

County Council Meeting

Wednesday 18 July 2018

Leader's Statement

Area Constituency Committees

The first cycle of newly formed committees has passed, with all Chairs and Vice Chairs in place for this year, and outline work programmes agreed. It appears that all our MP's will attend the next meetings of the committees, where one item for discussion will be the future funding of Adult Social Care, one of the most serious challenges we face, presently accounting for 44% of our budget. One lesson learnt is that timetabling of meetings is much easier in Parliamentary recesses, so avoiding the predicted need to move meetings to Fridays. We are also building strong links with the constituency offices so ensuring an excellent two way flow of communications.

Fire & Rescue

The Policing and Fire Minister, and the Home Secretary, have accepted the Police Commissioner's business case requiring a change in governance. This is contrary to the serious concerns expressed by the 2 statutory consultees – ourselves and City of York – 6 out of 7 of our District / Borough Councils, whose views I made sure we captured in our submission, the Police & Crime Panel, and I believe all our MP's. As such this is greatly disappointing.

I would like to thank all present, and past, Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority who between them constituted views and experience spread across the County and City of York, acting for the benefit of the residents we were elected to serve.

Pankhurst Parties

This year sees the 100th anniversary of some women being given the right to vote, following the campaign led by Emily Pankhurst. There is a desire to see more women involved in higher positions in business, in the public sector, and in politics, and I'm sure all Group Leaders will agree with me when we call for more women to stand for Council. In a modern day campaign to achieve this, Members will have seen that this morning the Chairman received a petition calling for more women to come forward, and for political parties to encourage them.

National Armed Forces Day

Numerous events to celebrate Armed Forces Day are held each year across the County, no doubt because of the huge connections we have with the military, be they green, blue, or navy. Scarborough Borough Council have staged a major event each year, and I congratulate them on being selected to host the national AFD in 2020

Carl Les
July, 2018