

North Yorkshire County Council

9 November 2016

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman's Statement

1. My statement for this full Council summarises the main topics considered at our Committee meeting on 3 October 2016.

New ways of Working - Rollout of Modern Council

2. We heard that there are three areas of work that were being undertaken as part of this programme: a refresh of technology; more efficient use of property; and cultural change within the organisation. The issue of technology, its reliability and whether there was the right level of support for users was discussed at length, as was the need to ensure that new processes were adopted to enable the most to be gained from the new technology.
3. I firmly believe that adoption of new technologies, work practices and new working environments can yield financial savings through efficiencies and increased productivity. The challenge remains on the cultural side and both encouraging and enabling people to work differently.

North Yorkshire Syrian Refugee Settlement Programme

5. We received an update on the local implementation of the Home Office programme and the progress that was being made with the resettlement of 197 Syrian refugees.
6. I am pleased to see that good progress has been made with the establishment of this programme and the co-ordination by the Council of a range of agencies and organisations. At committee we were informed that 7 families had been resettled in three district council areas. The district councils are being engaged in the resettlement programme on a rolling basis, from west to east across the county. This has enabled valuable lessons to be learned and good and best practice shared.
7. As a committee, we strongly felt that every effort needed to be made to support and protect these families so that they are able to settle and then thrive in their new homes.

North Yorkshire Information Sharing Protocol

8. We heard details of the work that is being done to bring together public sector agencies and organisations in North Yorkshire under one Information Sharing protocol. The work is being led by Veritau and so far 21 organisations have signed up. This should enable key data and information

ITEM 8(j)

to be shared quickly and efficiently, speeding up processes and so reducing costs.

9. The committee was informed that despite the existence of an over-arching information sharing protocol, 'Annex J' arrangements had to be negotiated for specific projects or programmes of work. We were concerned that only one such arrangement was in place so far, that for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement. The committee will be following up progress with the negotiation on these 'Annex J' arrangements, in particular those for child protection and adult safeguarding, over the next 6 months.
10. Looking more broadly at the issue of information governance, we were keen to understand how well the Council performs compared to other, similar authorities. This will also be followed up over the next 6 months.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman
Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall, Northallerton

November 2016