Scarborough as set out in **paragraphs 4.56 to 4.65**.
- b) authority is delegated to the Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services to progress with the Education in Scarborough initiative as outlined in **paragraphs 4.66 to 4.69** with funding of £750k from General Working Balances.
- c) £792k is provided for County Councillor Locality Budgets from General Working Balances (in line with **paragraphs 4.70 to 4.73**) and that a further report is brought back to the Executive to agree a scheme for application of the locality budgets.

2. Capital Outturn 2014/2015: The report which was considered by the Executive 16 June 2015 together with appendices A to F is attached in the accompanying booklet to enable all Members of Council to have the information which was available to the Executive in arriving at the recommendations below.

To summarise the position: Gross Capital spend of £105.4m was £1.2m below the last Capital Plan update of £106.6m in February 2015 and £1.5m below the Original Plan in February 2014. After accounting for £2.4m additional capital income however there was a net capital underspend of £3.6m of which £1.4m is being requested for carry over into 2015/16 (**Paragraphs 5.4 to 5.13**).

Financing of the Capital spend (**paragraph 5.14 & Appendix F**) included £9m capital receipts (**paragraph 5.19**) consisting of £4.3m loan repayments and £4.7m receipts from the sale of land and property (of which £3.5m was from County Farms). After utilising other capital income (grants, contributions and revenue contributions), the balancing figure of £5.7m was funded from internal borrowing which has the impact of running down investments (**paragraph 5.17**).

£12.6m potential surplus capital resources up to 2017/18 achieved mainly from capital receipts of which £6.9m is in hand at 31 March 2015 (**paragraph 5.26**). This could be used to fund capital expenditure or to reduce the Council's outstanding debt.

The Executive 16 June 2015 approved a £3.8m capital investment proposal for ICT hardware (**paragraphs 5.32 to 5.34**) funded £1.3m from the revenue GWB and £2.5m from unapplied capital receipts, reducing the £12.6m of potential surplus capital resources referred to above, to £10.1m.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That County Council:

- (a) note the position on capital outturn as detailed in **Appendices A to E**;
- (b) approve the proposed carry forward to 2014/15 of the net capital underspend totalling £1,418k as set out in **paragraph 5.12**;

(c) note the financing of capital expenditure, as detailed in **paragraph 5.14** and **Appendix F** including the use of County Farms capital receipts to finance capital spending as explained in **paragraph 5.22**, approved by the Executive 16 June 2015;

(d) note the financing of ICT infrastructure as detailed in **paragraphs 5.32 to 5.34** approved by the Executive 16 June 2015;

(e) note that with the exception of (d) above that no action be taken at this stage to allocate any further additional capital resources (**paragraph 5.30**)

3. Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) Policy: The Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy describes the County Council's commitment to highway infrastructure asset management. The asset management strategy aims to demonstrate to the public and all stakeholders, including senior decision makers, elected members, practitioners and service providers, how Highways and Transportation (H&T) intends to deliver the recently agreed Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy. The adoption of the asset management Strategy is fully in line with the Department for Transport's Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme.

The strategy has been developed in line with the Local Transport Plan 3, adopted in 2011 and will complement and further enhance our established asset management based approach to highways maintenance and management. The draft Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 in the booklet accompanying this report.

Having been reported to and agreed by Business and Environmental Services (BES) Executive Members on 5 May 2015, the Strategy was made available to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee throughout May for comments. No comments were received so the next stage of the process was for the report to be presented to the Executive on 7 July 2015 who supported the proposals and now County Council is asked to approve adoption on 22 July 2015.

The formal adoption of a Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy is a key part of the Department for Transport's (DfT) highway efficiency self-assessment questionnaire published in draft form earlier this month. The outcome of the self-assessment process later this year will determine part of the County Council's highway maintenance capital allocation for 2016/17. This will then become an annual process and ultimately has the potential for a reduction in the DfT allocation of approximately £5m annually by 2018/19.

The County Council, as highway authority, has a statutory duty to maintain the highway under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 and the development of this strategy will support the Council in fulfilling its duty.

Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from the recommendation. It is the view of officers that the recommendation does not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010. A copy of the 'Record of decision that an Equality Impact assessment is not required is attached as Appendix 2. in the booklet accompanying this report.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That County Council approve adoption of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy.

4. Working Together – North Yorkshire Compact: The Compact is a written agreement between voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) and the public sector, detailing how they will work together for the benefit of communities. The first national Compact was established in 1998, followed shortly afterwards by a North Yorkshire Compact. Both have played a vital role in defining the relationship and improving the partnership between public sector organisations and VCSEs. The current North Yorkshire Compact was adopted by North Yorkshire County Council as part of its policy framework in 2005. It has also been adopted by local district councils and NHS bodies. Since 2005 there have been a number of significant changes, in particular the shift from grants towards contracts, the growth of social enterprises and the dissolution of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership. Almost every local authority area in England has a local Compact. Similar ‘refreshes’ have been undertaken at the national level and in most local areas.

The North Yorkshire Compact was refreshed under the remit of the Thriving Third Sector Steering Group that brings together representatives of VCSEs, county and district councils, and clinical commissioning groups. It was drawn up using the framework for the national Compact agreed in 2010 between the Government and VCSEs, taking into account feedback from a 12 week consultation held in North Yorkshire involving VCSEs and the public sector between November 2013 and February 2014.

The significant changes to the Compact are that it is considerably shorter and more outcomes focused. This, coupled with greater accountability and an undertaking from the public sector to respect and uphold the independence of VCSEs, will be the platform to build strong relationships and improve communities and public services. The refreshed North Yorkshire Compact sets out undertakings for both VCSEs and the public sector to help achieve the following outcomes.

- A strong and diverse and independent civil society
- Effective and transparent design and development of policies commissioning, programmes and public services
- Responsive and high quality programmes and services
- Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services.
- Improved community health and wellbeing
- An equal and fair society

The North Yorkshire Compact, like the national Compact, is not a legally binding document - it should be seen as a set of good practice guidelines. There is, however, a legitimate expectation that those who sign up to the Compact will abide by the commitments. It is part of the County Council's policy framework and can only be adopted or amended by full Council. The existing North Yorkshire Compact was adopted by North Yorkshire County Council in 2005 and needs refreshing to reflect current circumstances.

Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from the adoption of the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact. None were identified during the development process or during the consultation by the Thriving Third Sector Steering

Group or subsequently by officers of the County Council.

The Executive considered and supported the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact at their meeting 7 July 2015, it is attached in the booklet accompanying this report.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That the County Council adopts the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact.

4. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies Following the previous meeting of County Council 20 May 2015, the Chief Executive Richard Flinton acted between meetings and exercised delegated authority to approve or clarify various consequential changes to appointments resulting from those approved at the last meeting, these were as follows:

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Councillor Bill Hout (Liberal Democrat) to replace Lindsay Burr (NY Independent)

Scrutiny of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Vice Chairman - County Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley (Liberal Democrat) to replace County Councillor Philip Barrett (NY Independent).

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Councillor Chance removed from this Committee.

Clarification: County Councillor Jeffels retains his seat on this Committee although he is no longer Chairman.

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Clarification: County Councillor Shields retains her seat on this Committee although she is no longer Chairman.

Any further proposals for the reallocation of seats, if necessary to achieve political proportionality or for changes to memberships or substitute memberships of committees, or other bodies to which the Council makes appointments put forward by the relevant political group, prior to or at the meeting of the Council, to be agreed including:

Pension Fund Committee

County Councillor Bill Hout to replace Lindsay Burr as the Liberal Democrat substitute.

Pension Board

County Councillor Mike Jordan, as Chairman of Audit Committee, to be appointed to the newly formed Pension Board as the North Yorkshire Council representative.

Chief Officer Appointment and Disciplinary Committee

One Conservative member to be appointed to the additional seat created on the Committee following the Constitution Review Tranche One report to County Council

20 May 2015.

Scrutiny of Health - District Council Representatives

Craven - Councillor Linda Brockbank

Substitute Councillor Wendy Hull to replace David Staveley

Hambleton - Councillor Kevin Hardisty to replace in place of Peter Bardon
(no named substitute)

Harrogate – Substitute Councillor Paul Haslam to replace Helen Flynn

Richmondshire – Councillor Karin Sedgwick to replace Tony Pelton
Substitute Councillor Jamie Cameron to replace Tony Duff

Ryedale – Councillor Bob Gardiner to replace John Paper

Selby – Councillor Judith Chilvers to replace Kay McSherry (no named sub)

Health & Wellbeing Board

District Councils Representative: Councillor Richard Foster, Leader Craven District Council - to replace Councillor John Blackie, Richmondshire District Council.

NHS England, North Yorkshire and Humber Area Team - Julie Warren to replace Matt Nelligan.

(For information: County Councillors Janet Sanderson and David Chance have replaced County Councillors Tony Hall and Don Mackenzie.)

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

- (i) That the appointments made and clarified by the Chief Executive using his delegated authority are noted;
- (ii) That the following appointments are approved:

Pension Fund Committee

County Councillor Bill Houtt to replace Lindsay Burr as the Liberal Democrat substitute.

Pension Board

County Councillor Mike Jordan, as Chairman of Audit Committee, to be appointed to the newly formed Pension Board as the North Yorkshire Council representative.

Chief Officer Appointment and Disciplinary Committee

One Conservative member to be appointed to the additional seat created on the Committee following the Constitution Review Tranche One report to County Council 20 May 2015.

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Substitute Councillor Wendy Hull to replace David Staveley

Hambleton - Councillor Kevin Hardisty to replace in place of Peter Bardon
(no named substitute)

Harrogate – Substitute Councillor Paul Haslam to replace Helen Flynn

Richmondshire – Councillor Karin Sedgwick to replace Tony Pelton
Substitute Councillor Jamie Cameron to replace Tony Duff

Ryedale – Councillor Bob Gardiner to replace John Paper

Selby – Councillor Judith Chilvers to replace Kay McSherry (no named sub)

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(For information: County Councillors Janet Sanderson and David Chance have replaced County Councillors Tony Hall and Don Mackenzie.)

Any further proposals for the reallocation of seats, if necessary to achieve political proportionality or for changes to memberships or substitute memberships of committees, or other bodies to which the Council makes appointments put forward by the relevant political group, prior to or at the meeting of the Council, to be agreed

CARL LES
Chairman

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON.
13 July 2015

The Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Constitution Review 2015 - Proposals to Change the Current Process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals

At the 20 May 2015 meeting of County Council this report was deferred for clarification as the proposals were not exactly as those originally put to and considered by members of the current Appeals Committee and the Members Workforce Planning Group, during February and March 2015. The proposals set out below are now in accord with those original proposals.

Remit of the Employment Appeals Committee: the Constitution states that the terms of reference for the Employment Appeals Committee are as follows:

- “1. To hear and determine appeals against decisions of officers of the Council, where provision exists for appeals to a member level body, or of relevant decisions of the Governing Bodies of voluntary aided schools where the Governing Body so requests in respect of:-
All dismissals, except
 - appeals against dismissals on the ground of redundancy and against selection for redundancy, which shall be determined by a Chief Officer or Senior Manager s/he has authorised to act in his/her place in consultation with an HR adviser, and
 - appeals against dismissals under the Council’s Attendance Management Policy shall be determined, in consultation with a Member to be drawn from the Appeals Committee and an HR Adviser, by a senior manager who has not previously been involved in the matter, and who is duly authorised to determine the appeal in accordance with paragraph 3.7 of the Officers’ Delegation Scheme.Group grievances or collective disputes.
2. To exercise all functions (including, but not limited to, hearing and determination) in relation to appeals by the Chief Executive Officer against decisions of the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to take disciplinary action against him/her short of dismissal.
3. To exercise all functions (including, but not limited to, hearing and determination) in relation to appeals by the Chief Executive Officer against decisions of the Leader and/or the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee, on appraisal of the Chief Executive Officer, not to award an increment.”

Hearings by the Appeals Committee do not under normal circumstances require a full re-hearing of the case or full consideration of the original evidence. The remit of the Appeals Committee is to satisfy itself that the decision taken to dismiss was reasonable in the circumstances and that due process was followed. In doing so the Appeals Committee must be satisfied that:-

- The rules of Natural Justice have been applied
- There was a thorough and fair investigation
- The Disciplinary Procedures have been followed or there are justifiable reasons if this was not possible
- The sanction imposed was reasonable in the circumstances

Members Appeals can only decide whether or not to uphold the Appeal being heard, and has no authority to apply any different sanctions to the case. Therefore if an Appeal is upheld, the employee is entitled to return to work with no sanction on their record. The current practice is resource-heavy in terms of admin support from Democratic Services to arrange panels, copy/send out the Bundles and clerk the Appeal Hearings.

How other appeals are heard in NYCC: All other Appeals are either Officer only or Officer with a Member sitting on the Panel as follows:

- Attendance dismissal Appeals are heard by at least one Officer of appropriate seniority (who is Chair) and one Member not previously involved in the case.
- Probationary dismissal Appeals are heard by at least one Officer of appropriate seniority.
- Redundancy Dismissal Appeals are heard by a Chief Officer (or Senior Manager authorised to act in his/her place) not previously involved.

All Managers who Chair or sit on Panels attend a full days training course on hearings, and complete training on the relevant Policies, which includes both online learning as well as a class room based briefing. This ensures all Officers making decisions in employment relations cases have been appropriately trained and are aware of the relevant NYCC Policies, as well as ACAS and legislative requirements/principles relevant to the decision being taken.

Currently, due to the Panel being constituted of Members who understandably have many other commitments, the time-frame for Appeals taking place is often well past the employee's final day of employment. Usually by the time the Appeal is held, the employee has found alternative work and the Service has filled the resulting vacancy, meaning that when an Appeal is upheld, reinstatement on a practical level is very difficult. In recent cases this resulted in settlement via compromise agreements being necessary. Even in cases where the service does not recruit, or recruits on a temporary basis there is pressure on staff to cover, cost can be incurred on the service due to temporary staff arrangements and service delivery may be inconsistent and/or at a reduced level. An approach is needed where the Appeal is held swiftly following the original decision to dismiss so any outcomes of the disciplinary appeal process can be effectively managed, including reinstatement, without adverse impact on the individual, their colleagues or the service.

Councillors currently on the Committee have found it a challenge to get sufficient time away from their primary function as a Councillor to attend required training. Attendance at training is looked for by Employment Tribunal (ET) Judges when cases progress to court and is seen as an important requirement in case law and practice around disciplinary and appeals. To date training has been arranged 3 times over recent years but each time has been cancelled due to Members of the Appeal Panel being unable to attend.

The current Appeals Panel has two possible outcomes either uphold or over-turn the appeal. There is no option to up-hold the appeal whilst applying an alternative sanction. This means there is a polarised outcome for each appeal, with the employee either still losing their job or being re-instated without any blemish on their record. This has been an issue in past cases, resulting in inconsistency. In one case a number of staff had committed the same misconduct to differing degrees, resulting in some staff receiving final written warnings and one being dismissed. The dismissed employee appealed which was upheld, resulting in them being reinstated without any warning on their record. It has also resulted in service concerns whereby staff have been reinstated with no sanction having previously being dismissed for what the service consider to be safeguarding issues and the service then having to put them back into a post where they have access to the same client group. In such situations the service has felt the need to put in place alternative working and supervision arrangements sometimes at additional costs to mitigate what it considered to be a risk which the member of staff has not wanted to be subject to. This again resulted in a settlement via a compromise agreement.

The current Appeal Panel is a council Committee and is by default a very formal process. Both staff and managers find this formality difficult on occasion and it brings with it an adversarial atmosphere which can get in the way of a full and open consideration of the issues. Whilst all Hearings in NYCC are formal and decision-making is taken seriously, the Appeal Committee can be over-facing to employees especially those without representation. An Officer/Member Panel will still ensure objectivity of decision making, whilst potentially being more 'approachable' to those making their case and in a format which mirrors the original dismissal hearing so is at least a known process.

The current Committee considers very few dismissal appeals because, for the size of the workforce, there are relatively few conduct and capability dismissals with the majority of dismissals for sickness/ill health (appeals heard by officer/member panel of 2) and redundancy (appeals heard by officer only panel of 2).

To illustrate in 2013/14 there were (excluding schools):

- 167 sickness/ill health cases resulting in 32 dismissals and 1 appeal
- 38 redundancy dismissals with 1 appeal.
- 11 capability cases resulting in 2 dismissals and no appeals
- 177 disciplinary cases resulting in 51 sanctions (including 19 final written warning/dismissals) resulting in 2 appeals
- 14 probation cases resulting in 8 dismissals and 1 appeal.

Any dismissal appeal process should review the decision to dismissal and consider whether the investigation has been sufficiently thorough, whether the allegations were found on the balance of probability and be convinced that the decision to dismiss was reasonable in the circumstances. It is not to re-hear the case but is to check the manager's decision and the process undertaken. If there were procedural errors efforts should be made by the appeal process to rectify these. By checking the manager's decision to dismiss, the appeal process in effect holds them to account for their management approach and action. This arguably has more impact if it takes place within the management hierarchy by a more senior manager in this case a member of Management Board. Whilst managers currently attending appeals to present their decision may be interested in how members view them this has no direct impact on them, whereas feedback from a member of Management Board to them and their director/senior manager will have a more direct consequence.

An important part of a manager's role is managing staff and arguably holding managers to account for this is a function of senior management not politicians. In NYCC, the Chief Executive has delegated authority for staff management as Head of Paid service and dismissals and any appeals can be seen as part of this delegated management function as it is for other dismissals.

Arrangements in Other Authorities: The current arrangements are not without difficulties as detailed and experience from other authorities suggests there may be better alternative processes (see appendix 1). Benchmarking of other Shire Councils as well as Councils in the area shows that 14 Councils in the benchmarking exercise have Member Panels for dismissal appeals, 12 have moved to Officer Appeal Panels for dismissals, 2 have hybrid arrangements whereby the employee can choose between a Member Appeal Panel and an Officer Appeal Panel, and one has a mixed Panel of 2 Members and a Senior Manager who chairs the Appeal Panel.

Proposal - Panel Composition: 2 Person Panel of 1 Officer and 1 Councillor:

It is proposed that appeals for conduct/capability dismissals move to the same process as for sickness/ill health dismissal appeals, which have worked well for many years. This arrangement is also in line with the standard (non-dismissal) Disciplinary Appeal arrangement of a 2 Officer panel with HR advice. This means a Panel of 1 Officer of appropriate seniority (a member of Management Board) and 1 Councillor, chaired by the officer with a Head of HR/Principal HR Adviser advising the Panel and the Panel members having no prior involvement in the service area or the case.

Under this proposal:

- The Appeal will be held as quickly as possible after the decision to dismiss, ideally within/shortly after the notice period. This will enable better management of any decision to uphold the appeal, and have less impact on service delivery / team.
- Where cases progress to Employment Tribunal (ET) an Officer will attend Currently because the Chair is a Councillor the ET and preparation for be problematic as it requires days out of their schedule.
- All members of appeal panels will attend appropriate training and be available for appeals, allocating a full day for the panel itself as well as preparation time
- Officers who chair Panels will have had sufficient training and experience, with training being recorded and available as evidence at ET as required. Steps are in place to ensure all Officers get experience on panels prior to Chairing.
- There will be a small pool of councillors able to sit on appeal panels and attend training to ensure the Council is not reliant on one or two councillors for all Appeals and that the process does not create delays. This approach will allow flexibility for Appeal dates to ensure Appeal panels are held in a timely manner as soon as possible after the decision to dismiss.
- The panel will have alternative sanctions available to it and can reinstate with a lower sanction as appropriate including redeployment as an alternative to dismissal.
- Democratic Services resource will not be required to administrate the process or clerk the Hearing. This will substantially reduce costs of photocopying, diary management, and clerking.

The proposal carries benefits compared to the current arrangements, notably because the Panel includes only one Member it should be easier to set up and not suffer from delay following the original decision to dismiss. Also because the Panel mirrors the current Disciplinary Panel arrangements, employees who have had their case considered at a Disciplinary Hearing will be familiar with the arrangement, and not be put off by an unduly formal setting. A new case review stage (see below) provides a further check on management action prior to formal appeal and the ability to take pre-emptive action if needed.

Consultation on the proposal: UNISON have been fully involved and are supportive of the proposal on the basis that it is a pilot for two years to provide sufficient number of cases to go through the changed arrangements with a formal review undertaken jointly with them. They have asked for additional changes to the disciplinary and capability procedures including the appeal stage in order to better support their members. These are:

- Documentation to be exchanged 15 days before the Panel for both disciplinary/capability hearings and appeal panels.
- Wording strengthened in the disciplinary policy on the length of time taken to investigate cases particularly where staff are suspended, so it is clear that cases should not be allowed to drift. Both UNISON and HR understand that in cases where the employee is off sick or the police are involved lengthy delays can arise.
- UNISON to review with Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) the list of suspensions on a quarterly basis. Whilst these are not usually large in number it is important staff are not suspended for long periods of time unless there is an unavoidable reason such as police involvement and pending criminal proceedings.
- A case review stage be built into the disciplinary/capability process to take place prior to any appeal to allow senior HR and UNISON officers to look at individual cases and be clear these have been managed appropriately and that anything needing to take place prior to an appeal can be actioned.

With these changes UNISON are comfortable that the proposed alternative Panel will hold managers to account in dismissal decisions and ensure that such decisions have been conducted fairly and are reasonable in the circumstances. The proposal was considered by the Members Workforce Planning Group on 4 March 2015. There was robust discussion and a variety of views both for and against the proposal. In addition the views of all existing members of the current committee (not substitutes) have been sought and 2 are supportive of the changes and 2 not. Of the 2 with concerns about the proposals, 1 has personal reservations but given the support of UNISON, is not opposed to the pilot.

Policy implications: The Disciplinary/Capability Policies require no change to accommodate this proposal, as these states that all employees are entitled to Appeal against the decision made by the Disciplinary/Capability Panel but do not give any detail as to the constitution of the Appeal Panel itself. The Panels and Appeals Procedure will need amending to state that: *Disciplinary/capability appeals against dismissal will be heard by a Director/Assistant Chief Executive (who will act as Chair) and one other officer, and one Member who have not been previously involved in the case, advised by a Head of HR / Principal Adviser.*

The Council's Constitution: includes reference to the Employment Appeals Committee for hearing Appeals against Dismissal (excluding redundancy and ill health/absence) and will need amending to enable the pilot panel to be tested by adding the following exemption for a two year period:

Appeals against dismissals under the Council's Capability or Disciplinary Policies shall be determined, in consultation with a Member to be drawn from the Appeals Committee, by a Corporate Director / Assistant Chief Executive and one other officer who has not been previously involved in the matter and who is duly authorised to determine the appeal in accordance with Officers delegation scheme. The appeal panel will be advised by a Head of HR / Principal HR Adviser who has had no previous involvement in the case, and who will not take part in decision-making.

It is proposed that the one councillor for the new panel is drawn from the membership of the Employment Appeals Committee on a rota basis, working down the rota for cases to be heard. The Employment Appeal Committee will still exist for the pilot period as it retains the remit to hear collective disputes and be the dismissal appeal body for the post of Chief Executive. The consequential changes to the Constitution are shown as tracked changes in appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed changes to the current process for Disciplinary/Capability Dismissal Appeals are approved

Shire Council Benchmarking

Surrey: Only appeals for collective disputes go to members. Dismissal appeals go to officer panel which has operated successfully for a number of years.

Somerset, Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire: Members hear some types of dismissal appeals

Devon: employees have option of Members or Chief Officer appeal, as Member availability is very limited so process takes longer. Chief Officers are far more likely to be able to hear an appeal quickly. This has reduced the number of Member appeals.

Dorset: moved from member appeals about a year ago to hybrid panel of three, a director and two members. The director is decision maker, in consultation with the two members. Work really well so far.

Norfolk: Members involved in dismissal hearings and jointly with unions for final stage grievances.

Gloucestershire: moved 3 years ago to Officer appeal hearings.

Sussex: trialed using Officers for dismissal appeals and final stage grievances.

Warwickshire: trialed using Officers for dismissal appeals and final stage grievances

Kent: Officer appeal panels- seen as a better use of officers time with officers trained and experienced in assessing and managing these. A panel of 2 senior officers is easier/quicker to organise and officers take the role of attending any subsequent ET etc. All activity is reported to the relevant Committee 6 monthly (since moved to annual). Trade Unions were not keen on the move but have since been satisfied that the process is at the least as rigorous if not more so.

Vale of Glamorgan: A small panel (Head of HR, Managing Director and Leader) works well and has improved speed and informality of the process

Buckinghamshire: Changed approach 2 years ago to panel of a Strategic Director (direct report to CEO) and a Service Director (reporting to a Strategic Director) with HR providing support.

Derbyshire: moved to Strategic Directors hearing all appeals subject to a 12 month review. The trade unions were unconvinced, but metrics show little difference in the outcomes

Hertfordshire: Moved to officer panel in 2010 which is working well. Members only hear appeals for Chief Officers and Assistant Directors.

Wiltshire: changed about 5 years ago to officer only via a separate appeals policy which applies to majority of staff policies. This went through the committee process to be ratified and there was no desire from members to be involved. This was because that there were very small numbers per year, a lot of training for members

who may never be involved, and a lot of time required for the appeal panels and so members agreed not to be involved in the future.

Cornwall: Corporate Directors are responsible for such matters better fitted to their delegated operational responsibilities.

Appendix 2

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EMPLOYMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. To hear and determine appeals against decisions of officers of the Council, where provision exists for appeals to a member level body, or of relevant decisions of the Governing Bodies of voluntary aided schools where the Governing Body so requests in respect of:-

- Group grievances and Collective Disputes

Comment [SS1]: This moved up in the document.

Exceptions:-

- a) appeals against dismissals on the ground of redundancy and against selection for redundancy, which shall be determined by a Chief Officer or Senior Manager s/he has authorised to act in his/her place in consultation with an HR adviser, and
- b) appeals against dismissals under the Council's Attendance Management Policy shall be determined, in consultation with a Member to be drawn from the Appeals Committee, by a senior manager who has not previously been involved in the matter, and who is duly authorised to determine the appeal in accordance with paragraph 3.7 of the Officers' Delegation Scheme. The appeal will be advised by an HR adviser who has had no previous involvement in the case and who will have no role in decision-making and
- c) Appeals against dismissals under the Council's Capability of Disciplinary Policies shall be determined, in consultation with a Member to be drawn from the Appeals Committee, by a Corporate Director / Assistant Chief Executive who has not been previously involved in the matter and who is duly authorised to determine the appeal in accordance with Josie – need to check the Officers delegation scheme to ensure this is the same. The appeal panel will be advised by a Head of HR / Principal Adviser who has had no previous involvement in the case, and who will not take part in decision-making.

Comment [SS2]: Changed wording here to make it clear HR only advising

Comment [SS3]: This is new working

2. To exercise all functions (including, but not limited to, hearing and determination) in relation to appeals by the Chief Executive Officer against decisions of the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to take disciplinary action against him/her short of dismissal.

3. To exercise all functions (including, but not limited to, hearing and determination) in relation to appeals by the Chief Executive Officer against decisions of the Leader and/or the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee, on appraisal of the Chief Executive Officer, not to award an increment.

Notes:

1. No member of the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee shall sit on the Employment Appeals Committee when the Employment Appeals Committee is hearing appeals by the Chief Executive Officer against decisions of the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to take disciplinary action against him/her short of dismissal.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2015

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD**Budget / Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)**

The Leader has already touched upon the Chancellor's Budget in his statement but I want to take the opportunity to further highlight a number of areas.

On the surface of it, the Chancellor's Budget appeared to imply less austerity for the public sector than was set out in his March budget statement. However, as the Leader points out, we do not yet know the precise impact upon Local Government and it is worth picking out some of the detail that we do already know. Firstly, defence spending is now "protected" so that means the impact of any cuts will be felt more sharply in the non protected departments including Local Government.

Secondly, the introduction of the national living wage will have two principal impacts upon the County Council. It will clearly raise the cost of paying staff who are currently just above the minimum wage but it will also increase the costs of many of our contracts and particularly those within Adult Social Care. This will therefore have an inflationary impact for this and other councils across the country.

It is also worth reminding Members that we are only half way through the period of austerity and that our last MTFS (produced just before the Chancellor's Budget Statement in March) identified a shortfall of £14.2m. It therefore remains critical that we continue to deliver the savings programme as set out and ensure further opportunities are realised to balance the books.

Workforce Performance

Looking back at workforce performance across the financial year 2014/15 I am delighted to see some areas of excellence which is a tribute to our hard working and committed staff. Sickness levels remain low at 6.2 days lost per employee which is a reduction on the previous year and compares well with others including the private sector at 6.6 days, the public sector overall at 8.2 days and local government at 8.8 days. So our staff have much less time off work.

This is a real benefit to services in terms of productivity and staff continuity, which is important in care delivery areas, and reduces the cost of staff cover. In part due to our low absence levels we also spend very little on agency staff - £132k last year mainly on care posts for example in residential care homes where there are mandatory staffing levels. Again, compared to other authorities, we do well with an average spend for local authorities of £3m and for those about the same size at more than £10m. We think we are the only local authority that does not have any agency social workers.

This excellent performance is at a time of continued change for staff as services change with staff reductions in many areas particularly management, back office and support services and we work hard to support staff through these changes including

moving them to other vacant posts if possible or supporting them to look for jobs outside the council. 1200 staff were affected in 36 restructures last year. Some areas however have seen an increase such as additional posts in Catering due to national requirements on school meals and we continue to recruit to frontline posts such as care, social work, cleaning and catering to maintain staffing levels with over 2000 new staff appointed in these areas.

I was pleased to meet with members from our UNISON branch recently at one of the Leaders regular meetings. We continue to have a good relationship, working in partnership with Unison as the recognised trade union for staff, which is really important in these times of continuing change for the council and its staff. The local Unison branch has been led in recent years by Wendy Nichols who I have a lot of respect for and who has just been appointed as national President of Unison. Congratulations to Wendy.

Other Issues to note

I am pleased to report two notable achievements of which the County Council should be proud –

1. We have achieved ISO Standard for Information Security – this improves our ability to manage and share information with partners as increasingly required.
2. We have been shortlisted for “Most Improved Procurement Operation – Step Change” by the Chartered Institute of Purchase and Supply Procurement Awards – this reflects improvements in our Corporate Procurement Strategy and the role that procurement can play in helping to deliver further efficiencies.

GARETH DADD

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**22 JULY 2015****STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS PORTFOLIO HOLDER****COUNTY COUNCILLOR ARTHUR BARKER****Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire**

The Children and Young People's Service has continued to meet its savings targets. The scale of budget cuts required – and achieved to date, whilst maintaining service levels, has been a significant challenge. The objective has been to protect front-line services as much as possible, thus enabling a restructured Directorate to operate effectively across its universal, preventative, targeted and acute service responsibilities, in line with legislation.

2015-16 sees the implementation of some major transformation programmes, including the review of Preventative Services and a new way of delivering school improvement.

This information appears in the Statements to Council for both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service as this reflects our joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

School Improvement

As mentioned in my statement to May's Council, work is continuing to implement the recommendations of the Commission for School Improvement which focuses on a move to greater sector-led improvement with Headteachers and collaboratives playing a more significant role in school improvement. The implementation of the Education Partnership and the Improvement Partnerships are now taking place. The first meeting of the Education Partnership took place in May and the first meetings of the Improvement Partnerships are all planned.

The Chairs of the Early Years, Primary and Secondary Improvement Partnerships are now in place. Jane Pepper (Headteacher, Childhaven Nursery School, Wendy Ripley (HMI and Director of Pen Green Teaching School Alliance) and Rob Pritchard (Headteacher, St John Fisher Catholic High School), will take up their respective roles with immediate effect. We are currently recruiting for the Chair of the Special Schools Improvement Partnership. There is one Primary Improvement Partnership, rather than the original five, with an independent Chair. This builds on the current networks, skills, capacity and strengths of the six Teaching School Alliances. This has released additional funding that will be used for school improvement initiatives.

The Executive considered the proposals for the School Improvement Service restructure in March and approval to implement the new structure was given. The restructure is now almost completed and the new team will be in place for 1 September as planned.

Whilst significant progress continues to be made, the Authority has recently opened itself up to a regional peer challenge process of our school improvement arrangements which saw a team of external senior officers from other Yorkshire and Humber local authorities interview 120 people (staff, governors and Headteachers) and analyse data over the course of three days. Feedback was positive with strong endorsement of our direction of travel whilst there were also some useful areas identified for further development.

OfSTED Outcomes

Ofsted data, as at start of July 2015, showed that North Yorkshire has improved to 83% which means that the authority is now in line with national for the proportion of all schools good or outstanding.

Between January and June 2015, 16 primary schools improved from “requires improvement” to “good”, with the result that 84% of primary schools in both North Yorkshire and England are currently good or outstanding. This is an improvement of 4% in North Yorkshire since January 2015, more rapid than the national improvement of 2% during the same period.

73% of secondary schools in North Yorkshire are currently good or outstanding. This compares with national averages for the percentage of schools being good or outstanding of 74%. Since January 2015 the proportion of secondary schools good or outstanding in North Yorkshire has improved by 2%, in line with the national improvement.

At the start of July 2015, the proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools in North Yorkshire is in line with national at 81%. The proportion of pupils who attend good or better primary schools is 83% in North Yorkshire, 1% below the national of 84%. The proportion of pupils who attend good or better secondary schools is 79% in North Yorkshire, 2% above the national of 77%.

There are three primary schools in an Ofsted category – Richmond CE, Farnley and Skipton St Stephen's. Effective progress continues at St. Stephen's RC who will convert to sponsored academy status on 01/08/15. Richmond CE have had their first monitoring inspection from HMI. We are working with both Richmond CE and Farnley CE schools to accelerate progress. However, at the last HMI visit to Farnley on 3 July the school was judged not to be making effective progress towards the removal of special measures although HMI commented that the LA have provided high level and high quality support.

Two secondary schools have been inspected during the Summer Term – Sherburn and George Pindar - the judgement on those schools remained as 'requires improvement.' There are currently two secondary schools in special measures - Graham School and Filey School. HMI continue to be pleased with the progress that Graham School is making towards the removal of special measures, and the school should be re-inspected in the Autumn Term. Filey School will convert to academy status in September, under the sponsorship of the Ebor Academy Trust in York.

School Funding

There are no major changes since my last statement to Council, In terms of individual school budgets, following lobbying by this and other Councils, North Yorkshire was allocated additional funding of £9.8m. All of this has been passed directly to schools and equates to an increase of 3.1% per pupil. We are expecting the DfE to publish expectations around school funding for 2016-17 later this summer and that this will include proposals regarding the future funding of High Needs and Early Years, including the costs of increasing the early entitlement. We will continue to lobby for the best deal for all schools in the county.

School Organisation

I have two updates on matters raised in my last statement to Council.

Following discussions with the local authority and the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, the governors of Farnley CE School are consulting on closure, with effect from the end of December 2015. There are currently 10 children on roll and the school has been rated as “inadequate” by Ofsted.

On 3 June the ground was officially “cut” for the new primary school being built at Staynor Hall, Selby. The school will be open in September 2016 and will be run by Ebor Academy Trust.

Forest Moor School (formerly Foremost School)

I am pleased to report that, following a successful Headteacher appointment process, a new substantive Headteacher has been appointed to the school. Although Mr Marc Peart will take up the role of Headteacher formally with effect from 1 September 2015, he will be in school for the remainder of the Summer Term to work with pupils and staff to prepare for the new term in September, building on the improvements that the school has made this year. Mr Peart is moving to Forest Moor School having successfully led improvements in a similar school in Lancashire.

An Ofsted inspection of the school has recently been held although the outcome is not yet published. At its last monitoring visit the school were reported to be making reasonable progress towards the removal of special measures.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks formally to Simon Ashby from the LA’s School Improvement Service who has provided leadership as Headteacher to the school on a secondment basis since September 2014.

School Debating Competition

Monday 8 June saw the final of the North Yorkshire Primary Schools Debating Competition. Prime Minister’s Questions was nothing compared to the spirited debate that took place amongst children from the eight primary schools across the County who were winners of the area heats. The debating competition, which was started three years ago by the then county council chairman, Cllr Cliff Trotter, has grown year on year and 48 schools were involved in the competition this year.

This year’s finalists were Hutton Rudby Community Primary School, Richmond Methodist Primary School, Burton Leonard Primary School, Staveley Community Primary School, Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School, Ingleton Community Primary School, Northstead Primary School, Scarborough and Tadcaster Riverside Community Primary School. The topic of debate was “Are children healthier and happier now than their parents were at the same age?” and the overall winner by just one point was Ingleton Primary School. I am sure Members would like to join me in congratulating the young people involved.

County Councillor Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools and Early Years

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2015

**STATEMENT FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,
STRONGER COMMUNITIES, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND THE ROLE OF AREA COMMITTEES****COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID A CHANCE****PUBLIC HEALTH****Public Health Grant**

The Public Health Grant has allowed the Council to lay the foundations for our Distinctive Public Health Agenda for the county. This has included a transformation of public health services inherited when public health responsibilities transferred to us and development of new services and initiatives that address particular challenges for our residents. Among these new initiatives are the Stronger Communities programme and the Targeted Prevention services aimed at helping older people to remain independent and well.

The recent announcement of an in-year cut to the overall grant to local authorities by £200 million is concerning. We do not know the details of how this will be applied locally or whether there will be further reductions in future years.

Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice

One of the aims of the county's Joint Alcohol Strategy is to identify people who drink alcohol in harmful or hazardous ways and offer interventions to help them drink safely and responsibly. The New Horizons service has been providing specialist treatment for people who need support to manage their alcohol addiction since October 2014.

We have now commissioned pharmacies to deliver brief advice interventions to people who do not need specialist treatment but consume alcohol at unsafe levels. This new service will be available from July in pharmacies and later in the year from GPs. In addition, we have provided training in alcohol identification and brief advice interventions to frontline workers who are in regular contact with people who drink to excess. An early group for this training are custody workers in Scarborough.

Walk Wise Road Safety Education Programme

The Grant has allowed us to support initiatives like the Walk Wise Road Safety Education Programme through the new joint funding approach between Public Health, Highways Road Safety and 95 Alive Partnership (from North Yorkshire Police). The programme aimed at pre-school children and their parents includes its

own website, learning through play resources and story books that help parents and carers to teach road safety lessons appropriate for this age group e.g. holding hands, using a car seat in a structured but enjoyable way. There is also an early years setting package so that playgroups and nursery schools and groups can use the same resources and images to reinforce these important principles and behaviours. The programme will be delivered at no cost to those who join in the Selby, Harrogate and Scarborough areas - where the evidence shows that children are more likely to be hurt on the roads and where demographic and deprivation factors make this more likely than for most children in the county. We will offer membership through a number of channels, principally via early years settings as almost every child now attends an early years setting through the government voucher scheme.

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North Yorkshire Horizons

In the first seven months, the new drugs and alcohol service has been used by 2243 people. One-third are male and one-fifth are between 35 - 39 years of age. The profile is therefore similar to that seen across the UK.

The Single Point of Contact telephone line gets about 1000 calls per week. About a fifth of calls relate to people who need assessment for treatment. Self-referral and referral by family and friends represent a large proportion of new clients to the service.

The Recovery and Mentoring Service has increased the number of recovery groups across the county that allow people to access support to maintain their recovery from drugs and alcohol. There has been an estimated 500-800 attendance per month at these groups.

Health Checks

The NHS Health Check invites adults aged 40 to 74 - without previously diagnosed heart disease, diabetes or chronic kidney disease (CKD) - for a free health assessment. The Check aims to identify those at risk of serious, but potentially avoidable, conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and certain types of dementia, the programme in an important measure to help reduce early death from these diseases. The uptake has been disappointing with less than 50% of those offered the check coming forward to receive it.

The Public Health Team has been working with GP practices on an improvement programme to increase uptake as well as specific outreach initiatives to raise awareness and boost uptake.

Sexual Health Services

The new sexual health service started on 1 July 2015. This brings together all aspects of services in an integrated way and will be easier to access. In addition to treating sexually transmitted infections and reducing unwanted pregnancies, the new service will have an increased focus on prevention and early intervention, including targeted services and outreach work for young people and most at risk groups.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LOCALITY BUDGETS

The Leader has proposed piloting County Councillor Locality Budgets, allowing every County Councillor to respond to local needs by making small grants to support projects or activities that benefit the communities they represent. The allocation envisaged for grants is £5,000 per County Councillor per year.

The Executive has agreed to earmark £792,000 in total from General Working Balances for a two year pilot, with a brief evaluation at the end of each year. A report proposing the detailed scheme for the administration and decision making will be considered by the Executive on 28 July 2015.

It is envisaged that the first stage of the pilot will open for applications in October 2015 with awards being made up to March 2016, followed by an interim evaluation. Prior to the start of the pilot a briefing will be provided to County Councillors, probably via Area Committee meetings in September 2015.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The work of the Stronger Communities programme continues to gather pace across the county with a range of community groups and projects benefitting from the package of support available. To date over 30 grant applications have been received from groups delivering projects across all four of the programme's priorities.

23 projects have been approved; the total value of grants awarded is £142,626 against total project costs of £374,367. Examples of projects supported include the relocation of the library in Pateley Bridge to co-location with Nidderdale Plus and Tourist Information; the development of a new older people's centre in Scarborough by Age UK; a range of activity groups based in village halls on the Wolds in Ryedale; piloting Good Neighbours schemes across the county with Rural Action Yorkshire; support to Craven Volunteer Centre to provide outreach services in Settle and a digital outreach service by Hambleton and Richmondshire Citizens Advice. A further 75 projects are currently being developed by the team. Early findings would illustrate that there is a healthy appetite to develop universal community managed services for older people and adults however community managed transport services are proving

more challenging and some targeted work to stimulate interest in community transport is being planned.

The programme continues to support the work of the Directorates and the Council's 2020 programme in a number of service consultations including libraries, children's centres and transport helping to identify opportunities for services to come together and enabling the communities to add value by working in partnership with us to maintain services.

As part of the package of support to communities, a number of buildings and community assets are being offered for transfer to community ownership or management. To support this initiative the Stronger Communities team has secured government backing and financial support as part of a new Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) funding programme – Community Ownership and Management of Assets (COMA). This is good news for groups interested in for example managing community libraries as government funded grants, of up to £10,000 each, will be available to them for feasibility work.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2015

**STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS, ROAD SAFETY, ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE
(INCL BROADBAND, MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE) AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE****Highways****Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy**

The Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy represents the County Council's commitment to our highways, and following approval by the Executive on 7 July is recommended for adoption by County Council on 22 July. The asset management strategy is a significant public document, which sets out how the County Council intends to deliver the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy adopted by the County Council in May 2015.

The adoption of the Highways Asset Management Strategy is fully in line with the Department for Transport's Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme and forms a key part of the highway efficiency self-assessment questionnaire a draft of which was published in June 2015. The outcome of this self-assessment, due in November 2015, will determine a portion of the County Council's highway maintenance capital allocation for 2016/17. Thereafter the self-assessment is completed annually, and this process will be a significant factor in the value of our capital allocation. Officers will be working hard to ensure that the County Council retains its maximum funding allocation which could include up to £5m in incentives bonus by 2018/19.

The strategy has been developed in line with the current Local Transport Plan 3.

Local Transport Plan 4

Members will know that the County Council has commenced preparation of the next statutory Local Transport Plan to be in place by 1 April 2016. It is intended that the new Plan, LTP4, will be submitted for approval in February next year. The first phase of public consultation asking for views on transport priorities ended on 30 June. Consideration of the responses and drafting of the LTP have begun. Reports have recently been considered by BES Executive Members and the TEE Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Further reports will be brought and there will be a second phase of public consultation in November seeking views on the draft Plan.

North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus

Members will be aware of the Government's initiative to bring the city regions of the North together to form a so-called Northern Powerhouse. Its aim will be to match the economic dominance of London and the South East. There are concerns that rural areas will be left out. Members may be reassured on this matter. The County Council is taking a strategic lead for North Yorkshire and also, where appropriate, for the wider York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP area. We have already been successful in ensuring that the newly-formed Transport for the North (TfN) recognise the importance of the rural areas to The Northern Powerhouse. As evidence of this, TfN recently requested that the County Council Bainbridge present to other transport authorities on how we are working to highlight the rural perspective.

A North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus is part of this process. It sets out both the economic importance of North Yorkshire in the context of The Northern Powerhouse and our

current transport priorities and aspirations. This document deals with strategic transport for the whole of the North of England, from Sheffield to Newcastle and on both sides of the Pennines.

Annual Evaluation of Highways Maintenance Contract

We have completed the 3rd annual evaluation of this contract, which was awarded to Ringway in April 2012 with a maximum term of 10 years. This was reduced to 9 years at the 2014 Annual Evaluation as a result of failure to meet a significant number of performance indicators.

The performance of the Contractor was assessed to be much better over the last year during which an additional £10m worth of capital-funded work was successfully delivered. The decision was taken to leave the contract period at 9 years, whilst the Contractor remains intent upon achieving performance levels in future that would win back the lost year.

Whitby Park and Ride

The Whitby Park and Ride scheme continues to be successful. Last year more than 131,000 passengers used the facility between April and October. It has got off to a very good start this season carrying more than 53,000 passengers up to the end of June. In spite of poor weather, this is significantly higher usage than last year.

The Introduction of parking controls and charges can be controversial and so it proved when the parking zone was first created in Whitby to encourage the use of the Park and Ride. Nevertheless, despite these initial concerns, especially on the part of local traders, the new arrangements seem to be settling down well. Productive engagement with local traders continues as we work together on minor changes to the parking zone. The traders themselves are also now being proactive and are using the P&R facility to promote their businesses.

Access to the Countryside

Public Rights of Way

The Planning Inspectorate has indicated that they will approve applications to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for claimed footpaths at Tadcaster and Sheriff Hutton. Public enquiries were held into both earlier this year. The Inspectorate has proposed modifications to the Orders, which are currently being advertised, but the process has established that, in each case, locally valued public rights of way are considered to exist and, on confirmation of the Orders, will be protected in law.

Passenger Transport

The bus subsidy consultation, which started on 15 May, continues until 14 August. This process includes several drop-in sessions, which have now all taken place and were well attended. It is clear that bus services are very important to our residents, and great care will be taken to ensure that the proposed level of bus subsidy of £1.5m from next April is used most effectively.

Broadband

I have recently received a very informative briefing from NYnet officers and attended my first NYnet Board meeting as an observer. North Yorkshire is a pioneer in the expansion of superfast broadband, and whilst we face challenges in extending the network to the most rural parts of the county, we do have a variety of developing technologies at our disposal to help us towards 100% provision.

DON MACKENZIE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2015

**STATEMENT OF WASTE SERVICES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
RAIL STRATEGY AND TRADING STANDARDS PORTFOLIO HOLDER
COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE****Waste Services**

Discussions are nearing completion with Yorwaste that will see the company owned by the County Council and City of York Council capable of operating under the 'Teckal' exemption and delivering services for the Council without competitive tender. It is expected that the necessary changes will be made to the company structure, including the additional of additional Directors from both Councils during July, and that contracts for services will become operational from September. This represents a new way of working with our own company to ensure long term value for money and flexibility in the way we provide waste management services. It helps avoid unnecessary costs and enables greater collaboration with district councils and other public sector organisations so they may benefit from the freedoms of a 'Teckal' operation.

The construction of Allerton Waste Recovery Park continues on schedule and I am looking forward to a site visit with the Leader later in July. At this moment AmeyCespa is continuing to pour concrete for the waste reception pits and other 'below ground' structures. A webcam with remote access through the AmeyCespa website will be available by the end of July to enable anyone to see how construction is progressing.

Economic Development

Work continues on appraising several million pounds worth of business plans from businesses and local authorities seeking investment from the Local Growth Fund in major economic and housing infrastructure. Preparation is underway for our first conference on 24 July at the Pavilions in Harrogate. Members are welcome to attend, places should be booked online <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/york-north-yorkshire-and-east-riding-enterprise-partnership-annual-conference-tickets-17223178992>. The conference will see the launch of the LEP's new Growth Hub, 'How's Business' an enhanced version of the business support signposting they already provide, with additional input and opinion from local business people and networks.

Rail Strategy

The announcements about delays to network rail infrastructure projects is obviously a concern – we will maintain contact with the rail industry and as soon as we have more information will share that with our two Executive Members.

Trading Standards**Multi Agency Safeguarding Team**

Trading Standards have now established a new multi-agency safeguarding team which has the remit to protect vulnerable adults from all forms financial abuse. The team consists of Trading Standards officers, NY Police officers, HAS safeguarding officers and Veritau Ltd. Examples of the areas dealt with by the team include doorstep crime, scam mail, investment frauds and frauds committed by family members, carers and powers of attorney. As well as dealing with investigations and prosecutions, the team also undertakes prevention and

awareness raising work, to help prevent vulnerable adults becoming victims of financial abuse. They also deal with other safeguarding issues which may contribute to a victim being susceptible to such forms of fraud.

Farming, Food and Health - Legal Highs

On 27 May 2015, the Queens Speech made reference to a blanket ban of new psychoactive substances. The Psychoactive Substances Bill is modelled on similar legislation passed in Ireland in 2010 and looks to remove substances that are otherwise often erroneously known as 'legal highs' from our communities. This ban which comes into force on 1 April, 2016 will protect people from the risks posed by taking these untested, unknown and potentially harmful substances. Within North Yorkshire we have three legal high retailers and it is anticipated that the introduction of this legislation will significantly reduce the level of risk and antisocial behaviour resulting from use of these substances.

National Trading Standards eCrime Team

Over the last month the team has led and co-ordinated one of the biggest enforcement operations of its kind, targeted at criminals who exploit social media to sell dangerous and counterfeit goods and commit copyright theft. Working with TS officers from over 50 local authority trading standards departments, officers have raided 12 separate locations and are still involved in 22 on-going investigations as part of a crackdown on counterfeiting and piracy on Facebook across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Alongside this over 4,300 Facebook listings have been taken down, 20 Facebook profiles closed, over 200 warning letters were issued and 24 cease and desist letters were delivered to the homes of suspected Facebook sellers.

During the operation officers seized a range of dangerous or toxic products, ranging from Android TV boxes with unsafe mains chargers to several hundreds of counterfeit Cinderella dolls containing high levels of toxic phthalates to name a few examples. The Android boxes allowed the illegal streaming of movies and sports channels.

As part of an ongoing effort to tackle copycat government web sites, 4 raids have been carried out in London and the Home Counties. Following a significant number of consumer complaints, 5 individuals were arrested in connection with running series of web sites. It is thought that as many as 700 consumers may have been subject to county court judgements. This was as a result of the extremely aggressive practices used by the company to pursue consumers who, having realised they had been duped, tried to cancel their payments. Our other 2 copycat web site investigations are now progressing through the court process. The latest estimate is that over £55 million of consumer harm resulted from the companies involved in our investigations

CHRIS METCALFE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

Chris Metcalfe's statement – Library Service – Next steps

As Members will be aware the Executive made their decision on the way forward for the service on 7th July 2015.

Executive agreed with the recommendations in the report, namely that there should be 7 core libraries, 5 hybrid libraries and 21 community managed libraries. They also agreed to provide an element of dedicated additional support staff for the 21 community managed libraries and an increased level of staff support for the hybrid libraries. They also agreed to subsidise the premises costs for community managed libraries and to receive a further report in December on the progress made with Community groups, highlighting areas of potential risk. This will be presented to Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 November prior to going to Executive on 8 December.

Over the coming weeks, there will be meetings with individual Members to discuss the implications for their library. Work will start in earnest with groups that have already expressed an interest in taking on the management of their local library. The Stronger Communities team will be closely involved in this work alongside the Library Service, and also in stimulating interest in other communities where groups have yet to come forward. They will also help groups to recruit volunteers to work alongside staff in hybrid and core libraries.

Communities/groups will be asked to put together initial proposals for how they see their community managed library operating, and these, together with Stronger Communities' assessment of the capacity/viability of these prospective groups

Throughout this time, the Library Service has continued to deliver a wide range of developments and initiatives as follows:-

New Library at Settle

Settle Library moved into Limestone View, the new Housing 21 extra care facility in Settle on the 12th January 2015. The new library is 3 times larger than the old library, has a bright dedicated children's area and space to increase the range of activities offered. The first 3 months saw new borrowers increase by 46% on the same period in 2013/4, and the Library is going from strength to strength in its new home at Limestone View Extra-care facility with a range of events and activities including IT Support with a young volunteer from Settle College, weekly Storytimes in conjunction with North Craven Children's Centre, monthly Dementia Support drop-ins with Making Space. An exciting development is the Digital Inclusion project involving the

Community Learning Partnership (Craven College, Adult Learning and Libraries). Library staff conducted a training needs analysis in the community earlier in the year and Adult Learning are now delivering a 5 week course supported by the library. The course is oversubscribed; 10 booked with another 12 on the waiting list, so another course has been planned for September.

Lady Lumley's Library Champions

With the increasing availability digital resources North Yorkshire libraries are keen to promote the digital library which is accessible 24/7 from any computer over the internet. A pilot project at Lady Lumley's school in Pickering is doing just this with the help of senior pupils who are training their own teachers and the other pupils to use online reference books to help with their studies. Six formers act as 'Library Digital Champions' to learn about the North Yorkshire's Online Information resources, and demonstrate to their teachers how these can help with the curriculum and in setting homework. In partnership with local libraries, they ensure all teachers and pupils in the school are registered with library cards so they can use them too. Last year over 400 teachers and pupils registered. The project is moving into its 2nd year with new champions and the new intake.

Skipton Comic Book Club

Skipton Comic Book Club continue to meet at the library monthly, there are currently 30 members aged 10-18. They have secured funding from Skipton Town Partnership to publish volume 2 of their own comic and additional funding from a bid to Craven's Dragon's Den to deliver a project called 'Comic Swap' which will see open access workshops in the library with author and comic book artist Neill Cameron this autumn. The group will be having a stall at Thought Bubble Festival in Leeds this November where they will promote their group and sell their comics and badges. Library staff were invited to be keynote speakers at the Youth Libraries Group day school in April.

Code Club @ Thirsk

Code Club is a nationwide network of volunteer-led after school coding clubs for children aged 9-11. A club has been established at Thirsk with three groups of children taking part every Saturday morning when children attending make computer games, animations and websites using Scratch, HTML, CSS and Python. The aim now is to get more clubs running in other North Yorkshire Libraries so the search is on for volunteers.

New Recruits

During April and May Catterick Library staff were delighted to welcome 240 Gurkha recruits and their English teachers to the library in a series of visits where they were shown what the library had to offer them and all became members and borrowed books to help with their English language learning.

Tourist Information in Richmond Library

The Tourist Information Centre moved into its new home in Richmond Library last month. Volunteers and library staff are working together to provide a range of information to ensure that visitors to the area enjoy their stay to the fullest.

Sporting Memories

Libraries have recently embarked on an exciting new national pilot project in partnership with "Sporting memories". Founded by former psychiatric nurse Tony Jameson Allen and business partner Chris Wilkins, sporting memories uses the traditional idea of reminiscence activities to bring together like-minded people to discuss their love of sport. The aim of the project is to improve the well-being of older people and to help tackle dementia, depression and social isolation. Northallerton Library is currently hosting weekly sessions as part of libraries initiative to work toward becoming more dementia friendly.

Summer Reading Challenge 2015 – Record Breakers!

Summer is here, holidays are on the horizon and it's nearly time to get children aged from 4-11 to sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge in libraries. Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays, so help them to maintain their reading skills and confidence through taking part in this year's challenge.

Finally this year's Summer Reading Challenge has teamed up with Guinness World Records to establish a "Record Breakers" themed Challenge and North Yorkshire libraries are gearing up to encourage young readers to explore some of the astonishing real-life achievements and world records as featured in the Guinness World Records™ Books. This year, as previous, young volunteers will be in libraries to help deliver a wide range of supporting activities throughout the summer.

Children can sign up at their local library from Saturday 11th July to receive their Record Breakers fold-out poster and start the challenge. They need to finish reading their 6 books by 12th September. Last year over 10,000 children took part and over 8,500 finished the Challenge. Children borrowed over 127,000 books over the summer and 436 children joined the library as new members to take part in the Challenge.

Archives

Archives at Dusk

The fifth Archives at Dusk event took place at the Record Office on May 16th.

This year's event attracted the highest attendance yet. Over 160 people, many new to the Record Office, were entertained and informed through the course of the evening which took as its theme 'the edible archive'. Visitors were able to explore behind the scenes at the office and to discover fascinating facts about domestic recipes and remedies, methods of food production - legal and illegal - and the diets of the rich and poor. A food historian recreated historic cures and local artisan

brewers, preserve makers and bee keepers commented on a variety of historic recipes dating back to the 18th century. Visitors were also able to discover how the conservation department uses food products – such as sausage skins – to repair documents, and to try their hand at document repair themselves.

The event was widely publicised in the press and on the radio and received much positive feedback from those who attended.

Projects

The Heritage Lottery Funded 'Home Comforts' project looking at the history of the auxiliary hospitals established throughout the county during the First World War is now drawing to a close. The book written by volunteers working on the project has sold out of its first print run of 500 copies and a second print run is to be printed. Exhibitions and talks have been held throughout the former North Riding from Scarborough to Leyburn, including a month long exhibition at Hovingham Hall which itself served as a hospital. The project has generated much interest and the travelling exhibition will continue to be available to community venues after the project end.

An archivist has been appointed to the HLF funded Attics and Acres project based on the archive of the Graham family of Norton Conyers. Once in post, the archivist will begin to work with volunteers and local communities to develop an online catalogue, opening up access to this fascinating archive to all.

Parish Registers

A second batch of parish registers have been published online on the Find My Past website. Almost half of the parish register holdings of the Record Office are now available on this subscription site, which is making the records more easily available to audiences remote from the office as well as generating valuable revenue for the service. Further records will be published later this year.

CHRIS METCALFE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2015

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET SANDERSON****Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire**

The Children and Young People's Service has continued to meet its savings targets. The scale of budget cuts required – and achieved to date, whilst maintaining service levels, has been a significant challenge. The objective has been to protect front-line services as much as possible, thus enabling a restructured Directorate to operate effectively across its universal, preventative, targeted and acute service responsibilities, in line with legislation. 2015-16 sees the implementation of some major transformation programmes, including the review of Preventative Services and a new way of delivering school improvement.

This information appears in the Statements to Council for both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service as this reflects our joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

Looked After Children

At the end of Quarter 1 there was an increase of 10 in children "looked after" bringing the total to 458. This is still lower than the peak two years ago, at 494, but is showing a general increase of the last six months. There has been an increase in the number of LAC admissions by 29 children from the previous year mainly in the under five and 10-15 age ranges with a slight decrease in the 5-9 age range. The increase in the numbers of children aged five and under becoming looked after should be seen as a positive increase as child protection concerns are recognised and plans for permanence will be more achievable.

We are committed to and continue to work towards the reduction to 400 of LAC, although we will need to see if this recent upwards trend continues. North Yorkshire's rate of looked after children at 38 per 10,000 is significantly below the regional and national average at 67 per 10,000 and 60 per 10,000 respectively. If the regional rate were applied in North Yorkshire we would need to fund an additional £10 million. So whilst North Yorkshire is doing very well in comparison to others we aspire to do even better.

We continue to see the improvements in health checks with dental checks reaching 84.8% and health checks 83.6%. The average case load for social workers was 17 at the end of June which is very good performance in comparison to other Authorities.

Children and Families Performance

Children's social care performance continues to be impressive. Last year's Ofsted inspection outcome of "good" across all seven judgements still places North Yorkshire as fifth in the country out of 58 published inspections. Timeliness of assessment continues to be high – at over 90% - and this is a constant feature and in April and May 97% of core assessments were completed on time. Immunisations stand at the highest ever at 94% and eye tests at 90%. The customer service centre consistently screens 100% of contacts with police and prevention staff ensuring that needs are understood immediately and that request for service go to the right provision. In Quarter 1 the team screened an impressive 3,788 contacts.

Prevention Service Launch

The new North Yorkshire Prevention Service for the 0-19 age range was launched in April 2015. The new service brought together a range of preventative work into a service which operates seamlessly throughout the age range, eliminating duplication and unnecessary transitions for families. Created from the existing children and youth services, the service undertakes targeted work with families in order to reduce the numbers of children and young people requiring more intensive and costly interventions. The service is also organised in a way which sees Healthy Child Programme services co-located with the 12 new Prevention locality teams.

To officially unveil the Prevention Service, three operational launch events took place in May 2015, which were attended by over 400 staff from the Prevention Service, Healthy Child Teams and key commissioned partners. Alongside this presentations to Head Teachers have been delivered via the Countywide, School Improvement Network meetings. A strategic event was held in June 2015, where strategic partners from across the county came together to celebrate the launch of the innovative new service. Given that the new service has embedded the Developing Stronger Families (Troubled Families) approach and outcomes, the keynote speaker at the event was Louise Casey (Director for the national Troubled Families Team programme) who praised the mainstreaming of the approach where a key worker, with multi-agency support, will work flexibly to challenge and support families to achieve positive outcomes and sustained change.

Developing Stronger Families update

The Developing Stronger Families (DSF) programme has continued to evidence positive impact for families. Between its launch in April 2012 and the end of the initial three year programme in March 2015, DSF has worked with almost 900 families which is in excess of the 845 families we were tasked with identifying and 'turning around'. By the end of the programme we had secured the positive outcomes as defined by the programme nationally, for 100% of our families. Feedback from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is that North Yorkshire's DSF programme is achieving the highest conversion rate nationally i.e. turning around the highest percentage of families worked with. In total under phase 1, North Yorkshire has worked with 897 families and has 'turned around' 845 families, equating to a 94.2% conversion rate. Most importantly families themselves have given the programme really positive feedback, telling us that for the first time they are able to understand why and how to deliver and embed positive changes.

Phase two of the expanded DSF programme (2015 – 2020) is now underway, with the learning, delivery model and required outcomes becoming the mainstreamed through the new Prevention Service. The DSF Outcomes Plan, taking forward Young and Yorkshire's vision and strategic aims, has been agreed with partners and operationally launched with frontline teams. This plan details the core outcomes we strive to achieve with the families worked with through the Prevention and Family Intervention Teams.

A New Fostering Framework and Restructure of the Fostering Service

A new fostering framework was introduced on 1 April 2015. The framework linked to skills and experience ensures that we have the range and depth of carers to meet the variety of assessed needs across the full cohort of Looked After Children. This will ensure we target support at the right level, effectively manage resources and ensure young people are well matched to reduce placement disruptions. The next phase of this work is to extend this model to carers who support disabled children through short breaks or contract care arrangements. These arrangements were previously tendered out, but returned to our in house provision to provide greater consistency and some economies through scale.

There is currently a review of the service structure under way in order support the new framework and improve the support to, and assessment of, carers. This restructure, which will also improve the alignment of the service with other areas of social work practice and ensure there is a whole system approach to designing services around a child and their carers. It will provide targeted support by the most appropriate services at the right time and in the right place. Having been out for a period of consultation the structure is now being finalised and will be assimilated to over the coming months prior to the full implementation in October 2015.

Restructuring of the Disabled Children's Service

Formal consultation has commenced on proposals to restructure the Disabled Children's Service in order that it can support the delivery of the strategy for supporting disabled children, young people and their families which was approved by the Executive in May. The proposals would also achieve a £400k 2020 saving. The intention is to target social work support at the highest need cases, to reduce bureaucracy and to further develop a culture of personalisation. The restructured service will have close links with Prevention Service to assist a wider group of families, and with Health & Adult Services to achieve improved transition for young adults with special educational needs and disabilities.

ELAC Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday 1st July saw our fifth 'Graduation' celebration for those looked after children and care leavers who had successfully completed their secondary education, post 16 or degree course. Many young people and their guests attended the event which was opened by the Head of the Virtual School, Alan Clifton. Graduation certificates were presented by Pete Dwyer, Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service) and Claire Young (runner up on Series 4 of The Apprentice). The resilience and tenacity showed by these young people was highlighted through stories of the wide range of achievements and aspirations which they are determined to fulfil. It is with hope and pride that we look forward to following their journey through life.

Joint Safeguarding Awards

The inaugural Safeguarding Awards, organised jointly between North Yorkshire and City of York Safeguarding Children's Boards and North Yorkshire Police, were held at North Yorkshire Police HQ on Thursday 2 July. Professionals and families took time to celebrate the frontline work on safeguarding children and young people and colleagues across respective social care teams, police, health and NSPCC came together to receive awards in respect of their contribution to multi-agency working. James Lee (team manager), Louise Gyll (senior practitioner), Jess Markwart (team manager), Vicky Metheringham (Head of Safeguarding) and Judith Hay (Assistant Director, Children and Families) all received certificates in appreciation of their ongoing contribution to the multi-agency work. At a time when those doing such work are under close scrutiny, and sometimes the focus of national criticism, it is important to recognise and celebrate the excellent local work undertaken by those working in this field.

FUSE theatre

The FUSE Theatre gave yet another outstanding performance in June. Their production of "Fairy Tales Revisited" took place at York St John's University. It is inspirational to have young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities working alongside other non-disabled young people and over 120 participated in an exciting set of productions, supported by our Connecting Youth Culture service. I would also like to express appreciation to the

Chairman of Council for his support for the event. I am sure he, along with other audience members, were impressed and enthralled by the young people's performance.

Stonewall Education Equality Index

I am pleased to report that the County Council has been named by Stonewall as the one of the best local authorities in Britain for tackling homophobic and biphobic bullying and celebrating difference in its schools. Stonewall recently published its Education Equality Index 2015, listing the Top 10 local authorities in Britain, with North Yorkshire coming in fifth place. The Index measures practice and policy at all of the participating local authorities. 47 local authorities submitted entries to the 2015 Index, the most competitive to date.

A recent report to the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on LGBT young people in North Yorkshire has resulted in the establishment of a task group to focus on their needs. We also have an action plan for schools based on the outcomes from our Growing Up in North Yorkshire schools survey which assesses the health and emotional well-being of our young people and have focused on giving LGBT young people a voice in our service as a whole because we believe that all young people in our county should be supported to have the best experience of high quality education in our schools.

Carers' week

A number of successful events were held for young carers during the recent national "Carers Week" which ran from 8 to 14 June. There are approximately 400 young carers in North Yorkshire who are supported by the County Council using a framework that looks at both the challenges they face and the benefits they will experience looking after a parent or other relative.

There were carer information displays in libraries and GP surgeries as well as a roadshow visiting local supermarkets to raise awareness of young carers' issues. Non uniform events and special assemblies were held also in various schools. Action for Children in Harrogate, Craven and Selby invited primary schools to take part in "Dare to Care" day where young people in key stage 2 were rewarded with a sticker if they showed kindness/caring towards one another, showing caring in a positive light. A Skills for Success evening with young carers aged 14-18 was also held in Selby looking at future career ambitions as realistic prospects for young carers.

Carers Week was busy for Hambleton and Richmond Carers Resource who held an event in Northallerton Town Hall which was open to the public and featured mini talks about carer issues and information stands provided by a whole range of local agencies.

Further help is being offered by the introduction of a young carers' card for students in schools and colleges across the county who have difficulty in balancing their education with the responsibility for caring for someone at home. The card provides a form of identification that young carers can carry with them to signal discreetly to the teacher or tutor that they need support, or have a valid reason for things such as being late or being behind with homework.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children's Services

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

**STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD****Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The original Health and Wellbeing Strategy from 2013 has been updated. Health and social care partners have worked together to identify four key themes that provide a framework for improving the health and wellbeing of the population of North Yorkshire. The four themes are: Connected communities; Start Well; Live Well and Age Well which are focused on making improvements for people across the whole span of their lifetime. One area that is included as a priority is reducing isolation and loneliness. To help deliver these priorities, the Strategy also sets out what we need to focus on together to help make a difference. We have also set out a range of outcomes and improvements that will be a measure of how successful we have been in turning the strategy into reality. It is really important to me that this plan is not just a document on the shelf but is something meaningful and real to people. We would be really keen to hear the views of individuals, groups and partners throughout the next few months – all the information is available to view or download on www.northyorks.gov.uk/jhwsconsultation and the consultation runs until 19 August.

Draft Joint Mental Health Strategy

As Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I was pleased to receive the draft of a new joint mental health strategy in June. The strategy has been developed with partners and covers all ages. The draft was well received by the Health and Well Being Board and has recently generated significant discussion at the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee. It proposes three priority areas for improvement: prevention and resilience; responsive services designed in partnership with people who use them and helping those with mental health issues to have their wider needs (eg employment and housing) recognised.

The draft strategy is now out for consultation with people who use services and their carers. Plans for implementing the strategy will be drawn up with partners before it returns to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September.

New models of care

We are continuing to work with Health partners in the five Clinical Commissioning Groups across North Yorkshire to develop new ways of working together and joining services up. The recent establishment of health and social care 'hubs' in Malton and Selby is an example where local services are being brought together to help support people at home and maintain their independence. Health and social care professionals are focused on achieving the same outcomes and to ensure services are working for the individual and their families.

Similar approaches are being tested across local communities throughout the County so that we can learn what works well and what does not work, before making improvements on a larger scale.

Extra Care

I was very pleased to be able to open Jazz Court, the new Extra Care Scheme in Scarborough on 26 June, alongside Robert Goodwill MP. This is the 19th national scheme in North Yorkshire, and has provided 60 new homes and has offered more independent living for 12 residents from our residential care home, Braeburn House. I was very gratified to hear from some of the residents about their positive experiences in the new scheme.

The procurement exercise to secure partners to develop our ambitious programme, for an extra care scheme in every major town in the County, is now underway. There has been genuine enthusiasm about the programme, and we anticipate being able to launch the new framework and start the development programme in the autumn.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DOLS)

Care & Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing the pressures that all local authorities including North Yorkshire are facing. These are as a result of Case Law which has dramatically widened the scope of people covered by the safeguards. I have written to the President of the Supreme Court to make him aware of these pressures and to suggest some possible courses of action.

Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board

The Board has now successfully been formed as a Statutory Body, as required by the Care Act. The necessary changes have been implemented through some excellent work with partner organisations. These include the statutory members of the Board from the Health & Police Services.

The Board will undertake a recruitment process for a new independent Chair of the Board potentially for up to four years, and this post will be advertised in the near future. I would like to thank Jonathan Phillips whose term of office as independent Chair concludes during 2015/16.

Reeth Medical Centre

On behalf of the County Council and the Health and Well-being Board, I have written to Dr Brookes and his team at Reeth Medical Centre, to offer our congratulations for being rated in the top 3% of GP practices in the country in Care Quality Commission inspection and the first 'Outstanding' grade in all Yorkshire and Humber. This result is a huge achievement for Reeth and the surrounding area.

Cllr Clare Wood

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Scrutiny Board was represented at Executive (Performance Monitoring) on the morning of 16 June 2015 and we contributed to the review of performance on a range of corporate issues.

But the actual meeting of Scrutiny Board in the afternoon was cancelled due to a number of overview and scrutiny committee Chairmen being unable to attend.

Our next meeting will be on 18 August 2015. I have invited Dr Lincoln Sargeant to attend to provide more information, including targets, on a range of Public Health services which have recently been commissioned. This includes Sexual Health and Healthy Child Programmes.

We will also pick up outstanding business from the June meeting, mainly around ensuring developments in Public Health are being considered by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

County Councillor Elizabeth Casling
Chairman: Scrutiny Board

July 2015

North Yorkshire County Council**22 July 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 5 June 2015.

Committee – 5 JuneReconfiguration of the Library Services

- 2 The sole purpose of the Committee was to consider the outcome of the consultation on the future delivery of the library service.
- 3 The Committee held a lengthy meeting, hearing a wide range of views and proposals from the ten public speakers, interested local councillors, as well as written submissions from members of the public and county councillors not on the committee.
- 4 The Committee looked at a range of options for delivering the service in some detail and agreed that the option that was being proposed to the Executive for an increased element of dedicated additional support staff for the proposed community managed libraries was the best way for the service to meet the Council's 2020 vision.
- 5 It would provide the immediate support for those community groups who were ready to run their local library.
- 6 It is though, up to each of the communities to determine how they run and manage their library. Changing the overall level of additional support given to the Libraries over and above the enhanced option that was proposed to the Executive, will require additional costs on top of the additional £100k that has been found for this additional support option.
- 7 It is clear that the community local groups are at differing stages of the process and an assessment of their journey will be made by the Library service. This is to be reported to the Executive in December. Councillor Metcalfe has agreed that this report will come to the Committee prior to it going to the Executive meeting on 8 December 2015.
- 8 The Committee further considered the question of whether the Council should consider a voluntary model for Libraries that would allow Charitable Trusts to be formed to manage a group of libraries in a geographical area.

9. This could enable the development of all three libraries in an area such as Catterick, Colburn and Richmond to be stronger through them working together more efficiently.
10. The Committee recommended that this model should be considered and utilised where appropriate. This was agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 7 July 2015.
11. The effect of the Executive's decisions is that it may mean an extra meeting of the Committee would need to be held on 16 November 2015 so that it can consider the Community Groups report before it is considered by the Executive.

**County Councillor Derek Bastiman
Chairman**

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Northallerton

8 July 2015

North Yorkshire County Council**22 July 2015****Transport, Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting held on 8 July 2015.

Committee – 8 JulyHighways England

- 2 In April 2015, the Highways Agency was transformed into Highways England, changing it from a government agency to a government-owned company.
- 3 Roger Wantling Highways England Service Delivery Team Leader for Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire provided an update to the Committee. This chiefly focused upon the various programmes of work on the A64, A1 and A66 being undertaken in this financial year.
- 4 Highways England has not inherited the Highways Agency's planning powers like-for-like. The key implication of this could be a speeding up of planning applications for development near the strategic road network. More responsibility will be placed upon local planning authorities in deciding whether a development will have a sufficiently serious traffic impact to merit involving Highways England.
- 5 At the meeting we briefly explored the links that Highways England has with the local authorities in North Yorkshire. I feel that it is especially important that all continue to work closely together in the future so that local plans and Highways England's growth plan dovetail and influence each other.

Rail North and Franchise Update

- 6 We were provided with an update on the work of Rail North Ltd. and the progress of the TransPennine Express and Northern rail franchises. Invitations to tender closed on 25 May for the TransPennine franchise and 26 June for the Northern franchise. Three companies have been shortlisted for each of the Northern and TransPennine Express franchises. The bids are now in the process of being evaluated and the successful bidders will be known this autumn.
- 7 We were pleased to hear that the minimum specification set out in the Invitations to Tender represent a marked service enhancement from what is currently operated, particularly for the Northern franchise. The County Council, together with the LEP, has also met with the bidders to articulate its 'asks' and provide intelligence in relation to the local economy and known housing growth, both of which support better and more frequent train services.

- 8 We sought clarification on the various governance arrangements of Rail North Ltd. and also Transport for the North. The latter's role is to set out a high level transport strategy for the North of England. North Yorkshire County Council is not on Transport for the North's partnership: the membership comprises the six northern cities. The County Council does however sit on the wider reference group of the remaining non-city northern local transport authorities. This is at least providing us with the opportunity to set out North Yorkshire's key strategic transport requirements and to highlight the importance of improving rail connections across the whole of the North of England.
- 9 As part of our discussion of the Northern Transport Strategy the Committee agreed that all Members would benefit from a follow-up Members Seminar on the devolution agenda. This would be in particular around the current thinking about the geographic coverage of a Combined Authority that the County Council could be part of.

Local Transport Plan (LTP4) 2016-2046

- 10 The Committee received the results of the initial consultation on LTP 4 carried out recently to establish people's views on priorities for LTP4.
- 11 The results showed that the priorities have not changed to those in LTP3. Most respondents attach greater importance to services relating to maintenance (e.g. road maintenance) rather than those relating to the provision of new facilities.
- 12 Members emphasised the need for the County Council to work closely with neighbouring authorities to ensure that cross-border transport schemes can come to fruition. We were assured that this would be the case by building upon our current working relationships.
- 13 We will be receiving the draft version of the LTP4 at our next committee meeting in October.

Task Group review of Residents Parking Schemes

- 14 The Committee has set up a task group to review the County Council's Residents Parking Scheme Policy.
- 15 To date the task group has visited Skipton to investigate the parking issues on the Regent estate adjacent to Skipton Building Society's Head Office, which triggered the review. Skipton Building Society is offering to act as third party sponsor for the scheme. However the estate is currently not eligible for a residents parking scheme because most properties have off-street parking. The task group met with Skipton Building Society and leading residents campaigning for a Residents Parking Scheme (RPS) to understand the issues fully there including why residents do not see other solutions such as yellow-lining as appropriate.
- 16 Further visits are planned to other parts of the county in July to look at examples of:
 - The impact of hospital car parking charges on surrounding streets with off-street parking (Harrogate and Scarborough)

- On street parking by non-residents in streets with sheltered housing, which is making carer and medical access more difficult (Selby district)
- The impact of visitor/sporting attractions on surrounding streets with off-street parking currently not eligible for a residents parking scheme (Ripon Racecourse)

Member Working Group on Minerals and Waste Development Framework

- 17 A number of Members from the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee sit on the Members Working Group on Minerals and Waste Development Framework.
- 18 The various stages of the process for developing the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan with the City of York Council and the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority are complex with a lot of information and views to feed in to the process.
- 19 The group met in April and May to provide feedback to officers on the preferred options (key policy directions) for waste and minerals, in advance of the public consultation. The group will meet again in late autumn to receive the feedback from the consultation and to discuss any potential policy changes arising therefrom.

Fracking

- 20 The Ryedale Area Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2015 considered the Petition opposing Fracking and all other forms of unconventional fossil fuel extraction in North Yorkshire. The Area Committee recommended that further investigation is commissioned into the implications of fracking by the Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and recommended to the Executive:

“That the Executive consider taking the action the petition requests [as per option (i) in the petition report] after hearing the views of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny of Health Committee [as per option (iii) in the petition report].”

- 21 The Executive at its meeting on 7 July 2015 supported this approach.
- 22 Our Committee has agreed to investigate the environmental impacts of fracking at its committee meeting in January next year.

County Councillor Andrew Backhouse Chairman

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Northallerton

9 July 2015

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The main areas of involvement of the Scrutiny of Health Committee and developments in the NHS impacting on our work since my last report are summarised below.

Hyper-Acute Stroke Services

At our meeting on 12 June 2015 we considered reports on changes to hyper-acute Stroke Services at Airedale and Scarborough Hospitals. Both units are struggling to recruit new stroke consultants to replace those coming up to retirement at a time when there is a national shortage of stroke consultants. Each unit deals with approximately 350 confirmed stroke cases per annum while national guidance indicates that better clinical outcomes are achieved by units dealing with more than 600 strokes per annum.

In the case of Airedale up until recently the staffing shortages have been overcome by the use of locums but now two of the three have given notice – with one having left already and the other to leave at the end of July. Consequently the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group (AWCCCG) attended the committee to seek our views on their intention, from October, to move hyper-acute stroke services to Bradford Hospital. Patients from the Airedale area would be cared for in the first 72 hours following their stroke at Bradford Hospital and then transferred to acute stroke unit at Airedale Hospital for their on-going care by a multi-disciplinary stroke team.

In view of the situation locally we agreed a formal consultation would be inappropriate as there was not a range of options on which a consultation could be launched and we raised no objections to the planned changes. We are working closely with Bradford Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee on this matter, who reached the same conclusions as we did. We will be working with that committee to monitor the new arrangements.

In the case of the Scarborough we were being consulted on plans to introduce temporary arrangements under which most patients would receive hyper-acute stroke care at York Hospital rather than Scarborough Hospital. Patients who are within an appropriate distance of Scarborough Hospital would continue to be taken there for assessment and, if stroke is confirmed, given clot busting drugs before being transferred to York. Whilst we accepted the logic behind this aspect of the changes, we were concerned by what was the definition of an appropriate distance from Scarborough Hospital and whether this could lead to confusion for ambulance crews and for carers and relatives accompanying people who they suspect may have had a stroke.

We wrote to the Scarborough and Ryedale CCG setting out a number of concerns and have received additional assurances that the proposed arrangements are safe. We will ensure that the CCG and the trust are working towards a long term solution.

Community and out of hours health services in the Whitby area

The Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group have led an extensive procurement process to appoint a new provider of community and out of hours services for Whitby and the surrounding area. Virgin Care was selected as the preferred bidder in March 2015, with a contract start date of Wednesday, 1 July 2015.

The CCG announced on 30 June 2015 that Virgin Care and the incumbent provider, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YTHFT), have been unable to complete the necessary procedures to handover on the agreed date.

We have received an assurance from the CCG that there will be no interruptions to services received by local patients as the YTHFT have agreed to carry on providing the services to allow time to get the details finalised and Primecare have agreed to continue to provide the Out of Hours service.

Urgent meetings are taking place with Virgin Care to agree next steps.

I will provide a verbal update to County Council on any additional news.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections

The CQC has recently published the results of its inspection of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Hospitals NHS FT. Their overall ratings were “Good” and “Requires Improvement” respectively. The TEWV Trust, whilst being rated as Good, one or two aspects of the services it provides were identified as in need of improvement. We will receive presentations from both trusts on their improvement plans at our meeting in September.

Members will recall that at County Council in February I reported the CQC had published the results of its inspection of the Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LYPFT). The overall rating was the Trust “requires improvement”. The majority of the concerns raised by the CQC related to services in York and North Yorkshire, particularly older people’s inpatient care which was rated inadequate. The LYPFT has not been awarded the contract for mental health and learning disabilities from 1 October 2015 and the Vale of York CCG has appointed the TEWV FT. At the September meeting the Committee will also hear how that trust is intending to improve services.

The results of the Inspections of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are awaited.

On a positive note the Reeth Medical Centre has been rated as “Outstanding” by the CQC following the inspection carried out in May 2015. This is the first time the grade has been awarded in Yorkshire and Humberside and places the practice in the top 3% nationally. We congratulate the practice on this achievement.

Urgent Care Services in Malton and Scarborough

The new urgent care centres based in Scarborough and Malton Hospitals are provided by Northern Doctors Urgent Care which is part of the Vocare Group. Both services went live from 1 April 2015.

Figures released from Scarborough and Ryedale CCG show that over 6,000 patients accessed the new urgent care service during its first two months of operation in April and May. For patients who had been referred to the centres via NHS 111, waiting times were less than 40 minutes.

GP Commissioning of Primary Care

CCGs have been given the opportunity to take on the commissioning of primary care with effect from 1 April 2015.

There are three primary care co-commissioning models CCGs could take forward:

- Level 1. Greater involvement in primary care decision making
- Level 2. Joint decision making
- Level 3. Delegated commissioning arrangements

Across North Yorkshire the picture is:

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Level
Harrogate & Rural District	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Scarborough & Ryedale	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Vale of York	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby	Level 2 - Joint decision making
Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven	Level 1 - Greater involvement in primary care decision making

Commissioning primary care services at level 3 includes contractual GP performance management, budget management and complaints management.

The Committee has raised concerns about potential conflict of interest issues raised by this initiative. GPs who are private companies and members of the CCG will, in effect, be commissioning work from themselves at a local level. In addition most individual GPs are now part of federations which will facilitate them being part of bids for contracts covering larger geographical areas.

Over the coming weeks I am planning to meet each of the CCGs at Commissioning Levels 2 and 3 to seek assurance that robust controls are introduced.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Committee has been monitoring developments in CAMHS following national announcements last year that children's mental health services in England were not fit for purpose.

In April the Department of Health published *Future in Mind - Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing*. This looked at existing services under broad themes:

- ❖ Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
- ❖ Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers
- ❖ Care for the most vulnerable
- ❖ Accountability and transparency
- ❖ Developing the workforce

We are aware that there is a good deal of work taking place locally to improve mental health services. For instance, the North Yorkshire Children's Trust has published its Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health Strategy 2014-17.

We are working closely with Healthwatch and the NHS locally with a view to identifying how the Committee could contribute towards improving this service.

Fracking

The Ryedale Area Committee, at its meeting on 10 June 2015, considered the Petition opposing Fracking and all other forms of unconventional fossil fuel extraction in North Yorkshire. The Area Committee recommended that further investigation is commissioned into the implications of fracking by the Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommended to the Executive:

“That the Executive consider taking the action the petition requests [as per option (i) in the petition report] after hearing the views of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny of Health Committee [as per option (iii) in the petition report].”

The Executive at its meeting on 7 July 2015 supported this approach.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will be investigating the procedure under which a Health Impact Assessment is carried out. Our understanding is that it will be undertaken by Public Health England.

NHS Dental Services in Hawes, Leyburn, and Bedale

Leyburn, Bedale and Hawes residents are currently provided with dental services by Alpha Group, a private firm that also treats NHS patients. It has practices at Mawson House, Bedale; Brentwood Lodge, Leyburn; and on Fridays at the Health Centre, Hawes.

The service at Brentwood Lodge in Leyburn is to close to make way for a new extra care housing and affordable housing development.

NHS England's Yorkshire and Humber area team have assured us that work is taking place to ensure access across the area is maintained and representatives will be attending our meeting in September to report on progress.

National Review of Congenital Heart Disease (Adults & Children)

The consultation on draft standards and service specifications for patients with congenital heart disease, took place over the autumn and closed in December 2014, and resulted in 459 responses from right across the country.

NHS England is looking at the responses to decide if any alterations need to be made to the standards and specifications as a result. NHS England's board is expected to consider the review's recommendations on 23 July 2015.

I will update County Council verbally on any significant developments. I suspect we will not see anything different until the CCGs and acute trusts start to apply the standards. Proposals to reconfigure services will then follow.

County Councillor Jim Clark

Chairman: North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee

July 2015

North Yorkshire County Council**22 July 2015****Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

1. My statement for this full council includes details of the Committee workshop held on 26 June 2015.
2. The purpose of the workshop was to set down the foundations of a work programme for the next two years up to the end of this term of the County Council in May 2017.
3. The Workshop was centred on the three priorities within the North Yorkshire Children's Trust Young and Yorkshire Plan 2014 -17:
 - Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator
 - Helping all children enjoy a happy family life
 - Ensuring a healthy start to life
4. The Committee was split up into three groups to consider which issues it would like to focus on from these priorities. It was really pleasing to see the members working so well together during the group discussions.
5. The issues chosen were:
 - School Leadership and Governance
 - Developing Stronger Families Programme – Mainstreaming Good practise from a Child's view
 - Right staff, capacity & capability to meet caseloads in Children and Families service
 - Information Advice Guidance (Careers advice) and work experience
 - Hospital admissions for children and young people
 - Resilience of outcomes/improvement at KS2 & 4
 - Early intervention in Schools on Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol
6. The Committee now has seven meetings left within the term of this County Council. It is intended to deal with one of these issues in some detail at one of its meetings, with the intention that School Leadership and Governance will be considered at the next meeting on 23 October 2015. This will mean that the Committee will have significant time at the meeting to drill down on the issue and to invite involved staff, users and children to the meeting to get their views.
7. Overview and Scrutiny is about improving outcomes for people and with this new approach, it is an opportunity for the Committee to give added further value that will help the County Council reach the outcomes that are set out within the Young and Yorkshire Plan.

County Councillor Janet Jefferson**Chairman**

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall, Northallerton

5 July 2015

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

1. Sometimes, caring for and treating people who need extra protection may mean restricting their freedom. Introduced in 2009, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) defines the legal grounds by which an individual who lacks the capacity to consent to their own care and treatment may have their freedom restricted. This process occurs when it is deemed to be in an individual's best interest, primarily to keep that person safe from harm.
2. A court ruling in March 2014 extended the scope of these safeguards, increasing the responsibilities of the managing authority (the county council) to undertake assessments in more care situations. It also entails being more proactive in taking cases of deprivation of liberty in supported accommodation and domestic settings to the Court of Protection. This has prompted a significant increase in the number of requests for assessments, a waiting list of assessments, pressures on staff and the potential for erosion of some of the elements of the mental capacity act principles and practice.
3. Managing this demand and greater expectations will be achieved by a combination of reconfiguring in-house services, investments in resources, better use of purchaser services and changed internal processes to spread and enhance the capacity.
4. Measuring whether this response is having the right effect, and evaluating our overall performance relative to others, is not straightforward because there is so little national benchmarking data. All authorities seem to be struggling to cope with these increased demands and especially struggling to complete case assessments on time.
5. This unexpected surge in demand undoubtedly places the Directorate's performance in jeopardy, but from our assessment of the information given, all the indications are that the Directorate's response has been effective.

Draft Mental Health Strategy

6. "Mental illness can affect any one of us." Not often talked about, mental health is beginning to receive the national, local and regional profile it has needed for some

time. We were pleased to see the Health and Wellbeing Board taking a positive stance as it develops its Mental Health Strategy.

7. It is estimated that one in four people will experience at least one mental health problem during their lifetime. Mental health has a personal and an economic cost, with the potential to significantly affect life expectancy and reduce life opportunities. Someone with an enduring mental health problem is more likely to develop chronic diseases and die, on average, 20 years earlier than the general population. Someone with mental ill health is likely to have fewer qualifications, experience more unemployment and a lower income, and is more likely to be homeless or living in unsecured housing. Up to 23% of the total burden of ill health is due to mental ill health. The cost of mental health problems to the economy in England have recently been estimated at £105 billion, and treatment costs are expected to double in the next 20 years.
8. We particularly liked the clarity of the three priorities in the strategy: resilience, responsiveness and reaching out, which focus on support to individuals, families and communities working in partnership and responding to needs. The draft strategy has our wholehearted support; we intend to look at the final version that is put to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Self-Funders

9. In England, older people who pay entirely for their own social care and support account for 45% of residential care home places, 47.6% of nursing home placements and 20% of home care support. These people (not just older people) are often referred to as 'self-funders'. The self-funded registered residential care and registered nursing home market is worth £4.9 billion per year and the self-funded home care market £652 million. (2011 Local Government Information Unit Survey)
10. Self-funders have the potential to become very costly to the state, and to local authorities in particular, if they make uninformed choices about care or purchase care which after a time they can no longer afford, they risk running out of funds.
11. This is a significant issue for a county like North Yorkshire, which has above average numbers of people who pay and arrange for their own care needs, and above average numbers of people who, through the Council's charging arrangements, pay the full cost of their care package.
12. The Committee reviewed some of the arrangements being made to help, which include preventative support services, and better access to information and advice. Recognising that, as is often the case, a person's decision to enter residential care is taken at a time of crisis - which can itself create a long-term dependency - we were encouraged by the work being done with NHS partners

aimed at delivering models of care that rehabilitate people to maintain and/or return to independent living.

13. The position of self-funders and paying for residential care will be significantly affected by the Dilnot proposals to be introduced as part of the Care Act. We will look at their likely impact before this part of the Care Act provisions comes into force in April 2016.

Assessment and Re-ablement Pathway Savings

14. The County Council recently decided that the Committee should review 2020 Savings in respect of complex cases, and the Assessment and Re-ablement Pathway.
15. Complex need cases have been considered, and, as I reported on a previous occasion, work has continued successfully in this area. At our last meeting we turned our attention to the Assessment and Re-ablement Pathway. We learned that the work on reconfiguring services to achieve the required savings is complex, ranging from improved information, changed roles for customer service, developments in the resource provided as part of the Assessment and Re-ablement Team, and management of demand in conjunction with partners. These may have staff implications, the detail of which will emerge throughout the year.
16. Given that the proposals are at such an early, sensitive stage, we will not be in a position to review how successful they will be in all respects, not just financially, until sometime next year.

Looking Ahead

17. Our next meeting in October has a fairly full agenda. Our intention is to look at our Stronger Communities programme (insofar as it relates to social care), targeted prevention, the Local Account, progress of the North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund and the Director of Public Health's Annual Report.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN
Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

July 2015

Meetings of the County Council - Evacuation in Emergency

Although it is very unlikely that there will be a fire, or any other emergency, on the day of a meeting of the County Council, it remains a possibility that such an emergency will arise. The following guidance notes are intended to assist Members of the Council and the public to evacuate the building safely, in such circumstances.

The Council Chamber, and the associated Public Gallery, pose a number of difficulties for rapid evacuation in an emergency, not least being the considerable number of people who can be in the Chamber and the Gallery at any time, but also because of evacuation routes from the building. If, in the case of a fire or other emergency, the main staircase were to be impassable, it would be necessary to evacuate the Council Chamber through the Public Gallery and, from there, down the staircase that leads from the Public Gallery to the central courtyard. It is not possible, however, to know which route is most appropriate, if an alarm is sounded, without a quick preliminary examination being made.

(a) Therefore, if the fire alarm is sounded during a meeting of the County Council:-

- the Democratic Services Manager (or another Democratic Services Officer) will act as Fire Evacuation Warden and will issue instructions on the appropriate exit to use, as soon as it is established by a Democratic Services officer whether the main staircase is clear of fire or obstruction;
- please leave your seat without delay, so that you are ready to leave the Chamber when the evacuation route is clear;
- if evacuation is via the main staircase, please leave the building by the main doors, but assemble on the south side car park (with Members' parking bays marked in red);
- if evacuation is via the Public Gallery, please leave the Chamber via the doors in the Labour/Liberal Democrat corner of the room, through the Public Gallery and down the staircase to the centre courtyard, from there via the courtyard gate to assemble in the north side car park (by the Superintendent's house on Racecourse Lane);
- Democratic Services staff will ensure that the Chamber and Public Gallery are cleared, that windows and doors are closed wherever possible, and will report to the Fire Evacuation Controller.

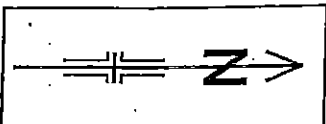
(b) If the fire alarm is sounded during Group meetings:-

- please close all windows and proceed to the nearest exit (subject to that being free of fire or other obstruction) closing any doors behind you;
- check that no-one has been left in the room in which you are meeting;
- assemble on the south side car park (with Members' parking bays marked in red); and
- ask one of the Group to report to the Fire Evacuation Controller who will be at the main entrance doors, (without re-entering the building) that the room you evacuated was clear of people.

(c) If you are in another room when the fire alarm is sounded, for example your Group Room, the Members' Lounge or Dining Room:-

- please ensure that no-one else remains in the room;
- check (as far as reasonably practicable) that windows and adjoining doors are closed;
- close the door after leaving the room and leave the building by the nearest exit
- then, without re-entering the building, report to the Fire Evacuation Controller at the main entrance doors that the room which you evacuated was clear of other persons.

(NOTE: These notes and the plan overleaf seek to do no more than give outline guidance to Members on action they should take if the fire alarm is sounded while they are in the building. It is not possible to provide detailed guidance which will cover every eventuality. The core purposes of the guidance note are to assist with the safe evacuation of all persons in the building and to ensure that the officer acting as Fire Evacuation Controller is able to give the Fire and Rescue Service, when they attend any fire, the best achievable information about whether any persons may remain in the building and, if so, their likely location. Every report of a room being clear of persons assists substantially in this task. The Democratic Services Manager will be pleased to receive any comments about these guidance notes, particularly as to how they might be improved).



Members
Car Parking

Visitors
Car Parking

Pond

Pond

**SOUTH SIDE
CAR PARK**

Fire Assembly
Point

MAIN
EVACUATION ROUTE

Council
Chamber

**NORTH SIDE
CAR PARK**

Fire Assembly
Point

SECONDARY
EVACUATION ROUTE

COUNTY HALL NORTHALLERTON

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