

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 July 2018

**CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Since my last statement to Council, the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally met on 16 June 2018.

At that meeting, the committee heard the first Annual Report of the Brierley Group of companies. The report was well received and the committee were interested to see the development of a range of arms-length and traded services that would help generate income for the Council and protect front line services in the longer term. In view of the importance of developing alternative funding streams for the Council, committee members were keen to ensure that there was greater involvement in the sub-committee that has oversight of the Brierley Group. As such, I will be writing to Executive to ask that membership is broadened out to include County Councillors who are not on the Executive.

The committee also received an update on the first 12 months of the reconfigured library service. This is an area that the committee has followed with interest over the past 3 years. The committee was pleased to note that progress that had been made to date and recognised the challenges that remained regarding the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

The committee has continued to look at access to over the counter banking services in the county and the role that branch banks and Post Offices have to play in rural communities. In response to the evidence heard and the concerns raised, the committee will be following up with the Rural Services Network and the Local Enterprise Partnership to see what more can be done to support cash-based transactions and services. The challenge remains that decisions are being made by the financial sector based upon a commercial rationale that does not fully take into account the social and economic value of the services that they provide to the community.

Following on from the recent news that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan, has been successful in her bid to take on the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service, the committee will be meeting with her and her team at the Mid Cycle Briefing on 29 October 2018 to better understand her plans for closer working between emergency services in the county.

At the next Mid Cycle Briefing on 30 July 2018, we will be scrutinising:

- The support that is available for adult offenders upon release from custody
- The progress that has been made with the achievement of the Council's Equality and Diversity objectives
- The North Yorkshire Syrian Refugee Settlement Programme.

Cllr Derek Bastiman
Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2 July 2018.