

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



QUARTERLY MEETING

13 November 2019

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes
and Reports**

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 put questions or statements to 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.
- (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. In these circumstances the speaking time will be limited to one minute.
- (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 Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic 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. Copies of all written Member questions received for a meeting of County Council will be circulated to all Members in the Council Chamber.
- (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.



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend the Meeting of the County Council to be held at **Yorkshire Suite, Golden Lion Hotel, 114 High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8PP**, on **Wednesday 13 November 2019 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 accessible via <http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk>. 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.

BUSINESS

1. To move that the **Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 24 July 2019** having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
(Pages 6 to 14)
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Chairman's Announcements** - Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chairman of the Council.
5. **A Statement by the Leader of the Council**
(Pages 15 to 17)
6. **Public Questions or Statements**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice and provided the text to Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) – email: barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk) or in writing to Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD by **midday on Friday, 8 November 2019**. 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.

7. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Allocations Committee** and make decisions on them.
(Pages 18 to 20)
8. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Executive** and make decisions on them.
- **Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring**
 - **Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board**
 - **North Yorkshire Pension Board - Amendment to Terms of Reference**
 - **Report on the Establishment of a Statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for West Yorkshire and Harrogate to review changes to NHS Vascular Services**
- (Pages 21 to 24)**
9. To consider the **report on Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies** and make decisions on them.
(Page 25)
10. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Standards Committee** and make decisions on them.
- Annual Report
- (Pages 26 to 29)**
11. To consider the **report and recommendations of the Audit Committee** and make recommendations on them.
- Annual Report
- (Pages 30 to 38)**
12. **Statements of Executive Members**, in the order set out below, **followed by the Statements of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees**
- Executive Members:**
- (Pages 39 to 60)**
- (a) Executive Member for Open to Business - County Councillor Andrew Lee
 - (b) Executive Member for Customer Engagement - County Councillor Greg White
 - (c) Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects - County Councillor Gareth Dadd
 - (d) Executive Member for Children's Services - County Councillor Janet Sanderson
 - (e) Executive Member for Education and Skills - County Councillor Patrick Mulligan
 - (f) Executive Member for Access - County Councillor Don Mackenzie
 - (g) Executive Member for Stronger Communities - County Councillor David Chance
 - (h) Executive Member for Health and Adult Services - County Councillor Michael Harrison

- (i) Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing - County Councillor Caroline Dickinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:

(Pages 61 to 75)

- (j) Scrutiny Board (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)
- (k) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Karin Sedgwick)
- (l) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)
- (m) Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Stanley Lumley)
- (n) Scrutiny of Health Committee (Chairman: County Councillor John Ennis)
- (o) Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Janet Jefferson)

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 12 November 2019**, the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, and this is then circulated to all Members.

13. Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion have been received within the deadline.

Responses to Notices of Motion

- (a) Response by the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Notice of Motion suggesting the allocation of 20% net profit made by Brierley Homes to support the provision of social housing
(Pages 76 to 80)
- (b) Response by the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny to the Notice of Motion that the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers.
(Pages 81 to 82)

14. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

RICHARD FLINTON
Chief Executive Officer

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

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON.
5 November 2019

North Yorkshire County Council

County Council

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Northallerton on 24 July 2019 commencing at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Jim Clark in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Bob Baker, David Blades, Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, Lindsay Burr MBE, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Liz Colling, Richard Cooper, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, David Goode, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, Bryn Griffiths, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Stanley Lumley, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackay, Don Mackenzie, Stuart Martin MBE, John McCartney, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Stuart Parsons, Caroline Patmore, Chris Pearson, Clive Pearson, Joe Plant, Tony Randerson, Janet Sanderson, Karin Sedgwick, Peter Sowray, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers, Angus Thompson, Geoff Webber, John Weighell OBE, Richard Welch, Greg White, and Annabel Wilkinson.

APOLOGIES:-

County Councillors: Margaret Atkinson, Andrew Backhouse, Philip Barrett, Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Mel Hobson, David Hugill, John Mann, Zoe Metcalfe, Gillian Quinn, Andy Solloway, Cliff Trotter, Callam Walsh and Robert Windass.

ATTENDING:-

Honorary Aldermen: Baroness Angela Harris, Michael Knaggs and John Marshall.

Members of the press and the public.

96. Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 15 May 2019, having been printed and circulated, are 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 -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 15 May 2019, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

97. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted.

98. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

99. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the Honorary Aldermen who were in the public gallery.

The Chairman acknowledged the sad and untimely deaths of County Councillor John Blackie and former County Councillor Brian Marshall. Brian served as a Councillor for Barlby from 2001 to 2017, representing the Labour Party. John was Chairman of Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council, a District Councillor and former Leader at Richmondshire District Council, a Member of Yorkshire Dales National Park and a County Councillor for the Upper Dales since 1997.

County Councillors Eric Broadbent, Carl Les and Stephanie Duckett paid tribute to Brian Marshall.

County Councillors Jim Clark, Carl Les, Stuart Parsons, Geoff Webber and Eric Broadbent paid tribute to John Blackie.

A minute's silence was held.

The Chairman informed Members of the usual arrangements for the meeting.

Members were reminded that works on the Brierley Building will take place from August this year. During this time, there will be no access to the building. Council meetings will take place in dedicated meeting rooms in No.3 Racecourse Lane (the former Magistrates Court) and the adjacent No.1 Racecourse Lane. The only exception to this is the meeting of County Council, which will be held at Hambleton District Council in November 2019, February 2020 and May 2020.

100. Statement by the Leader

County Councillor Carl Les made a statement and answered questions, under Contract Procedure Rule 2.3, as Leader of the County Council, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appear in the Minute Book (pages 11346 to 11347).

County Councillor Carl Les noted the appointment of County Councillor Stuart Parsons and County Councillor Helen Grant to the positions of Group Leader and Group Secretary, respectively, for the North Yorkshire Independent Group.

101. Public Questions or Statements

There were two questions (questions and responses at pages 11348 to 11352 in the Minute Book) or statements from members of the public.

Public Question 1 – Kerry Fox, ‘Save Send Services North Yorkshire Group’

“Vengeance is not our goal nor do we seek a just retribution we ask this council to affirm our children’s right to the support and access to education, social care and health from their local authority so they may be equal with their peers regardless of their disabilities the case we present is a plea to humanity to law a plea to humanity to government a plea to humanity to north Yorkshire county council.

We respectfully request this council and all its members take a vote to work together to say no more:

- to say no more cuts no more underfunding of special educational needs
- to say no more cuts to frontline services that support and educate our children and young people
- to make their voice heard and to actively speak out against the UK government and the DfE in their relentless underfunding to make a plea alongside all those campaigning for a better future for the families and children of north Yorkshire a plea for humanity to this government, for us to stand shoulder to shoulder our fight is your fight.

We plead that you seek the right to deliver essential and respected services that ensure the children and young people in this county have a childhood that will not be marred by the lack of services.

To say no more children out of school no more children suffering mental health problems no more children waiting inexcusable times to get the right support no more children and no more families suffering through lack of support.

We plead that the council do not sell our children to the lowest tender not to make our children’s lives and support a matter of commercial interest.

If we do not speak now, then the oncoming storm of crisis will cost much much more dealing with the fall out of the underfunding now the future is no longer in sight for the majority of our youth.

We plead for Humanity!”

Kerry Fox of the ‘Save Send Services North Yorkshire Group’

Response to Public Question 1

In response to Kerry Fox’s question, County Councillor Janet Sanderson thanked Kerry Fox for her question and made a number of points, as summarised below:

- The Council takes its responsibility to meet the assessed needs of children and young people with SEND very seriously
- The Council has a legal requirement to set a balance budget each year and within that context works hard to ensure that the High Needs Block budget is used efficiently
- Since 2010, the Council has found £157m of savings, which is equivalent to a 34% reduction in the overall budget
- The Council works hard to protect frontline services, provide value for money and meet the needs of children and young people and their families

- If there is a need for the Council to consider any further savings from services for children and young people, then we will continue to consult with the public, as we have done to date
- The Council is in regular contact with the Department of Education, MPs and government ministers about the challenges faced locally and particularly for children and young people with SEND
- The Council is continuing to invest funding into SEND to ensure children and young people receive the support they require whilst lobbying government and ensuring we use the money we have as efficiently as we can
- The language that has been used by those who have opposed the changes to the High Needs Block budget has been unfortunate.

Kerry Fox asked a supplementary question about what plans there were to commission key services for children and young people from other providers rather than continue to deliver in-house.

In response, County Councillor Janet Sanderson said that the aim is to continue to provide all services in-house, as appropriate.

Public Question 2 – Andrea Ellwood, parent and regional Co-ordinator for the parent campaign group SEND Crisis and member of SEND Action

“As a parent of a disabled young person with SEN, also regional Co-ordinator for the parent campaign group SEND Crisis and member of SEND Action, I would like to ask the Council for some reassurances following recent publications and events within the County as well as nationally.

It was concerning to see recent reports in national press quoting that Cllr Les has, allegedly, taken the view that disabled children, those most vulnerable of our society, are viewed as a burden on the public purse - a burden that draws financial resources away from "mainstream" children in their education. However, Cllr Les is also quoted as highlighting the economic distress of councils in inhibiting them from delivering their statutory duties. It is of further concern to see in the Exec papers that there is an intent to make further reductions in budgets to several services currently in place, for very good reason, that support disabled children with SEN in accessing their education, and that, in other papers, such as the Children's Overview and Scrutiny report there are only 300 identified disabled children accessing social care support via a section 17 (Children's Act) as a Child In Need, out of a possible 3000+ of those SEND children and young people who have sufficient needs to require an Education Health and Care Plan - CARE being a significant section of the plan.

These statements, together with a suggestion that there may be further, future cuts and "commercialisation" of services to support disabled children and young people are now of very real concern; concern for the future life trajectories of our children and families, and also a concern that we may now lose, beyond any possibility of hope for future recovery all those valuable and highly skilled professionals who have for so many years worked WITH our children and families in supporting roles, in the best interests of our children.

Janet Jefferson's report also highlights that a lack of funds cannot be a valid reason for failing to deliver against statutory duties.

Under such drastic economic times, I ask the council to make a commitment today to undertake a FULL and comprehensive assessment of delivery against statutory duties for disabled children and young people, setting out in a public report with full transparency precisely where there are, or soon will be, a failure to deliver against a statutory duty and precisely to what extent or quantity?

Furthermore, will the council make a commitment to work WITH service users; with disabled children and young people, and with their families, and all associated professionals, in true co-production of this report and of any future planning of service changes?"

Andrea Ellwood, parent and regional Co-ordinator for the parent campaign group SEND Crisis and member of SEND Action.

Response to Public Question 2

In response, County Councillor Janet Sanderson thanked Andrea Ellwood for her question and made a number of points, as summarised below:

- The Council understands the issues that have been raised and view what has been said with compassion
- The Council's funding position and the ongoing pressures upon budgets has already been referred to
- The comments attributed to County Councillor Carl Les are not true. There has been a misunderstanding about the comments he made about increased responsibilities or 'new burdens', as they are commonly known, being given to local government by central government. This is recognised phraseology used in government.
- We are all on the same side here and the Council is lobbying hard to secure an increase in central government funding to meet the needs of our children in this County
- The Council cannot commit to a full and comprehensive review of delivery of statutory services. There is no evidence that this is required or necessary
- Any family has the right to complain if they feel that they are not receiving the right service and those complaints are taken seriously
- The Council is committed to working with service users and their families. We need to establish a joint relationship which recognises the difficult times we are in and that co-production must be based upon an understanding of the resources we have available.

Andrea Ellwood asked a supplementary question relating to a comprehensive service review and co-production.

In response, County Councillor Janet Sanderson said that these issues had been covered in the initial response to the substantive question.

102. Report of the Executive

Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring – BES development initiatives and net capital underspend carry forward

The section of the quarterly performance and budget monitoring report at paragraph 3.1 of the report (which appear in the Minute Book page 11355) was moved and seconded.

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

Resolved -

- (a) That the proposed carry forward of £933k earmarked for BES development initiatives as detailed in paragraph 2.2.11 of the report be approved.
- (b) That the proposed carry forward to 2019/20 of the net capital underspend totalling £0.6m as set in paragraph 4.14 of the report be approved.

Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy

The recommendation at paragraph 3.2 of the report (which appears in the Minute Book at page 11355) was moved and seconded.

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

Resolved -

That the submission of the draft Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy be approved.

Home to School Transport Policy

The recommendation at paragraph 3.3 of the report (which appears in the Minute Book at page 11356) was amended as follows.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan moved the substantive motion with the amendment that Proposal 6, relating to a fee for the replacement of school transport passes, be reduced to £10 for those families where a child was in receipt of Free School Meals.

The amended substantive motion was seconded by County Councillor Janet Sanderson.

The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with 50 in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention.

County Councillor Stuart Parsons asked that his vote against the motion be recorded.

Resolved -

That the proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy be approved, with the change of Proposal 6 to a £10 replacement fee for those families where a child was in receipt of Free School Meals.

Appointments to Committee and Outside Bodies

The appointments at paragraph 3.4 of the report (which appears in the Minute Book at page 11356 to 11357) were noted.

North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Chris Brackley to be appointed as the representative of Healthwatch North Yorkshire.

Dr John Crompton to be appointed to the Board as the Primary Care representative, with Dr Sally Tyrer as his nominated substitute.

Mike Padgham as the representative of Care Providers, with Bev Proctor, as his nominated substitute.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

County Councillor Janet Jefferson is appointed to May 2021 to fill the vacancy that has been created by County Councillor Jim Clark stepping down.

Nominations by Group Secretaries

The following nominations to committees and Outside Bodies were made by Group Secretaries:

County Councillor Stuart Parsons to be appointed to the North York Moors National Park Authority

County Councillor John McCartney to be appointed to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

103. Statements of Executive Members and Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

County Councillor Caroline Dickinson, Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11408 to 11410).

County Councillor Andrew Lee, Executive Member for Open to Business, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11412 to 11413).

County Councillor Greg White, Executive Member for Library, Customer and Community Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11414 to 11417), and responded to questions.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd, Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (page 11418), and responded to questions.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children's Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11420 to 11421), and responded to questions.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member for Education and Skills, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11422 to 11423), and responded to questions.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11424 to 11425), and responded to questions.

County Councillor David Chance, Executive Member for Stronger Communities, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11426 to 11428), and responded to questions.

County Councillor Michael Harrison, Executive Member for Health and Adult Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 11430 to 11431).

The written statements of the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees having previously been circulated, and which appear in the Minute Book (pages 11432 to 11447) were noted.

104. Notices of Motion

Motion One

Social Housing

“That this council allocates 20% of the net profit made by Brierley Homes to a fund specifically to support the provision of social housing.”

Proposed by County Councillor Geoff Webber and seconded by County Councillor Bryn Griffiths.

The Chairman determined that the Motion be referred to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

Motion Two

Coastal Erosion Resilience and Mitigation - National Coastal Erosion Resilience Review

“That the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers.”

Proposed by County Councillor David Jeffels, in the absence of County Councillor Derek Bastiman, and seconded by County Councillor Joe Plant.

The Chairman determined that the Motion be referred to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

Motion Three

Carbon Reduction

“This Council recognises that some districts within North Yorkshire have already passed motions committing to carbon reduction measures with the aim of becoming carbon

neutral. It also acknowledges and supports the Government's announcement that it would aim for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050.

North Yorkshire County Council has already formed an Executive sub-group and Scrutiny task Group concentrating on climate change and the Authority has made progress in reducing carbon emissions.

This Council now commits to produce its own carbon reduction plan. As part of this plan, the Council will invite the relevant representatives from the district councils to discuss how working together, we can aspire to achieve net carbon neutrality by, or as close to, 2030.

Proposed by County Councillor Richard Cooper and seconded by County Councillor David Chance.

The Chairman determined that the an initial debate be held, with recommendations being made that could be referred with the motion to the Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

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

105. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 NOVEMBER 2019****COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES**Rural Commission

Rural sustainability is an issue that has been very prominent over recent years. The issue has been particularly highlighted in and around the two national parks in North Yorkshire in terms of lack of younger families, high and unaffordable house prices, with knock on affects for the provision of services, schools, etc.

We have all been very concerned about the issue and looking at ways to respond. Following a number of partnership discussions I have established a Commission, independent of the Council, to look into the sustainability of our most rural communities.

Eight commissioners have been asked to consider the issues. These are:

- Very Reverend John Dobson (Chair) – Dean of Ripon
- Chris Clark – owns and manages a farm in the Yorkshire Dales and a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Dr Debbie Trebilco – board member of Community Energy England and trustee of the North York Moors National Park Trust
- Heather Hancock – chair of the Agricultural forum and former chief executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park
- Jean MacQuarrie – Editor-in-Chief for JPIMedia - Yorkshire's 18 weekly titles in North and West Yorkshire
- Martin Booth – experienced community worker and instrumental in developing community ownership and housing in Hudswell
- Professor Sally Shortall – Professor of Rural Economy, Newcastle University
- Sir William Worsley – chair of the National Forest Company and Hovingham Estate

Our aim is to get the insight of a group of well-informed and influential people, leading to a collective action plan and also some hard-hitting recommendations to ourselves, our partners, other local agencies, our own MPs and through to Government. The Commission will also help improve the evidence base and arguments to enable us to successfully make the case for increased government support to maximise the sustainability of the most rural communities in North Yorkshire. The Commission is the first of its sort in the country and is intended to be a productive intervention, not a talking shop.

The Commission is supported by a reference group, which I chair, comprising the leaders of all local authorities in the county, the two national parks and the Local Enterprise Partnership. This has agreed the terms of reference with the commission and will provide a sounding board for the Commission's developing thinking.

Climate change

At our last meeting, Council committed to produce its own carbon reduction plan with an aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030.

To support this aspiration work is progressing on four work streams:

- Understanding the Council's carbon footprint and establishing a robust way of reporting this in a way that enables priorities for action to be determined and progress to be monitored
- Scoping and developing a carbon reduction plan with options that are properly costed and deliverable
- Developing and piloting a new climate change impact assessment tool that enables decision makers to better understand the impact of the decisions that they are being asked to make
- Establishing robust governance so that this is an integral part of our Council plan and performance reporting, not an add-on

We are already making positive strides. A good example is our achievement in already converting more than 35,000 street lights, 80% of the total, to LED. This has generated savings of £800,000 this financial year alone and reduced our carbon footprint by more than 2,400 tonnes of CO₂. However the aspiration to achieve net carbon is ambitious. This will require very difficult decisions to be made in coming years, particularly given the financial pressures we face and the growing demands on our services.

The LGA has published "A councillor's workbook on acting on climate change" (available at www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change), which I encourage all Members to read. You may also wish to consider what actions you can take to encourage and support other organisations towards net carbon neutrality, for example through the contacts you have with them and your use of the Locality Budget scheme.

As stated action is being developed across numerous fronts – Management Board, an Executive task group led by Greg White, a Scrutiny Working Group led by Stan Lumley.

As agreed I will report headline progress at each Council Meeting.

Brexit preparedness

In partnership with other local authorities and partners, the County Council undertook significant work to ensure that, as far as possible, its services and the lives of local people would not be adversely impacted by a no-deal Brexit on 31 October 2019. This work has been paused, but will remain in place in case it is needed in future.

As the uncertainty continues, I want to reassure all EU citizens living and working in North Yorkshire that they are an important and welcomed part of our community and will continue to be so post-Brexit. We are continuing to encourage to support them to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme so that they can continue living and working

in the UK after 30 June 2021. Further information is available at www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus. The County Council's Registration Service has a service which enables anyone who doesn't have access to a compatible phone or tablet to scan and verify their documents as part of their application. This is available by appointment at the Harrogate, Northallerton and Scarborough registration offices.

Flooding

"Unprecedented", "biblical", these were two of the adjectives used to describe the "once in a thousand years" downfall of rain that happened at the end of July. Although hugely impactful, fortunately it was confined to a relatively small area of 2 dales or the devastation would have been much worse.

I have nothing but admiration for the way the communities reacted to their situation. Working with other agencies and volunteer groups, I want to record once again our appreciation of the work done by our teams of staff, both immediately and in the early days of the deluge.

Later on, our highways teams and bridge engineers did amazing work in getting roads reopened and bridges replaced, the best contribution we could make to getting communities and businesses reconnected, not back to normal, but open for business. We are working closely with the LEP to provide further support.

Much of this activity was at our financial risk, and sometimes taking on tasks that were not ours, but it was important to act as quickly as possible.

I would wish to recognise the efforts the local MP, Rishi Sunak, made to ensure the rescue work went on at pace, and to secure adequate funding to recompense us for that risk.

UCI

Our staff played a key role in the organisation and management of the routes for this major cycling event, the equivalent of hosting the football World Cup, and they are to be congratulated on the level of expertise they have developed and deploy at such major occasions. Unfortunately the weather also adversely affected the UCI cycle activity, especially disrupting the final day, and leaving an ugly, but temporary sight on the Stray. Based in North Yorkshire and running throughout the County, this once in a lifetime event showcased to the world what North Yorkshire and the host venue Harrogate have to offer to the local, national and international visitor. Unfortunately, not every business benefited from the event during the week, although some did very well out of it, but the true benefit will be seen in future years as visitors come to beautiful North Yorkshire and majestic Harrogate. Also it was hugely popular with the thousands of folk who lined the routes, attended the starts and finishes, and as ever with cycle races in the County, "made their own event of the event"

CARL LES

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2019

Allocations Committee Recommendations

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of Council the outcome of the deliberations of the Allocations Committee and make recommendations for changes to the allocation of seats on and appointment to Committees subject to proportional representation.

2.0 Allocations Committee

- 2.1 The Allocations Committee is made up of the Group Leaders. It met on 4 November 2019 to consider the impact of recent changes to the political make-up of the Council and what this meant for proportional representation. County Councillors Carl Les, Stuart Parsons and Eric Broadbent attended the meeting. Cllr Geoff Webber was unable to attend but participated in the meeting via telephone.

3.0 Changes since the last meeting of the committee on 12 October 2018

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of the committee, there have been changes to the political make-up of the Council. Prior to these changes the basis on which the current entitlement for seats under proportionality was calculated, looked like this:

Party	Council seats
Conservative	53
NY Independent	8
Labour	4
Liberal	4
Unaffiliated (RH)	1
Unaffiliated (AS)	1
Unaffiliated (MJ-YP)	1
Total	72

- 3.2 The changes to the political make-up of the Council that have since occurred are as follows:

- The election of Councillor Yvonne Peacock, Conservative, to the Upper Dales Division, which was previously held by the NY Independents
- The resignation of Councillor Andrew Jenkinson from the Conservative Party and his decision to serve an unaffiliated Independent.

- 3.3 The number of County Councillors by political party is now as below:

Party	Council seats	Change
Conservative	53	Lose 1 gain 1 - so no overall change
NY Independent	7	Lose 1
Labour	4	No change
Liberal	4	No change
Unaffiliated (RH)	1	No change
Unaffiliated (AS)	1	No change
Unaffiliated (MJ)	1	No change
Unaffiliated (AJ)	1	Gain 1
Total	72	

3.4 The changes outlined above have an impact upon the allocation of seats in Council Committees under proportionality.

4.0 Political balance guidance

4.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 introduced a requirement that certain appointments should be proportionate to the political composition of the Council.

4.2 The Council or the Committee must give effect to principles set out in the statutory provisions. The principles are:

- 1) All the seats must not be allocated to the same political group.
- 2) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group (if any) that holds the majority of seats on the Council.
- 3) Subject to 1) and 2), in the case of ordinary committees, the number of seats on the ordinary committees which are allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

4.3 Please note that “Ordinary Committees” of this Council are: Chief Officer Appointments and Disciplinary Committee; Employment Appeals Committee; Pension Fund Committee; Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee; (Transport) Appeals Committee and Standards Committee.

4.4 Scrutiny committees and Audit are not “ordinary committees”.

4.5 This means that it is necessary to add up the total number of seats on all the ordinary committees. If a group represents, for example, three quarters of the membership of the Council, it is entitled to three quarters of the total number of seats on all ordinary committees.

4.6 This means that on some ordinary committees a group may have more members than the application of the next principle would justify. It provides an allowance for the fact that calculating the proportion will not usually lead to whole numbers.

4.7 The Council is responsible for deciding on which ordinary committee the balancing seats should be.

- 4) Subject to 1), 2) and 3), the number of seats on any body which are allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

4.8 Broadly this means that if a group represents three quarters of the membership of the Council, it is entitled to three quarters of the seats on the body.

4.9 The duty on the Council is to give effect to these principles *so far as reasonably practicable*. This recognises that there cannot be an exact application of the rules.

4.10 Co-optees are ignored in calculating political balance except for any co-opted member with voting rights appointed to a committee with education functions under section 13(5) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - see section 15 of that Act.

5.0 Analysis

5.1 An analysis of the current allocation of seats suggested that:

- Conservatives are under-represented by 1 seat Ordinary Committees (28 actual vs 29.44 entitled)
- NY Independents are over-represented by 1 seat on Scrutiny and Audit (8 actual vs 7.10 entitled)
- Labour are over-represented by 1 seat on Ordinary Committees (3 actual vs 2.22 entitled)
- Liberal Democrats are proportionately represented on both Scrutiny and Audit and Ordinary Committees (6 actual vs. 6.28 entitled)
- The three unaffiliated Independents are all proportionately represented on both Scrutiny and Audit and Ordinary Committees (2 actual vs 1.57 entitled each)
- Councillor Andrew Jenkinson is under-represented by 1 seat on Scrutiny and Audit (0 actual vs 1.01 entitled) and by 1 seat on Ordinary Committees (0 actual vs 0.56 entitled).

5.2 It is expected that every County Councillor has a place on either an overview and scrutiny committee or on the Audit Committee.

5.3 During the period of this Council it has been the practice to allocate 1 seat on Scrutiny and Audit committees and 1 seat on Ordinary Committees to each of the unaffiliated Independents.

6.0 Recommendation to Council

The following changes are recommended:

Scrutiny and Audit

- Cllr Stuart Parsons to come off Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Conservatives to appoint to the vacancy in the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor to be confirmed)
- Cllr Andrew Jenkinson to be appointed to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the committee that he was on when a Conservative Councillor)

Ordinary Committee

- Cllr Stephanie Duckett to come off the Appeals Committee (Home to School Transport)
- Cllr Andrew Jenkinson to be appointed to the Appeals Committee (Home to School Transport).

Barry Khan
 Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
 County Hall
 Northallerton
 DH – 5 November 2019.

North Yorkshire County Council
13 November 2019
The Report of the Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide County Council with details of reports received, decisions made and recommendations to County Council by the Executive.

2.0 Details of meetings

- 2.1 The following sections provide details of the meetings of the Executive that were held on 16 July 2019, 13 August 2019, 3 September 2019, 24 September 2019 and 15 October 2019.

2.2 16 July 2019 Executive meeting

The Executive met on Tuesday 16 July 2019. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Paul Haslam

Substantive agenda items were:

- Harrogate and Rural Alliance: Section 75 and Partnership Governance
- Home to School Transport - Proposed Policy Changes (Policy considered at County Council on 24 July 2019)

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

<http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4032>

2.3 13 August 2019 Executive (Performance Monitoring) meeting

The Executive met on Tuesday 13 August 2019. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Apologies: County Councillors Gareth Dadd and Andrew Lee.

Also in Attendance: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Karin Sedgwick and Paul Haslam.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring
- Corporate Volunteering Project and Proposed Volunteering Strategy
- Healthy Child Programme Procurement
- Business case to acquire and operate a Company provided Human Resources Services to Clients

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

<http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4033>

2.4 **3 September 2019 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 3 September 2019. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Apologies: County Councillors David Chance and Michael Harrison.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Suspension of Charges for Home to School Paid Travel Permits and Post 16 Travel
- Quarterly Performance - Capital Plan
- North Yorkshire Integrated Sexual Health Service

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4034>

2.5 **24 September 2019 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 24 September 2019. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, and Greg White.

Apologies: - County Councillors Gareth Dadd and Janet Sanderson.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Paul Haslam

Substantive agenda items were:

- Annual Report on Compliments and Complaints
- The Harrogate and Rural Alliance: Section 75 and Alliance Agreements
- Future Model of Alternative Provision from September 2020
- Area Constituency Committee Feedback - Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee - 6 September 2019

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4035>

2.6 **15 October 2019 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 15 October 2019. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Bryn Griffiths and Paul Haslam.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Consideration of the results of the Public Engagement for the Harrogate Congestion Study
- A59 Kex Gill Diversion Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Road Order (SRO) - To confirm that a CPO and SRO can be made for the A59 Kex Gill Diversion Scheme
- Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board
- North Yorkshire Pension Board - Amendment to Terms of Reference
- Burton Salmon Community Primary School - Lowering the Age Range to 3-11
- Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee response to Notice of Motion
- Establishment of a Statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for West Yorkshire and Harrogate to review changes to NHS Vascular Services
- Area Constituency Committee Feedback - Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee - 19 September 2019 and Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee - 25 September 2019

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4036>

3.0 **Recommendations by Executive for approval/information at County Council**

The following recommendations were made by Executive at the above meetings for approval and/or information at County Council:

3.1 Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring

This item was considered at Executive (Performance Monitoring) on 13 August 2019. The Executive were asked to consider the proposed Prudential Indicators and make a recommendation to Council. This is detailed on page 82 and pages 85 to 93 of the report.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

The revised Prudential Indicators for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as detailed on page 82 and pages 85 to 93 of the report be recommended to the County Council for approval (available on the following link:

<http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4033>).

3.2 Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board

This item was considered at Executive on 15 October 2019. It was recommended that the Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board be presented for approval at the meeting of County Council on 13 November 2019.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

The Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board be presented for approval at the meeting of County Council on 13 November 2019 (available on the following link: <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4036>).

3.3 **North Yorkshire Pension Board - Amendment to Terms of Reference**

This item was considered at Executive on 15 October 2019. It was recommended that the Terms of Reference for the North Yorkshire Pension Board be amended.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That the amended Terms of Reference for the North Yorkshire Pension Board be presented for approval at the meeting of County Council on 13 November 2019 (available on the following link: <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4036>).

3.4 **Establishment of a Statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for West Yorkshire and Harrogate to review changes to NHS Vascular Services**

This item was considered at Executive on 15 October 2019. The report proposing that County Council appoints, jointly with other authorities, and becomes a member of, the North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Mandatory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That that the County Council appoints, jointly with other authorities, and becomes a member of, the North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Mandatory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (available on the following link: <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4036>).

CARL LES
Chairman
County Hall
Northallerton

4 November 2019

**North Yorkshire County Council
County Council
13 November 2019
Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To enable any appointments to Committees or major outside bodies to be considered.

2.0 Pension Board

The following to be re-appointed to the Pension Board for a further 4-year period from 1 February 2020:

- Independent Chairman – David Portlock
- Scheme Member Representative – Gordon Gresty (retired members)
- Employer Representative – Louise Branford-White (Hambleton District Council)
- North Yorkshire County Council representative – County Councillor Bob Baker

3.0 Recommendation

That the County Council notes or makes the appointments as outlined above.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
Northallerton
31 October 2019.

Background documents: None

**North Yorkshire County Council
County Council
13 November 2019
The Report of the Standards Committee**

1. Standards Committee

1.1 The Standards Committee met on 20 September 2019. Present:- County Councillor Caroline Patmore (in the Chair); County Councillors Andy Paraskos, Peter Sowray and Cliff Trotter.

2. Annual Report

2.1 The Standards Committee considered, and approved, its Annual Report for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. The Annual Report is appended.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That:

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee, as set out in Appendix 1, be noted.

CAROLINE PATMORE
Chairman

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON.

November 2019

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2019

Annual Report of the Standards Committee**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Authority with an Annual Report on the work of the Standards Committee from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Standards Committee was established in 2012 as part of the ethical framework for local government introduced by the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Committee has previously agreed that it would be helpful to publish an Annual Report on its work to the Authority in order to raise the profile of the Committee and strengthen awareness of its work and ethical standards generally. An Annual Report also assists in discharging the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and also ensures that the Authority has an overview of work undertaken by the Committee in discharging the Authority's standards responsibilities.

3.0 THE ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The ethical framework introduced under the 2011 Act includes:
- i. **The Standards Committee:** The Committee usually meets twice per annum. During the period in question, the Committee met on 21 September 2018, 3 January 2019 and 8 March 2019. The Committee is responsible for:
 - standards;
 - standards complaints handling issues;
 - the granting of dispensations; and
 - also has a role in relation to issues raised by or in relation to persistent and/or vexatious complainants.
 - ii. **Independent Persons for Standards:** Each relevant authority must appoint at least one "Independent Person". In 2012, the Authority approved the appointments of Mrs Hilary Gilbertson MBE and Mrs Louise Holroyd as Independent Persons for the Authority. The Independent Persons are invited to all meetings of the Standards Committee and are consulted on all key standards matters.
 - iii. **A statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct**
 - iv. **Members' Code of Conduct**
 - v. **Register of Members' Interests** (hard copy and online)
 - vi. **Complaint Handling**
 - vii. **Ethical Statements**
 - viii. **Standards Bulletin**

- 3.2 The **Monitoring Officer** supports the Committee in its work, including maintaining the Register of Members' Interests and dealing with any complaints made against Members under the local standards regime.

4.0 WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The work undertaken by the Standards Committee between the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 is set out below:

- (a) Review of ethical framework developments: the Committee has considered developments in the national standards regime and provided guidance to Members, for example in relation to:
 - i. documents published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, for example its report on 'The Continuing Importance of Ethical standards for Public Service Providers, its Annual Report 2017-18 and its review of Local Government Standards.
- (b) Members' attendance at Committees: the Committee considered and noted statistical information relating to Members' attendance at meetings of the County Council and its Committees.
- (c) Dispensations: the Committee considered and granted various dispensation requests.
- (d) Training: The Committee ensures that Members receive appropriate training to maintain their awareness of ethical standards. Training during 2018/9 included training for Members at a Member seminar session re Predetermination and Social Media.
- (e) Register of Members' Interests: The Register of Members' Interests is also published on the Authority's website. The Committee monitors the operation of the Register. During the period in question, the Committee also considered issues around the registration of sensitive interests.
- (f) Standards Bulletin: The Committee has issued two Standards Bulletins during the period covered by this Report, aimed at keeping Members and Officers apprised of developments in the ethical regime. Copies of the Bulletin have also been requested by, and circulated to, other authorities.
- (g) Complaints: The Committee receives a Complaints Update report at each meeting. During the period covered by this Report, there were four complaints received that Members may have breached the Authority's Members' Code of Conduct. Of those four complaints, in three cases no action was required to be taken. The other case was dealt with under informal resolution whereby the Member further apologised and undertook diversity training.
- (h) Liaison with neighbouring authorities: The Monitoring Officer has continued to liaise with the neighbouring authority Heads of Legal/Monitoring Officers' Group and attend meetings of the Group.
- (i) Standards Committee Annual Report: an Annual Report of the Committee covering the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 was presented to full Council on 14 November 2018.

- 4.2 The Committee will continue its work in the promotion of high ethical standards and further involvement in training of officers and Members at an appropriate stage.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Authority receives and notes the Annual Report of the Standards Committee.

CAROLINE PATMORE
Chair of NYCC Standards Committee

Background Papers:
Minutes of and reports to the Standards Committee

11 September 2019

North Yorkshire County Council
13 November 2019
Annual Report of the Audit Committee

1. Annual Report:

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that audit committees operate effectively. The guidance recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.
- 1.2 The Audit Committee met on 25 October 2019 to consider and approve its Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2019. The Annual Report is at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Present at the meeting were:

County Councillor Cliff Lunn (in the Chair); County Councillors Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Robert Baker, Don Mackay and Andy Paraskos (as Substitute for Jim Clark). Also in attendance:- Mr David Marsh, Mr David Portlock and Mr Nick Grubb (Independent Members of the Committee).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That:

The Annual Report of the Audit Committee, as set out at Appendix 1, be noted.

County Councillor Cliff Lunn
Chairman of Audit Committee

25 October 2019

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Members of the County Council with details of the work carried out by the Audit Committee during the year ended 30 September 2019. The report also details how the Audit Committee has fulfilled its Terms of Reference during this period.

BACKGROUND

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the County Council's corporate governance, audit and risk management arrangements. The Committee is also responsible for approving the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement. The Committee's specific powers and duties are set out in Schedule 1 of the Constitution under the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached at **Appendix A** for information.

Audit Committees are a key component of corporate governance and provide an important source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees are operating effectively¹. The guidance recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

WORK UNDERTAKEN AND OPINION

The Audit Committee has met on five occasions in the year to 30 September 2019, in accordance with its Programme of Work.

During this period, the Committee has assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the County Council's risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers and the internal auditors, Veritau. The committee also received reports from the previous and current external auditors, KPMG and Deloitte. The Committee has sought assurance that action has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have been identified by the auditors during this period. The Committee has also sought to ensure that effective relationships continue to be maintained between the internal and external auditors, and between the auditors and management.

The Committee has continued to focus its attention on the County Council's key priorities and challenges including funding pressures, the impact on services caused by an ageing population, the increased demand for children's social care services, the need to manage cyber security and information security risks, and the need to strengthen partnership working.

The Audit Committee is satisfied that the County Council has maintained an adequate and effective control framework through the period covered by this report.

¹ CIPFA – Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police, 2018

The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out below.

The Committee:

External Audit

- 1 Received and considered the external auditor's annual audit letter in respect of the 2017/18 audit year. The Committee was pleased to note that the external auditors had not raised any significant issues and had given unqualified audit opinions for both the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. KPMG had also issued an unqualified value for money conclusion and an unqualified opinion on the Whole of Government Accounts return;
- 2 Considered the external audit plan prepared by Deloitte for the audit of the 2018/19 financial statements and the review of the County Council's arrangements for securing value for money;
- 3 Received and considered the results of Deloitte's work in relation to the audit of the 2018/19 financial statements of the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. The Committee was pleased to note that the auditors had not identified any material issues and had given unqualified audit opinions for both the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. Deloitte had also issued an unqualified value for money conclusion;
- 4 Held an informal private meeting with Deloitte to discuss their work;

Internal Audit

- 5 Continued to oversee the internal audit arrangements for the County Council and North Yorkshire Pension Fund. No changes were required to the Internal Audit Charter during the period;
- 6 Received and considered the results of internal audit work performed in respect of each Directorate and across different thematic areas. Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses;
- 7 Received and approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20. The plan ensures that limited internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are considered to be the most risky or which contribute most to the achievement of the County Council's corporate objectives;
- 8 Monitored the delivery of the annual Internal Audit plans through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit. Reviewed variations to the Audit plans which were considered necessary to reflect new or changed County Council priorities;
- 9 Considered the County Council's overall counter fraud arrangements in the light of emerging risks (both national and local). Received and considered the outcome of the annual 2018/19 Fraud and Loss Risk Assessment. The Committee also reviewed the work of Veritau in respect of suspected fraud including the results of investigations into matters reported via the County Council's whistleblowing facilities or directly by management;

- 10 Received and considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit which provided an overall opinion on the County Council's control environment. The Committee noted that the work of internal audit is primarily focused on those areas which represent the highest risk for the County Council. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control provided substantial assurance. In forming this opinion, the Head of Internal Audit had considered the progress made by management during the year to address identified control weaknesses. The Head of Internal Audit also drew the Committee's attention to a number of specific areas which require further improvement including information security and contract management;
- 11 Assessed the performance of the County Council's internal audit provider, Veritau Limited against the targets set for 2018/19, and considered the performance targets for 2019/20. The Committee also considered the outcome of the internal audit quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) and an external assessment of internal audit working practices completed during the year. The Committee was pleased that internal audit practices continue to meet the required professional standards and therefore continued reliance could be placed on the arrangements operating within the County Council;
- 12 Held an informal private meeting with the Head of Internal Audit to discuss the work of the internal auditors;

Risk Management

- 13 Continued to oversee the County Council's risk management arrangements and strategy;
- 14 Considered changes to an updated Corporate Risk Management Policy;
- 15 Reviewed the progress made by the County Council to identify and address corporate risks. This included consideration of the updated Corporate Risk Register. It was noted that Brexit had been added as a new risk during the year, recognising the need to plan for the possible impacts of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. A number of the existing risks had also been modified to reflect recent developments. For example, the Commercial Strategy is now treated as a directorate risk and the Savings and Transformation Programme has been updated to reflect 'Beyond 2020'. The Committee noted that many of the risks identified were complex in nature and/or had potentially significant financial implications;
- 16 Assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in each Directorate Risk Register. The Committee also noted the outcomes of workshops which had helped to identify risks associated with a number of specific activities or projects (for example the Allerton Waste Recovery Park, the Harrogate Railway Line Improvement and the UCI World Championships 2019);

Corporate Governance

- 17 Considered changes to the Local Code of Corporate Governance prior to approval;

- 18 Considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 of the County Council;
- 19 Considered other changes made or planned to the County Council's governance arrangements;
- 20 Considered the annual report on partnership governance. The report included details of the County Council's current partnerships, changes which had occurred in the year and the arrangements in place to monitor the management and performance of key partnerships. The report included details of 60 partnerships. The governance arrangements of all high and medium risk partnerships are monitored on a regular basis. The Committee noted that none of the partnerships were identified as being high risk and there had been no governance failures in the year. The Committee also considered a number of anticipated changes in some key partnerships over the next year, including possible changes to the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the creation of Local Education Partnerships and Local Inclusion Steering Groups, changes to children's safeguarding arrangements and new or changed arrangements resulting from increasing health and social care integration. The Committee concluded that partnership governance remains effective and the existing arrangements are proportionate and commensurate to the risks;
- 21 Considered the ongoing work of the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) which is responsible for updating the corporate information policy framework, identifying new or emerging risks, sharing best practice, and monitoring compliance with corporate information governance standards. The Committee received details of the work done to mitigate cyber security risks and to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. The Committee also considered recent data security incidents, technical security changes to the Council's e-mail to enable the secure transfer of data to other public sector bodies and the introduction of new 'audit' and authorisation processes to improve information security during office moves. The Committee shares the view that information governance remains a key corporate risk;
- 22 Received a report detailing the progress made to implement the Procurement and Contract Management Strategy, and the Strategy Action Plan. Committee noted that procurement savings of £869k had already been delivered against the 2020 target of £1.15m. The expectation was that the target would therefore be achieved. The Committee also noted the plans in place to address possible price uncertainty or supply chain problems arising from Brexit, improvements to the Council's contract management arrangements and plans to introduce real time supplier financial and risk monitoring. The Committee was pleased to note that Procurement and Contract Management Service had won the GO National Procurement Leadership of the Year award for Local Government, and had also been highly commended in the National Procurement Team of the Year category. The Head of Procurement and Contract Management is also the chair of the YorProcure Strategic Procurement Group. This has allowed the Council to play a key role in developing the national procurement strategy for local government as well as participate in other regional and national groups;
- 23 Considered proposed changes to the County Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and the Constitution prior to their approval by the Executive and Full Council. The changes will help to clarify when procurement and contract award decisions should be treated as key decisions, and the process to follow when a

contract is terminated early. The changes also provide further guidance to improve contract management, the approvals required in respect of the gateway process, the use of grants, the process to follow in respect of low value contracts, and the support available to small and medium enterprises.

- 24 Received a report outlining the County Council's current resilience and business continuity arrangements. The report provided details of the Business Continuity Plan and how the County Council had responded to a number of recent incidents.

Financial Statements

- 25 Considered and approved the Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 of the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. The Committee was pleased to note that the external auditors, Deloitte had reported that they had received good cooperation and support from the County Council. However, the recent McCloud judgement had caused problems for all local authorities given its proximity to the statutory deadline for completing the audit of 31 July;
- 26 Received details of the revised Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which was issued by CIPFA in April 2018. The updated Code resulted in certain changes to the classification and measurement of financial assets and the treatment of revenue from contracts. The actual impact of these changes on the Statement of Accounts was however minimal. The Committee also noted that some additional or changed disclosure notes were required to the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. The Committee also noted that the treatment of leases will change from 2020/21. It was recognised that the resulting reclassification of certain operating leases could have an impact on the Council's prudential borrowing.

Other

- 27 Considered the County Council's arrangements for securing value for money. These arrangements include the Council Plan which aligns strategic goals and objectives, the 2020 North Yorkshire Programme which includes a focus on transformational change to deliver efficiencies, the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) and annual budget setting process, and individual service planning. The Committee also received details of a number of development areas which are helping to drive further improvements in value for money, including the review of all service areas as part of the Better Efficiency through Sustained Transformation programme (BEST). The Committee noted that improved procurement and contract monitoring had also made a significant contribution to the achievement of the County Council's savings targets;
- 28 Continued to scrutinise the County Council's treasury management arrangements. This included reviewing the updated Treasury Management policy statement and the annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2019/20. The Strategy includes authorised and operational limits on external debt, a minimum revenue provision policy and a policy to cap capital financing costs as a proportion of the annual net revenue budget;
- 29 Received briefings from officers on a number of topics including the Council's Treasury Management and Commercial Investment activities, the Property Rationalisation programme and the systems to monitor suppliers' financial health in 'real time';

- 30 Reviewed the progress which had been made by officers to address other issues raised at meetings of the Committee;
- 31 Reviewed the Committee's Terms of Reference. We concluded that some limited changes were required to reflect recent best practice guidance;
- 32 During the year, the Committee benefitted from the attendance and participation of its three independent members, David Portlock, David Marsh and Nick Grubb. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their contribution to the work of the Committee and their ongoing diligence, enthusiasm and support.

Councillor Clifford Lunn
Chairman of the Audit Committee

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In respect of **Internal Audit**

- to approve the Internal Audit Charter, Annual Audit Plan and performance criteria for the Internal Audit Service.
- to review summary findings and the main issues arising from internal audit reports and seek assurance that management action has been taken where necessary.
- to review the effectiveness of the anti-fraud and corruption arrangements throughout the County Council.
- consider the annual report from the Head of Internal Audit.
- to obtain assurance that the work of internal audit conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

2. In respect of **External Audit**

- to ensure the independence of External Audit is maintained
- to review the annual audit plan and monitor its delivery

3. To review, and recommend to the Executive, changes to Contract, Finance and Property Procedure Rules.

4. In respect of **financial statements**

For both the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund

- to approve the respective annual Statements of Final Accounts
- to receive and review the Annual Audit Letters and associated documents issued by the External Auditor
- to review changes in accounting policy

5. In respect of **Corporate Governance**

- to assess the effectiveness of the County Council's Corporate Governance arrangements
- to review progress on the implementation of Corporate Governance arrangements throughout the County Council
- to approve Annual Governance Statements for both the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund
- to liaise, as necessary, with the Standards Committee on any matter(s) relating to the Codes of Conduct for both Members and Officers
- to work with the Standards Committee to promote good ethical standards within the County Council
- to review the arrangements in place for ensuring good governance in the County Council's key partnerships and owned companies

6. In respect of **Risk Management**

- to assess the effectiveness of the County Council's Risk Management arrangements.
- to review progress on the implementation of Risk Management throughout the County Council.

7. In respect of **Information Governance**

- to review all corporate policies and procedures in relation to Information Governance.
- to oversee the implementation of Information Governance policies and procedures throughout the County Council.

8. In respect of **Treasury Management**

- to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the County Council's Treasury Management strategy and policies as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.
- To review these Treasury Management strategies, policies and arrangements and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive.

9. In respect of **Value for Money**

- to have oversight of the arrangements across the County Council in securing Value for Money.

10. To consider any other relevant matter referred to it by the County Council, Executive or any other Committee. In addition any matter of concern can be raised by this Committee to the full County Council, Executive or any other Member body.

11. To exercise all functions in relation to the making and changing of policy relating to such audit and counter-fraud matters which fall within the remit of the Committee (save as may be delegated otherwise).

12. To periodically review the effectiveness of the Audit Committee itself.

13. To meet not less than four times a year on normal business and review its Terms of Reference on an annual basis.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS)**Economic Development**

The LEP is advanced in the development of its Local Industrial Strategy which will be submitted to government by Christmas. The process has included significant local engagement working in partnership with councils and stakeholders across the area and will set out ambitious plans to drive productivity across York and North Yorkshire. The overriding theme is good growth in distinctive places, capitalising on the unique assets of our region.

Waste Management**Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) Celebration Event**

Around 60 people, including current and ex-members and other invited guests, attended the celebration event at Allerton Waste Recovery Park on 28 October. The day provided a useful reminder of the benefits to the Council and our residents that Allerton Park provides. The plant has been receiving waste for 2 years and has reduced our reliance on landfill to only a fraction of what it was. In doing so it has reduced our carbon emissions by 100,000 tonnes over this period. A reusable coffee cup was provided to attendees as a memento of the day, and they are also available today for any members who was unable to attend on the day. The on-site Education and Visitor Centre has already welcomed more than 3,400 people including schools and community groups, and if you, your families or your friends haven't already been then I recommend that you book places through the Amey website for an entertaining and thought provoking trip to learn all about how our waste is handled.

As well as processing waste the facility has provided other benefits including a Landscape and Cultural Heritage fund. Over £680,000 of funding has been approved and the fund is nearing completion but there is still some opportunity for local residents and land owners to apply for up to £25,000 worth of funding for projects such as landscaping or planting. Details are available from Two Ridings Community Foundation who administer the scheme on our behalf.

Trading Standards**Business Advice to Start Ups**

The Trading Standards Service continues to deliver business advice to Start Ups. As part of the Trading Standards Business Advice Strategy the Service offers free business advice to those new businesses or new ventures who are starting out. A new initiative under the Better Business for All (BBfA) programme has seen the Service assign Trading Standards Officers to work in conjunction with the County's District Council Growth teams for the benefit of North Yorkshire Start Ups.

One example of this has recently seen Trading Standards Officers working with Richmondshire District Council to support businesses as part of Richmond Business Week. Officers delivered presentations on regulatory advice topics at a number of workshops.

These sessions attracted over thirty Start Ups with a good mix of business types and the advice given was well received.

Planning Services

Following Examination Hearing Sessions into our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan both last year and earlier this year, our appointed Inspector conducted a consultation in light of the Government's response (published in May) to a judgment handed down in the High Court in March to which the County Council has responded. Work is continuing on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications and public consultation on that Schedule will follow shortly after.

ANDREW LEE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL13th November 2019**STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER -
LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE****Library and Information Service****Summer Reading Challenge**

Members will have received the report circulated in October on this years Summer Reading Challenge. I am pleased to note that once again this has been a success, with a 14% increase in participants. This year libraries ran a mini-challenge for those under the age of 5 supporting school readiness, libraries signed up over 1,500 of pre-schoolers of which 177 joined especially to take part. I am particularly proud of our young volunteers – 170 provided over 3,000 hours of support; the contribution at Ripon Library has been recognised with a nomination for the Harrogate & District Volunteer Oscars.

Libraries Month

Libraries across North Yorkshire extended the national celebration of Libraries Week across the whole of October; thanks to the abundance of events on offer. The theme of this year's campaign, from 7 to 12 October, celebrated the role of libraries in the digital world and how they engage communities with technology. Easingwold library ran a stop-motion movie club; Boroughbridge, Ripon and Nidderdale Plus hosted speed databasing – a fun whistle-stop tour of their online resources; and Eastfield and Malton held virtual reality events. Other events included author visits, poetry reading and writing as part of National Poetry Day on 3 October and Northallerton hosted a Forensic Science for Families session, Leyburn library had a healthy lifestyle treasure hunt and Selby hosted Access to Archives.

Book Bingo

Avid and aspiring readers of all ages and abilities are being invited to take the Book Bingo challenge at libraries this autumn. The aim is to encourage people to try something new as well as re-read old favourites with a total of 24 challenges from “read a book that was made in to a film” to “read a book with a number in the title”.

UCI

Whilst the sign on the roof at Harrogate Library didn't get noticed by the TV helicopter, I am pleased to say that the window display at Northallerton Library was recognised by Hambleton District Council, Northallerton Town council and other partners and awarded second place in their competition.

Harrogate Library

Following the national Bookseller award as Library of the Year, Harrogate has also been nominated for the Romantic Novelists Association award. We await the result!!

Thought Bubble

This year's national Thought Bubble Comic Art Festival takes place in Harrogate, so libraries across the district are hosting fringe events including comic art and animation.

Library IT update

I am pleased to announce that the roll out of the replacement self-serve kiosks and new public access PCs has been completed. It is planned to introduce card payment facilities on the self-serve kiosks at the larger libraries later this year. Community Libraries will be able to utilise this facility if they so choose.

Stakeholder Conference

I shall be attending the library's Stakeholder conference on 7 November. This conference brings together over 80 volunteers all helping to maintain our library network to share stories, learn and help develop the service to best meet the needs of communities.

Archives

The Record Office has begun to pilot activities with schools as part of its Resilient Records project aimed at broadening the range of users of its services. As part of their heritage week, a total of 240 pupils from the Applegarth School, Northallerton visited the Record Office through a programme of six themed sessions designed to tie in with the curriculum and the objectives of the week. Interactive learning activities were used to explore Childhood through Time, the Evacuee Experience, and Historical Enquiry – how can we find out about the past? One staff participant commented 'Our children are now able to talk confidently about change over time, what is the same, what is different, passing the message on to families about what incredible resources are on offer'.

The Record Office continues to run an active outreach programme. A study day looking at garden history was held in partnership with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust attracting over 40 enthusiastic participants. Pop-up archives were held in Brompton, Wykeham, Selby, Sheriff Hutton and as part of the Fun Palace held at Whitby Library. A pop-up archive at Stokesley Show, held in conjunction with local history groups, was visited by over 200 people. Behind the scenes tours were given to local history groups and to Library staff and volunteers, giving them an insight into the work of the office, showing the great range of collections available to them and enabling them to promote the work of the office within their communities.

Registrars

Civil Partnerships

In December 2019, it is likely that the registration service will be able to offer civil partnerships to opposite sex couples. Currently, only same sex couples can have a civil partnership. The aim is to bring equality between same sex and opposite sex couples.

Civil partnerships can be formed at a registration office or one of the many excellent venues we have in the county. The costs are the same as a wedding ceremony fee.

It is not expected that demand for civil partnerships from opposite sex couples will be significant.

The exact implementation date does depend on sufficient parliamentary time being made available to pass these changes into law.

EU Settlement Scheme

EU nationals have to register with the Home Office if they wish to live or work in this country after Brexit. The exact cut-off date for applications does depend on the manner of leaving the EU. They can sometimes use their own phone or computer to apply but for those who do not have compatible ICT equipment, EU nationals can visit a registration office and use the registration equipment to make the application “settled” or “presettled” status.

The numbers using the service at the registration office has been lower than anticipated (including by NYCC staff) and I would urge all employers to ensure that their workers from the EU are both aware of the need to register and have actually applied.

Customer

Windows 10

NYCC is currently 50% through our conversation from windows 7 to windows 10, We finished the roll out in Harrogate on the 1st November and have now moved on to Scarborough, we will do a wash up in Northallerton in December. We will begin the conversation from windows 8.1 to 10 in February and March.

Webmail

NYCC is currently improving the security of webmail and moving to new security provision requiring users to log in with a random generated number on top of the existing log in process. This change will further help to reduce opportunities for cyber-attacks. This will be fully rolled out at the end of November. Member seminars will utilised to support members in this transition.

Preparing for Office 365

In the new year NYCC will be moving to the new version of office, this will be a significant move into cloud technologies and will bring a host of new capabilities such collaboration tools to ensure smoother working with partners. More information will be covered around this significant change in the New Year.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2019

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

Business Rates Pool

The County Council is currently a member of a Business Rates Pilot along with the City of York Council, the 7 North Yorkshire District Councils and the 5 West Yorkshire Councils. This arrangement ends in March 2020 and councils were therefore invited to submit proposals for new Business Rates Pools for the next financial year – 2020/21. A proposal has been sent into government that continues with a North & West Yorkshire pooling arrangement with all of the same constituent members with the exception of Selby District Council (due to Selby's unique position where it receives safety net support).

We await the government's consideration of the proposal and it will then be necessary to ratify the arrangement within each Council. A report will be produced for the Executive that will set out how the pool works and how the financial benefit of the aggregated levy arrangement is shared in the relevant two tier areas of the County.

County Hall Works

Major works to the Brierley building on the County Hall campus are now underway with the objective of rationalising and remodelling the property estate and creating workplaces that meet the requirements of a modern council. Works commenced at the end of August 2019 with site set-up complete and protective measures for historical features including staircases and floors. Campus moves have been undertaken smoothly with some staff now occupying the old courthouse on Racecourse Lane. Work has been undertaken to strip out redundant fixtures and fittings and electrical and plumbing work in most areas. Essential masonry and leadwork repairs will commence following the completion of scaffolding erection. Refurbishment of the sash windows is progressing well with the first floor north wing now complete and work underway on the ground floor. The project continues on programme and on budget. The project is scheduled to be complete by Autumn 2020. Further detail was provided at the Member's seminar on 6 November and further information and updates can be obtained on the intranet [here](#). Further updates on progress will be provided during the course of the next year.

Property Contracts

Following extensive market engagement and a robust procurement exercise, arrangements are being finalised for the delivery of repairs and maintenance to the council's property portfolio. This has been a significant project and officers will be working with successful contractors over the coming weeks and months to ensure that the transition to the new arrangements is as smooth as possible. A procurement exercise is

also underway for a new school development at Middle Deepdale with a delivery timescale for the new school by Spring 2021.

GARETH DADD

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

As of the 29th September the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) became operational taking in the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust. Over the next quarter the NYSCP will work to identify its priorities for 2020 and beyond. More detail can be found here: www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk.

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

In the 2018 autumn budget, the Treasury committed a further £84 million to the scaling up of three programmes deemed successful from the first two waves of the Innovation Programme into other LAs. This is called the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme (SFPC). The three selected programmes to be delivered under SFPC, are those developed by Leeds, Hertfordshire and North Yorkshire's No Wrong Door (NWD). Over the next five years these will be implemented across 18 other local authorities as follows:

Leeds	Hertfordshire	North Yorkshire
Family Valued	Family Safeguarding	No Wrong Door
Darlington	Cambridgeshire	Middlesbrough
Warwickshire	Walsall	Rochdale
Newcastle	Lancashire	Norfolk
Coventry	Telford & Wrekin	Warrington
Solihull	Wandsworth	Redcar & Cleveland
Sefton	Swindon	Leicester

The programme will be robustly evaluated by the What Works Centre to produce an estimate of the impact of each of the approaches.

The objective of SFPC is to improve social work practice and decision making so that the best decisions are made for every child, and outcomes are improved. In addition this programme should lead to a reduction of demand at the critical end of the spectrum, leading to a reduced spend on children's social care.

The North Yorkshire No Wrong Door programme will build on its learning and evaluated evidence base in delivering an integrated service for vulnerable adolescents who have experienced complex and troubled lives. Furthermore, the NWD footprint of practice will develop across the country and demonstrate that better outcomes for young people can be delivered at a lower cost through public sector providers. To support this we will receive significant funding over five years to support the implementation of the NWD model into host LAs.

We will be working in partnership with our six adopter LAs to develop 'their' NWD model, working closely with them to 'adopt and adapt' the model whilst testing out if this way of working has an impact on decisions and outcomes for young people.

Children & Families Performance

Performance across Children's Services continues to inspire confidence in our ability as a local authority to act quickly and decisively to keep children safe from harm. The service continues to lead the sector in terms of timeliness of assessment, with 97% of assessments

completed in 45 working days or less, and over two-thirds completed in 30 working days or less. Our on-going commitment to ensuring families receive the right service at the right time is demonstrated by the low proportion of children and families assessments that are closed as “no further action”. This was 26% in Quarter 2, compared with 29% 12 months ago and 29% nationally.

There were 384 children subject to a child protection plan at the end of the quarter. Although this is 35 more children than at the end of the last quarter it remains within the range of what would be considered “normal” for North Yorkshire. Analysis highlights that the increase has been driven by lower than usual numbers of plans coming to an end this quarter, rather than an increase in new child protection plans.

451 children were in the care of the local authority at the end of September, nine fewer than three months previously. Although this is still higher than we may wish to see the service explores every avenue before coming to the conclusion that entering care is absolutely necessary and is the best thing for the child. The service has recently embedded family finding, with all social workers undertaking family finding training to enhance the services ability to develop family support networks before bringing a child into to care becomes necessary.

Always cognisant of our responsibilities to those young adults who have been in our care, the Leaving Care teams continue to provide outstanding support to care leavers. 71% of our care leavers aged between 19 and 21 are in education, training or employment (compared with only 51% nationally), whilst 92% are in suitable accommodation (compared with only 84% nationally).

Finally, it is with great pleasure and pride that I confirm that North Yorkshire has been shortlisted in the prestigious national Social Worker of the Year Awards in the category of “Social Work Employer of the Year”, whilst one of our social workers has also been shortlisted in the category “Children’s Social Worker of the Year”.

Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire

Within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the local authority has made a net investment of £3.6m in High Needs (SEN) and a further £3m in SEN Transport in response to significant cost pressures arising from a rise in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan since 2014. Despite the announcement of £5.4m additional High Needs Funding for 2020-21, this will leave a funding gap that will require the LA to continue to identify measures to reshape provision in line with the Strategic Plan for SEN.

Following the implementation of a locality-based model for Children and Families, further significant structure reviews have been undertaken in Inclusion and School Improvement. The approach continues to prioritise and maintain frontline service delivery as much as possible through innovative models, greater efficiency and increased commercialisation. Work has started to implement the Stronger Families, Protecting Children programme working with DfE and other local authorities to roll out the No Wrong Door model.

Although this information appears in my Statement to Council is should be noted that both Executive Members for the Children and Young People’s Service have joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

Janet Sanderson

Executive Member for Children’s Services and Special Educational Needs

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

Following the announcement in the Chancellor's Budget statement, the indicative 2020-21 Schools Block funding for North Yorkshire provides a £17.4m increase (5.19%) compared to the 2019-20 funding level. Additional funding for schools is very much welcome although the local authority continues to have concerns over small, rural schools at both primary and secondary level, and the impact of changes in the mobility factor for service schools.

A consultation is underway with North Yorkshire maintained mainstream schools and mainstream academies around implementing the funding for 2020-21 which will include a mandatory minimum per pupil level of funding: £3,750 per pupil for each primary school, and £5,000 for each secondary school. The consultation period has been determined to fit within DfE-imposed timescales.

For 2020-21, the DfE are allowing LAs to seek a transfer of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block – any proposal exceeding 0.5% requires the approval of the Secretary of State. The views of Schools Forum and all local schools and academies will be sought prior to this request. In North Yorkshire, the decision whether to seek a transfer will be balanced against the announcement that an additional £5.4m (11.1% increase) of High Needs Funding will be allocated to the LA. This additional funding allocation, although welcome, is insufficient in the context of a 68% increase in demand over the past five years. In the absence of further funding, DfE proposals to tighten the ringfence on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will mean that the LA will need to explore options that will present to challenges across the sector in North Yorkshire.

Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

Work continues to progress to implement the Strategic Plan. This includes:

- Introduction of the Ladder of Intervention to support schools in meeting the needs of children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Development of the new model of targeted mainstream provision with an increased number of schools expressing an interest and the development of a service level agreement and enhanced support offer for those schools hosting provision
- Proposals around PRS/AP changes have been approved and the LA has agreed the place commission from September 2020.
- The completion of a public consultation on proposals for educating children and young people with medical needs
- Pilot of the Pivotal approach for restorative practice in schools in six secondary schools and one primary school.
- Capital work completed at The Dales School, The Forest Schools and Brooklands Community Special School.
- The assessment of applications from groups wishing to open and operate the proposed free school in the Selby area, and work with the DfE on the proposed school.

The review of the first year of the plan is underway.

School organisation

The Governing Body proposal to relocate Bishop Thornton CE School to the former Burnt Yates School site was approved by the Executive Member on 25 June 2019. The school relocated on 1 September 2019 and is now known as Admiral Long CE Primary School.

Statutory notices for the lowering of age range at Burton Salmon Community Primary have been published with the matter scheduled for determination on 17 December 2019.

Significant capital projects are either underway or recently completed at a number of North Yorkshire schools and delivered from the School's Capital Programme and the Basic Need Programme. Examples are:

- King James's School, Knaresborough – new 6th form centre including demolition of existing provision.
- Barlby Bridge Community Primary School - additional accommodation
- Cliffe CE VC Primary School - additional accommodation
- Fairburn Community Primary School – additional accommodation
- Nawton Primary School – additional accommodation

There have been one secondary and eight primary academy conversions in Quarter 2. There are currently a further seven schools that have either been issued with an Academy Order, or an Academy Order is pending, and that are in the pipeline to convert during 2019 or 2020. Beyond the expected conversions (forced and voluntary) the pipeline appears to be slowing. It is a reasonable assumption, based on current knowledge, that there will be fewer conversions during 2020.

School Exclusions

I am pleased to report that the number of permanent exclusions fell by almost 20% during the 2018/19 academic year. 87 children were permanently excluded from schools in North Yorkshire during the 2018/19 compared to 106 in 2017/18, a decrease of 18% and a return to a more expected level of permanent exclusion. By the end of September of the 2019/20 academic year there had been 3 permanent exclusions in North Yorkshire schools, equal to the same period in 2018/19. The most common reason for a permanent exclusion in North Yorkshire schools in 2018/19 was 'persistent disruptive behaviour', 28.7% of all reasons recorded, continuing the trend that has emerged over the past few years.

Fixed term exclusions (ie an exclusion from school for a fixed period of time, typically five days) are also reducing. There were a total of 5,970 fixed-term exclusions in the 2018/19 academic year compared to 6,112 in the 2017/18 academic year, a 2.3% reduction. A total of 2,028 children were fixed-term excluded at least once in the 2018/19 academic year a slight reduction of 2.5% on 2017/18 (n=2,081). As we have seen with permanent exclusions, the most common reason for a fixed-term exclusion in North Yorkshire schools continues to be 'persistent disruptive behaviour', accounting for 48.6% of all reasons recorded in 2018/19.

As mentioned above, we are working with schools to roll out the Pivotal approach for restorative practice in schools to help reduce exclusion rates further. This is currently being piloted in six secondary schools and one primary school.

School Ofsted inspections – overall performance

As at 1 October 2019 the percentage of North Yorkshire schools judged Good or Outstanding now stands at 76% at secondary level with 79% of pupils in good or outstanding schools, in line with, or better than, national performance. At primary level 84% of schools are judged Good or Outstanding with 83% of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools: both comparators are slightly below national levels.

Cllr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

**STATEMENT OF THE ACCESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR
DON MACKENZIE (INCLUDING HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT,
BROADBAND, MOBILE TELEPHONY)****Flooding in Swaledale and the UCIs**

On 30 July persistent, heavy rainfall affected Swaledale causing significant damage to infrastructure and flooding of homes and businesses. As part of a multi-agency response the County Council acted to help communities recover as quickly as possible. A key part of this response involved the reinstatement of damaged roads and bridges.

Within a few weeks temporary structures were built next to Cogden North Bridge on the B6270 and Grinton Moor Bridge on the C106, allowing the roads to be re-opened. Design work for the two permanent replacement bridges is well underway and construction is planned to start in the spring, funded by a £3m exceptional award from the Department for Transport. Other locations on our highways network were also affected. I take this opportunity once again to thank our officers and contractors for the excellent work they carried out, often in very bad weather, to ensure that the disruption caused to the community by the storm damage was remedied so quickly.

It was very disappointing that, in spite of the prompt construction of the temporary bridge on Grinton Moor, and the wonderful efforts on the part of the local community to prepare for the arrival of the elite cyclists on the final day of the UCI World Championships, the race had to be diverted away from Swaledale because of further prolonged rainfall in the second half of September.

I pay tribute to all our highways personnel involved in the preparation for, and staging of, the UCI Cycle World Championships. Some 1400 competitors from 90 countries took part, watched by many thousands of spectators along the race routes and in and around Harrogate. Thanks to their efforts, the nine days of races took place successfully and safely for all concerned.

Harrogate Congestion Study

The Executive considered a report last month on the findings of the public engagement on the Harrogate Congestion Study. More than 15,000 opinions represented the largest ever response to a public consultation ever held by the county council.

There was unanimous agreement to approve the recommendations to develop a package of sustainable transport measures and to encourage the use of public transport. Whilst the option of an inner relief road will not be pursued at this time, our officers have been given the go-ahead to assess further the case for a Killinghall bypass and a link road to the west of Harrogate.

Winter Gritting Service

Preparations for winter are complete. We hold 55,000 tonnes of salt in our barns, and grit bins and heaps are full. We have a fleet of 86 modern gritting lorries, including some purchased recently from a Ripon-based manufacturer, as well as snow blowers. We have held refresher sessions with our winter service teams, all totally committed to the delivery of this high-priority service. More than one hundred farm contractors are on hand to support us in rural locations. We are all ready to go.

Our winter maintenance budget is £7m and we routinely treat 54% of our roads, one of the highest proportions in the country. Working in partnership with our contractor, Ringway, we delayed the start of our service standby until 15 October as a cost-saving measure, but still delivered the necessary treatments on the weekend of 6/7 October when temperatures fell below zero. Full details of our winter service can be found here: www.northyorks.gov.uk/gritting

A59 Kex Gill Diversion

Plans to divert the A59 trans-Pennine route northwards away from Kex Gill to a more stable alignment have moved forward in recent weeks.

Three public drop-in events to explain re-alignment of this trans-Pennine route were held last month. These sessions, in Skipton, West End and Harrogate, were attended by the County Council's project officers and by representatives of the design consultancy firm, WSP. Almost 200 visitors had the opportunity to see the detailed designs, to view the plans and to watch a 3D computer-generated model of the re-aligned road, which runs along the top of the north side of the gill. The 5.4km long diversion is single carriageway with climbing lanes westwards for slow vehicles.

NYCC is about to submit a planning application for the new road, and has already sent a final business case to the Department for Transport to secure funding. An official notice asking for expressions of interest from construction companies, ahead of shortlisting next month, has been published.

Last month the Executive approved a report seeking authority to take all necessary steps to make the Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order to acquire the land needed for the new route, should such Orders be needed. As always, every effort will be made to secure the land by negotiation. There are over 20 different landowners involved and a total land area of 33 hectares.

Subject to granting of planning permission, approval of funding by the Department for Transport, and on the assumption that the Secretary of State does not call for a public enquiry, it is hoped to start construction work next spring and have the new road finished by summer 2021. The cost of the whole project is estimated at £43.7m of which £4.95m has already been set aside in NYCC's capital budget.

A1(M) Junction 47

This intersection of the A59 and the A1(M) is of strategic importance. The county council will complete later this month design work for a £5.19m scheme to improve safety and capacity both at this location and nearby at the junction of the A59 and the A168. Tenders will be invited next month and work is planned to start on site in March. Construction is expected to last for ten months and the majority of work will be undertaken overnight to minimise traffic delays.

Broadband and Mobile Telephony

Our Local Full Fibre Networks project, which is valued at £15.1m and will lay fibre to 370 public buildings over the next 18 months, commenced at a primary school in Brayton, near Selby, last month. This scheme represents a further significant enhancement of the county's digital infrastructure.

We welcome the recent announcement that the Government and mobile network operators will each contribute £500m towards the upgrade of mobile phone coverage in rural areas. Once ratified, this scheme will introduce a shared rural network to address partial not spots. It

is expected to improve 4G availability from just over 60% as now, to over 90% of the geography of North Yorkshire.

DON MACKENZIE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL13th November 2019**STATEMENT FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES,
LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT,
SCRUTINY, AREA COMMITTEES, PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND
LOCALITY BUDGETS****COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID CHANCE****STRONGER COMMUNITIES****Stronger Communities Programme Evaluation**

I informed Members last year of the successful procurement, and commencement of, a long term independent evaluation of the Stronger Communities Programme and its investment strategy. Taking place over four years and measured against five key evaluation questions, the evaluators will be advising and informing the Programme about how best resources and investment can be deployed, to ensure the maximum impact and benefit for communities in North Yorkshire.

The independent evaluators have just released the first year draft evaluation report covering the period 1 Apr 2018 – 31 Mar 2019, with the overall assessment being that the Programme is effective given its size and remit and delivers valued support to the VCSE sector. For those organisations and communities that are supported directly by the team, the outcomes are likely to be deep and longer-lasting, and there is emerging evidence that the Programme is successfully creating the conditions for social action in North Yorkshire.

The evaluators recommend the Programme outlines, through a revised strategy, a long term vision for social action and community wellbeing that ties into the Corporate Priorities, Directorate ambitions, and the evolving place based agenda. Work on this strategy is underway, drawing on the three themes of 'people, place and power' with a particular focus on the 11 Lower Super Output Areas in the County that are among the lowest performing areas in England.

School Readiness Pilot

Stronger Communities is part of the School Readiness Pilot, supporting the development of 'Ready Communities', an element of the project. This Pilot will inform the wider Public Health and CYPS Childhood Futures Transformation Programme. A competitive grant process is being set-up to select community organisations who will help to coordinate and develop community provision across the pilot areas of: East Whitby, and the main Ryedale urban centres.

Approved Provider List Re-Procurement

The Programme has in place an Approved Provider List of external consultants to support voluntary and community groups across 12 specialist domains that go beyond the expertise and resources available from the Programme. This in-depth, independent support has been vital to ensure that those key voluntary and community groups, supporting the Council's outcomes, have an effective and sustainable platform from which to flourish. This support has on occasion been vital in helping to rescue key organisations from failure at a time of crisis that would otherwise have left a significant gap in the local community asset base. Last year 19 voluntary organisations benefitted from this support which has both helped them to 'survive' and 'thrive' and in some notable instances the support provided has been critical in helping them secure significant external funding. The Programme is currently going through a procurement process to ensure an alternate arrangement is in place when the Approved Provider List expires early next year.

Social Norms Campaign

I have mentioned before in my statements about the commitment and dedication of individuals and communities to help one another and add to the richness of local life. It is one of the great strengths of North Yorkshire. Helping others, however, not only benefits the other person, but it can also be beneficial to our own mental and physical wellbeing. Stronger Communities, in partnership with the Council's Communications team, are sponsoring a social norms campaign to build on the kindness and neighbourliness already abundant in our communities. This 12-month campaign will highlight acts of kindness in order to inspire others, understand and remove barriers to helping others, and to raise awareness of the help and support available for people who are lonely, vulnerable and isolated.

I would encourage all Members to embrace and support this campaign when it launches later in the year, and continue to lead by example in your communities.

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Overview and Scrutiny – the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees take on an increasingly complex and challenging workload as they become more involved in pre-decision scrutiny of changes to the way in which Council, NHS and other services are commissioned and delivered. I am keen to ensure that members are fully supported in their work, able to fulfil their role in policy development and act as an important check and balance.

Area Constituency Committees - the Council's six Area Constituency Committees are taking on more of a scrutiny-like approach to their work and stronger links with the overview and scrutiny committees are being developed, particularly in matters relating to changes to local NHS services, the county's road network and transport

infrastructure. I will be working with Scrutiny Board, made up of the five chairs of the overview and scrutiny committees, to see whether more joint meetings can be held with the Area Constituency Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs to help better manage the work programme across the two functions.

Democratic Services – in the build up to the May 2021 Council elections, democratic services will be developing a programme of work aimed at increasing public participation in local democracy. This will include: highlighting the work of the Council and the roles and responsibilities of Councillors; outlining how people can become involved in the Council; encouraging people to register to vote and then actually vote in Council elections; and making people aware of what they need to do to stand in a council election (County, District, Town or Parish).

School Admissions Appeals – during the 2019 bulk appeals season (April to August) the school admissions appeals team in Democratic Services administered 735 appeals by parents and carers against the school place that their child had been allocated. The appeals team: supports 30 plus independent, volunteer panel members; provides support and technical guidance to parents, carers and schools; and ensures good governance and proper procedures followed prior to the hearing and on the day of the hearing. The team also administers Exclusion Appeals and Home to School Transport Appeals. Albeit starting from a low base, there have been in-year increases in appeals against exclusions from school and also increases in home to school transport appeals.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LOCALITY BUDGETS

The Locality Budget scheme rules state that no recommendations or decisions can be processed during a pre-election period (county, district and parliamentary elections). This means that, because of the general election on 12th December 2019, no recommendations from County Councillors can now be considered until Monday 16th December 2019.

DAVID CHANCE

Michael Harrison – November 2019 County Council Statement

Harrogate and Rural Alliance Launch

As previously advised to members, the Harrogate and Rural Alliance has been developed to integrate teams across primary care, community health and social care. The Alliance was formally launched at the beginning of October and teams are now working closely together, co-located across different organisation premises under a single management structure.

I will keep members informed of progress and I am convinced that this initiative will result in a much better service for our residents who are in need of care and support, and will be a model that eventually can be rolled out across the county. Both the working arrangements and financial agreements have been approved by all partners.

Robotics and Assistive Technology

As part of the digital work that the Health & Wellbeing Board is sponsoring we are exploring how we use technology to support people to stay in their own homes.

Some of the ideas that we are looking at are:

- New and innovative approaches such as the use of robotic pets and the positive impact these can have on people who are distressed or display challenging behaviour.
- Use of consumer technology such as Amazon Echo / Google Home and how we can make use of technology that people already have.
- Using data to predict who may be at most risk of an adverse event (falls etc.) and targeting activity to prevent this happening.

We are developing a partnership with Sheffield University who have an advanced manufacturing and robotics division where we hope to shape the agenda and focus research on key issues for Health and Adult Services.

Flooding Response

Members will be only to aware of the floods that hit the dales late afternoon on 30th July. Our Health & Adult Services incident management plans were invoked and we quickly completed vulnerability assessments of residents and carried out welfare checks. Our staff worked under extremely challenging circumstances and all returned home safely.

We assisted the Major Incident Response Team and worked closely with Richmond District Council in looking at supporting people in the worst affected areas with potential rehousing solutions. It is clear that people who live and work in the dales demonstrate enormous resilience and are totally dedicated to servicing their local communities.

Transfers of Care Coordinators

Our Delayed Transfer of Care targets continue to be met, and to support this we are trialling Transfers of Care Coordinators across the County. We have located 11 colleagues in York, Airedale, Harrogate, Friarage, South Tees and Scarborough

Hospitals and their roles will strengthen partner relationships and act as a direct point of contact helping to deliver timely assessments to ensure discharge delays are kept to a minimum.

We will test and evaluate the success of these working practices over the next 12 months.

Safeguarding

New multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were introduced on 1st October by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board. Health & Adult Services is the lead agency for safeguarding, although the new arrangements will affect all partners we work with including Health, Police, Borough/District Councils, voluntary and independent sectors.

Safeguarding is a key part of our work and the new process focuses heavily on the assessment of risk and what outcome the person wants.

Training has been provided for colleagues and more information is available for partners here:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/safeguarding-vulnerable-adults

www.safeguardingadults.co.uk

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
November 2019

**STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION & SUPPORTED HOUSING PORTFOLIO
HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON**

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019

The 2019 Annual Report from our Director of Public Health is entitled “Life in times of change; health and hardship in North Yorkshire” and looks at the impact of poverty on health in our county. The report was launched at the Wider Partnership Conference in October. Although North Yorkshire is a generally affluent and healthy county, this overall picture masks people and places that experience significant deprivation. The report highlights 11 areas in our county that are among the most deprived 10% localities in England. It also brings focus to aspects of poverty that are sometimes overlooked such as fuel poverty in rural communities and poverty that affects some military families and veterans.

Dr Sargeant makes a number of recommendations for actions we can take with our partners to address the issues raised in the report. One area is community engagement to encourage local communities to take an active role in the plans that are developed to address deprivation. As county and district councillors we have a key part to play in helping our local constituencies to identify the local actions they can take to tackle problems.

Duncan Selbie visit

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England visited us on 21st October. This was his second visit in this capacity. It gave us a chance to showcase some of the work we are doing to address public health issues from health inequalities and social mobility, to shaping healthy places and reducing childhood obesity. We also highlighted joint work with PHE including the management of the Hepatitis A outbreak in Ripon over summer.

In a wide ranging discussion, the challenges of working with the NHS in North Yorkshire were among the topics covered. We described the vital work we do as a Council to help to deliver the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan against the backdrop of a very complex landscape of NHS organisations.

In his summary of the visit Duncan Selbie made the following observations:

“We spoke of the most important factors affecting good physical and mental health. For children, having the best start in life and being ready to start school and for young people entering adulthood with the resilience to thrive. For adults, having a secure job and home and at all ages the importance of friendship and belonging in life. Essentially, economic growth creating new jobs that local people can get with health and wealth being two sides of the same coin.

There are of course many challenges and not least in the persistent social inequities, despite your strong system wide approach to tackling these. Of course the problems were decades in the making and will take many years to overcome but you are making steady inroads with strong spatial strategies for growing affordable housing and improving your transport infrastructure and it was good to hear of your work through the North Yorkshire Coast Opportunities Area programme to improve educational outcomes in Scarborough.

The challenge of course is sustaining this with budgets on the edge and where integration with your local NHS colleagues is so central to this. There is no future other than through working together and pooling resources in place based investment. Being accountable to each other for focusing on what matters and engaging and working with local people in making the hard choices.”

Seasonal Flu vaccination

Around 30 million people are eligible for the free flu vaccine this year through the biggest ever national flu campaign. Eligible groups include all primary school children, children aged 2 and 3, over 65's, pregnant women and people with underlying health conditions such as asthma or heart disease.

This year a cohort of social care staff have been included so anyone working in a residential or domiciliary setting can access the vaccine free from their GP or pharmacist.

In addition to the national programme, it is recommended that all health and social care staff are vaccinated, therefore a local agreement has been made with pharmacies to enable all HAS staff to access the free vaccine. Some front line CYPS staff have also been included in this programme. In 2017/18 25% of HAS staff reported having had the vaccine and in 18/19 this increased to 42%.

There are a number of ways in which we are promoting uptake of the vaccine:

- An internal and external communications campaign is being delivered. This includes promoting the vaccine to eligible groups such as carers and disseminating information to all schools and nurseries.
- Flu champions have been nominated in teams to promote the vaccine in their areas and dispel myths
- Flu clinics will be set up at key staff sites. For example, 80% of staff attending the HAS leadership forum in October received the vaccine from a pharmacist who ran a clinic at the event.
- Staff can also access the vaccine through a voucher scheme at a pharmacy participating in our scheme

Public Mental Health

On World Mental Health Day (10th October) we hosted a public mental health conference in Harrogate on the topic “Prevention – what does it mean in the context of mental health?” The conference heard from national and local speakers on the factors that support positive mental health and prevent mental illness. Speakers from Public Health England gave an overview of their resources for public mental health including the Every Mind Matters campaign. This national mass media campaign was also launched in the same week with television advertisements featuring high profile celebrities and members of the Royal Family. The campaign is supported by a website and an extensive range of resources to help people and organisations to act on the messages they receive.

The conference also heard from inspirational speakers telling their stories about acknowledging their own mental health issues and the measures they take to maintain their mental wellbeing. Participants had opportunities to reflect on the presentations and to share actions that could be taken to address the issues raised. The output from the day will inform a strategic framework for how we work collectively with partners across the county on this important agenda.

As a Mindful Employer the Council marked World Mental Health Day running free lunch time sessions to help promote workplace mental wellbeing. These hour long workshops were intended to give staff time away from their desks or workspaces to try something new. The topics covered were: Drawing to music; Creative card making; Mindful Sashiko Stitching; Creative writing ‘About a strange land’; Mindful photography; Positive Psychology and, Art for Wellbeing. Additionally, the Harrogate run/walk group organised a run/walk for mental health at 06:30am which staff were encouraged to attend.

Measles

On 29th September, Matt Hancock the Secretary of State for Health, was reported to say he was seriously considering making vaccination compulsory in response to falling vaccination rates and the UK losing its status as measles-free. In North Yorkshire our vaccination coverage is generally good but we are below the target of 95% for the second dose of Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine uptake in children. This is currently at 88%. We are working to support the NHS England / Public Health England Screening and Immunisation Team to increase uptake and have put out communications targeting our North Yorkshire communities to encourage them to ensure they are vaccinated. Hancock’s announcement led to media interest in vaccination and we were asked to comment. Our key points were:

- Measles is a highly infectious virus that can cause serious complications, even death. Measles killed 72 children and adults in the European Region in 2018.
- Cases of measles have been increasing as vaccine coverage has been decreasing.

- People can access vaccination through their GP
- The evidence is unclear about the effectiveness of mandatory vaccination to increase uptake rates. Providing credible information for parents, reminders and increasing the opportunities for them to access the vaccine are likely to be more effective measures.
- If people are unsure about the decision to vaccinate we advise they access information on the NHS Choices website or make an appointment to talk to their GP, practice nurse or health visitor.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
13 November 2019
SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

The last meeting of Scrutiny Board was on 9 August 2019. At that meeting the following matters relating to the delivery of overview and scrutiny at the Council were discussed:

- The work of the joint sub-committee of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees, that has been established to scrutinise the Council's approach to reducing net Carbon Dioxide emissions and meeting the 2030 carbon neutral target
- Public Health and which committees are best placed to scrutinise commissioning and provider activity.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Q1 Performance Management meeting on 13 August 2019, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance under the heading of Growth. This included clarifying:

- The action was being taken across the public sector to ensure that housing growth is accompanied by a commensurate growth in key services and infrastructure.
- Whether we can do more as a Council to engage Highways England and the government in a discussion about the county's strategic road network.
- What further action can be taken to ensure that all areas of the county have good broadband coverage, rather than only those deemed commercially viable by suppliers.
- The position regarding the proposed merger of Local Enterprise Partnerships and seeking assurances that the economic priorities of North Yorkshire, as a largely rural and sparsely populated county, are not lost in any joint work that is done with West Yorkshire.

Members of Scrutiny Board also raised a number of issues with the Executive relating to education and social care, including:

- Whether the frequent changes to the OFSTED inspection regime and the increased length of time between inspections (up to 6 years) means that it is now more difficult to track school performance over time.
- The processes that are in place to ensure that home education meets the standards required.
- What more can be done to reduce the number of long term placements for adults that are above approved rates.

The next meeting of Scrutiny Board is on 22 November 2019. At that meeting, will be using an assurance framework, developed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to

undertake an initial review of overview and scrutiny practice. The outcome of which may lead to some changes in how we deliver the scrutiny function at the Council. The last self-assessment was completed in 2016. Since then new government guidance on overview and scrutiny has been issued. There have also been significant changes to the Chairmanship of the overview and scrutiny committees, including myself as the new Chair of Scrutiny Board.

Members will be aware that scrutiny was created to act as a check and balance on the executive and is a statutory requirement for all authorities operating executive arrangements.

Chairman of Scrutiny Board
County Councillor Derek Bastiman
4 November 2019.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2019

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Mental Health: Implementation and Pathway

1. Mental Health Services are under huge pressure. Over recent years we have seen a very welcome increase in political support and a stronger recognition that mental health as a service has lagged behind many others. Increasingly it is recognised how important it is that we have parity of esteem for mental health. Yet it appears that, nationwide, we are still some way off this aim. It was, therefore, encouraging to learn of the steps that taken locally to implement a distinctive social care mental health offer across North Yorkshire for working age adults.
2. Social care and all partners can now follow a clear health pathway from referral into the service, triage and prevention. A restructured mental health service with a clear hierarchy, transparent lines of accountability and, significantly, an integrated care workforce team, strengthens this approach.
3. The expected benefits are more than just increased confidence that we are statutory compliant – crucial though that is - because there is a stronger prevention offer at the front door, we can expect to see a reduction in the number of people requiring specialist mental health services. The pathways also set out a clear process of best practice to be followed in the treatment of a patient or client with a particular condition or with particular needs. Where there is a social care need identified, the impact of a crisis for an individual will be minimised
4. These new care pathways are designed to level up services so that individuals and patients all receive the best standard of care available.

Living Well

5. Prevention and the concept of preventative services have become increasingly prominent in health and social care policy in recent years. With North Yorkshire's ageing population and the growing number of people with long term conditions placing a strain on the health and social care, reducing demand for high intensity and high cost services will be key.
6. The Authority has a track record of committing to prevention services. An integral part of our preventative offer is the Living Well Project which works with individuals

and their carers who are isolated, vulnerable, bereaved, lacking confidence, or perhaps on the borderline of needing health and social care services. Instead, the service helps them to access their local community, and support them to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals. This helps to reduce loneliness and isolation, and to prevent or resolve issues for people, including preventing hospitalisation.

7. We looked at the findings of an evaluation report. Evidence shows the positive impact of living well for service users in North Yorkshire County Council. Amongst a range of indicators pointing to the project's success one in particular stands out: it delivers improved wellbeing worth £3.84 per every £1 spent.
8. Living Well is a genuine success story. It illustrates how the council has creatively and innovatively deployed public health grant money to further public health and social care objectives.

Assistive Technology

9. The committee likes to take stock periodically of how the County Council uses assistive technology to enable people to live more independent lives for longer. We welcomed the recently entered into partnership arrangement with Nottingham Rehab Services (NRS). There are clear advantages to having moved to one organisation delivering AT services across the county to both adults and children. Rather than having to specify certain pieces of equipment and then relying on our NYCC Occupational Therapists (OT's) to understand and assess, the new contract operates as a direct partnership between NRS and the County Council. By employing their own OTs, who receive referrals from NYCC assessment staff, we can be confident that greater technical expertise is being brought to bear. NRS technical experts are able to identify the most appropriate piece of equipment to support a person's assessed needs and outcomes.
10. It was fascinating to see how a range of solutions from the simple to the most technologically advanced are being used. As just one example, we heard that a soft toy seal called "Yorkie" is being trialled. This is classed as a working robot colleague. This appears to be having a great impact on people with dementia and Alzheimer's. The outcomes have been found to be reduced stress, stimulated interaction between people and carers, and reduced challenging behaviour.
11. Initial results from the new arrangement seem to demonstrate that more people are being supported with a far wider range of equipment, and the contract provider is able to stay much more up-to-date with new and emerging technology.

Budget Position

12. Towards the end of last year, we reviewed the HAS Directorate projected overspend and the action plan that is being taken in response to financial pressures. The main area of overspend remains within the care and support budget which accounts for £133m of a net £157m directorate budget. A predicted overspend of £4.9m. We also recognise that the mental health budget is currently overspending by approximately £400,000 on a budget of £8.5m. Whilst reassured about the action being taken to correct this overspend, we can easily see how the County Council spends such a significant part of its overall budget on these services.

13. Needless to say there is no magic, silver bullet to solve these budget pressures; it is a national funding problem coupled with a huge demographic challenge – especially so in North Yorkshire. We know that managing demand well, and sustaining our commitment to prevention and early intervention, will be key.

Looking ahead

14. Next meeting, we will review how support is provided to adult carers in North Yorkshire, focussing again on respite and short breaks provision.

15. We will pick up on this year's earlier work on the local social care market, including how the Authority can and does intervene.

16. Planning has begun for the committee to review Social Prescribing. Sometimes referred to as community referral, Social Prescribing is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. Social prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. Examples include volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and a range of sports activities.

KARIN SEDGWICK

Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

28 October 2019

Background Documents - Nil

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****CORPORATE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

Since my last statement to Council, the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee has held one formal meeting in September 2019.

The Committee received a bi-annual update on the Corporate Volunteering project and agreed that adoption of the strategy was a milestone for the Authority, as it introduced a number of welcomed improvements e.g. a clearer procedure for claiming expenses; the adoption of an ID badge scheme - not only practical from a security point of view, but also symbolic as the branding emphasises the esteem with which the Authority views the volunteer contribution; and also the opportunity for volunteers to maintain and retain a record of their involvement with services which amounts to a form of Curriculum Vitae - especially valuable for younger volunteers in terms of their future career options.

In addition, the Committee considered a progress update on the County Council's equality work which included progress on achieving the equality objectives agreed for the period 2016-2020. The Committee were pleased to note the progress made in embedding the use of Equality Impact Assessments through the introduction of a clearer work-flow process, and endorsed the primary role of the Scrutiny Committees in terms of ensuring and maintaining the Authority has a record to be proud of in respect of equality and diversity. The Committee agreed the improvements would support the Authority in terms of recruitment and retention, attracting a more diverse workforce, and would enable the Authority to be a forward-thinking employer and service provider.

The Committee received a presentation on the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan which outlined structural changes in the Youth Justice Services and practice changes, the principle benefit of which was making space and time for staff to do more work with children, young people, their families and carers. They were pleased to note the feedback from parents and carers which suggested they felt more positively supported by their Youth Justice Service Worker, and asked that information on the scheme be made more widely available to councillors in order that they can promote its benefits.

An annual update on the work of the Brierley Group left some Councillors unconvinced that the year was as good as reported quoting examples from the corporate / commercial world, and argued that without strong leadership and governance the recorded £1.6m profit could potentially change to a loss making position – especially bearing in mind the spread of services the Brierley Group was responsible for, and the variable financial position of those component companies. The Committee therefore sought reassurance that there is sufficient challenge and scrutiny not just written into the arrangements but evidenced by practice, and questioned what role the Committee could play in that. The Committee is to receive a future report to explore those issues.

Finally, the Committee considered information on Brierley Homes in response to a Notice of Motion from Full Council in July 2019. The Committee considered the proposal made by County Councillor Geoff Webber and noted that housing is both a priority at both national and local level, and a key driver for other strategic ambitions such as growth, education,

health and for stronger communities. Members acknowledged the laudable intentions underpinning the motion but expressed concern at the likely effect of adopting the motion on the business operation of Brierley Homes and the Brierley Group. They noted the intention for any profit generated to be initially reinvested into the business to allow it to grow, and any future dividend distributions to be used to subsidise Council business thereby partially offsetting the need to reduce frontline services.

With this in mind they concluded not to support the motion. The formal response from the Committee is shown elsewhere on this agenda.

Cllr Derek Bastiman
Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
23 October 2019

North Yorkshire County Council**13 November 2019****Transport, Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement****Committee – 24 October 2019**Highways England update

- 1 The key topic for discussion at the meeting was the Highways England update on the strategic roads in our county, with the principal focus being on the A64.
- 2 We expressed dismay about the decision to downgrade A64 road improvements from medium to low. When making its assessment, Highways England took out of the equation tourist traffic, rating it as less important than commuter traffic. There is no logic to this in light of the vitally important role that tourism plays to the east coast economy in the county and in East Riding. Consequently, the Committee was frustrated that statistically the vast increase in tourism and visitor vehicle numbers during the season was not taken into account when the traffic modelling was done by Highways England.
- 3 We also noted that the recently announced upgrade of the York outer ring road would create further pressure on an already congested situation at Hopgrove roundabout on the A64.
- 4 We also queried why, just after a few years after the A1M Barton to Leeming upgrade was completed, road re-surfacing works is occurring on some of the sections that were amongst the last to be completed in the county. We were informed by the Highways England representative at the meeting that there was a trade-off between noise suppressing road materials and durability. Highways England is starting to re-introduce more durable road materials on some of their other A-roads
- 5 The feeling overall at the meeting was that Highways England must be made more accountable to the public.
- 6 In fairness, the Highways England representative who attended our meeting said that he appreciated the frustration surrounding the A64. He informed us that a further study is underway that will take traffic on York's Outer Ring road into account. The results are due before the end of this year.
- 7 We welcome the fact that a letter signed by North Yorkshire County Council and the A64 Growth Partnership is due to be sent to the Prime Minister setting out our collective concerns of Highway England's assessment to downgrade A64 road improvements. 8

County Council Motion

- 8 Further to the Motion submitted to the County Council meeting on 24 July 2019 calling for utility companies to be required to make a mandatory level contribution towards flood and coastal protection schemes, the Committee agreed to recommend to the County Council that the Chairman of the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers MP, to call for the financial contribution from utility companies to be mandatory. The Committee also agreed to recommend to the County Council that County Councillor Derek Bastiman be authorised in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA SIG) Coastal Issues to contact (in consultation with the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council), other relevant agencies to call for utility companies to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution where flood defence schemes will protect their infrastructure.

Single-use Plastics Review

- 9 The Committee approved the terms of reference of its next task group review – the Single-use Plastics Review. The task group, which will meet from February 2020, will establish how North Yorkshire County Council along with partners and members of the public could reduce the use of single-use plastics.

20 mph speed limit policy task group

- 10 The task group has now taken evidence from 95 Alive, North Yorkshire Police and the 20s Plenty Campaign group. It will be meeting in December to sum up its findings and produce recommendations. The task group's report will then be submitted to the Committee in January.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley Chairman

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

30 October 2019

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Scrutiny of Health Committee has a responsibility to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County. A key part of that responsibility is requiring NHS bodies to consult health scrutiny on proposals for substantial developments or variations to the local health service provision. One of the powers that the committee has is, in specific circumstances, to refer contested proposals for change to the Secretary of State for Health.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee formally met on 13 September 2019. The agenda for the meeting was very full and the meeting itself was well attended by members of the public, commissioners and providers. This reflects both the pace of change within the NHS locally and the concerns that this raises amongst the public.

At that meeting, the following changes to NHS services used by the people of North Yorkshire were scrutinised.

The Friarage hospital, Northallerton

The formal public consultation on proposed changes to urgent and critical care services provided at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton was launched on 13 September 2019 and will run to 6 December 2019. The proposals that are being consulted upon are: 1) a 24 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses; or 2) a 16 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses. The option of returning to the position prior to 27 March 2019, when there had been an Accident and Emergency Department in place, was not included in the consultation. This was because the shortages of key staff, such as in Anaesthesia, had not been resolved and therefore clinical advice was that an Accident and Emergency Department could not be run safely.

The Friarage Hospital serves a population of about 100,000 people over a large and rural area. It works closely with the James Cook hospital in Middlesbrough and the Darlington Memorial Hospital. Consultation events are planned across the patch and I would encourage members to attend and also help publicise the consultation events and the other routes by which people can express their views (see - <https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/friarage/>). It is important that all those people who are potentially affected by these proposed changes are able to have their voice heard.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will meet on 13 December 2019 to consider the progress with the consultation and any early findings and then again on 13 March 2020 to scrutinise the final analysis of the outcome of the consultation.

Mental Health service provision for the population of North Yorkshire – overview of changes to services in Northallerton, Harrogate, York and Selby

The committee has been scrutinising proposed and actual changes to the provision of mental health services in the county for the past 18 months. These changes have included: the closure of the mental health in-patient wards at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton; the decision not to build a new mental health in-patient unit at Cardale Park in Harrogate; the proposed closure of the mental health in-patient wards at Harrogate Hospital; the building a new mental health in-patient hospital in York; the

development of enhanced community treatment and intervention services; and the building of new mental health community hubs in Northallerton and Selby. The theme that runs through all of these changes is moving away from in-patient treatment to community-based treatment (but with in-patient beds available where required). Community services are to be enhanced by funding released from in-patient facilities.

The challenge has been to maintain an aerial view of the changes and ensure that the committee is able to scrutinise the mental health treatment system as whole rather than respond to individual services changes in a reactive manner. Whilst the committee is broadly supportive of the move of emphasis from in-patient treatment to enhanced community treatment, we still need to find the right balance between in-patient beds and community resources. There will always be some people for whom in-patient treatment is the only safe and effective response to their needs.

Scarborough East Coast Review - Update on progress with the review of services and any proposed changes

The committee received an update on the progress being made with the East Coast Review. This review seeks to address some of the issues facing health services on the east coast, including: an ageing population and higher levels of deprivation; NHS funding criteria that do not take into account the specific needs of the Scarborough population; and persistent shortages of key medical personnel in the area. The committee received a categorical assurance from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that it recognised the continuing need for a 24 hour, 7 days a week Accident and Emergency department at Scarborough Hospital.

The review is being undertaken by McKinsey and Co, management consultants, upon the basis that they will provide an independent view.

The committee will receive more details of the progress that has been made with the review at the next public meeting on 13 December 2019. Members of the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee have been invited to attend. There will be significant interest in understanding how Scarborough Hospital fits with the other parts of the health and social care system on the East Coast and whether any services that are currently at Scarborough will be moved or centralised elsewhere.

Mid Cycle Briefing

A Mid Cycle Briefing of the committee was to be held on 1 November 2019. At that meeting the following changes to health and social care commissioning and service delivery were to be discussed, with a view to better understanding which elements merited more formal scrutiny at a public meeting of the committee:

- Acute Provider Collaboration in West Yorkshire and what this means for services provided at Harrogate District Hospital and other hospitals that are used by the population of North Yorkshire
- The impact of funding reductions upon the Council's Public Health function and the services that they either commission or provide
- Changes to the repeat prescription process intended to reduce wasted medicines but which risk having an adverse impact upon some patients.

The former Lambert Hospital site in Thirsk

The former Lambert Hospital site in Thirsk has now been donated to a hospice provider, Herriot Hospice Homecare, for conversion into an end-of-life care facility. The re-opening of the former Lambert Hospital site for health and social care use is very welcome.

Integrated Care Systems

Finally, the work being done through the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) of which North Yorkshire is a member is progressing. At the same time as ICSs emerge, there has been a consolidation of the local CCGs in North Yorkshire, which we have broadly welcomed. Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are either in place or are being put in place. Against this complex background of organisational change, the Scrutiny of Health Committee will look to scrutinise the plans of the ICSs in greater depth over the next six months.

County Councillor John Ennis
Chairman, Scrutiny of Health Committee
21 October 2019

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2019

YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership: Professor Maggie Atkinson

1. In July last year we met with Professor Nick Frost shortly before his retirement as Independent Chair of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board - a post he had held for four years. We have now talked to his successor, Professor Maggie Atkinson, the former Children's Commissioner for England, about her assessment of how the new regulations for multi-agency safeguarding have been implemented locally.
2. Whilst the process of revising governance arrangements was well under way when she was appointed, she was kept briefed and the final set-up was one she would have advocated for in any event. Under these new arrangements, known as the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, each key partner has a clear and unambiguous responsibility. Her initial impression after having been in post for a short while was that this is a healthy, self-critical system of safeguarding with a commitment to honest and open self-evaluation. Her key points were:
 - She praised the ambition and practice to move towards early help and preventative work; in this context, No Wrong Door is very much a national exemplar in her view.
 - The commitment to work in communities is to be applauded.
 - The way the involvement and participation of young people is carried out is a best practice leader. The system is particularly strong in this area.
 - A strong commitment towards multi-agency child exploitation practice and procedures is evident.
 - There is good sharing and monitoring of information amongst organisations, practitioners and organisations.
 - There is strong partnership leadership and commitment.
3. Members commented on the safeguarding implications of the number of out-county placements in the North Yorkshire area. I sense interest is building amongst scrutiny members in this topic. It was explained that whilst the responsibility rests with the appointing authority, closer relationships with the county council and robust MACE arrangements were ensuring as far as possible that children were safe when placed in establishments within the county area.

4. Comments at the meeting reassured us that partners operating under the new partnership arrangements believe the new governance structures allow for greater clarity and accountability. In particular, our voluntary sector representatives said that from their perspective reporting arrangements - both in terms of individual cases and wider issues about safeguarding generally - were easier to follow.
5. Taking all the above into consideration, we believe that appropriate measures are being taken by the Safeguarding Partnership to ensure high standards of child protection across all agencies, placing children at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements and frontline practice.
6. Maggie impressed us. It seems we are going to enjoy the same constructive relationship with her that we were so fortunate to have with her predecessor, Nick Frost. Rather than wait the usual 12 months, the committee is keen to meet up much sooner with Maggie for a follow-up discussion on what impact the new arrangements have had in practice.

Proposed Medical Education Service

7. For some time now we have intended to look at the support that children with long term conditions receive to ensure they have access to good education. It made sense to wait for the directorate's work on new proposals, now out to consultation, for a medical education service.
8. The ambition is for a more flexible delivery model for those children/young people who cannot access education because of medical needs. We were pleased to see an increased range of options for medical tuition, including digital solutions, personal home tuition and group education. All of which will contribute to the delivery of a bespoke package for each child. More regular review meetings will be held with pupils, their families, health professionals and their school.
9. We should see a flexible pupil and family centred joined up approach which not only reflects pupil's needs by delivering the right amount of education, but one that does so at the right time and through the right choice of educational provision. We like that the new model proposes a greater involvement of the pupil's home school, enabling relationships to be maintained and ensure the school has a greater accountability for their own pupils.
10. Earlier professional intervention, greater health and school involvement, and a more bespoke range of options will be achieved through a collaborative approach for families and strengthen new pathways. The support ranges from providing short term education enabling pupils to return to their schools with the necessary support as soon as they are able, through to a broad range of tutor packages and a variety of delivery styles that include a bespoke medically-led intervention for the most complex

children and young people. The range of new technology, particularly digital ones, are impressive. We applaud the way these are being used to improve the service.

11. These are comprehensive proposals. They have our wholehearted support.

Looking ahead

12. In anticipation of Government guidance, we will meet informally to review the current position on Elective Home Education - a term used by the Department of Education to describe parents' decision to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school.

13. On many occasions members have discussed the broader challenges facing schools, especially those in rural areas. It is clear that a number of small schools face no alternative but to consider closure - rather than, for example, confederation or collaborative arrangements. To better understand the situation, I have asked that we carry out a light touch look-back at cases over the last 18-24 months of local authority maintained schools which proceeded to full closure rather than achieving academic academy status.

14. We have agreed some informal joint working with the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the new pathway that has been agreed between the HAS and CYPS Directorates for young people transitioning from children's social care to adult social care.

15. An interesting but potentially complex topic has been added to our work programme for next year: the challenges of recruiting staff to schools in rural areas.

JANET JEFFERSON

Chairman, Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON
28 October 2019

Background Documents - Nil.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****Response by the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Notice of Motion suggesting the allocation of 20% net profit made by Brierley Homes. to support the provision of social housing****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the recommendation of the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in response to a Notice of Motion suggesting the allocation of 20% net profit made by Brierley Homes to support the provision of social housing.

Background

2. A Notice of Motion was put to County Council on 24 July 2019 by County Councillor Geoff Webber, seconded by County Councillor Bryn Griffiths, proposing the allocation of 20% of the net profit made by Brierley Homes to a fund specifically to support the provision of social housing.
3. The Chairman determined that the Motion should not be debated on the day, and instead referred it to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. The Notice of Motion was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September 2019 and their recommendation was subsequently presented to the Executive for their consideration at a meeting on 15 October 2019.
5. The Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee report that was presented to the Executive is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

6. That County Council agree not to support the motion, in line with the recommendation in para 15 of the appended report.

Barry Khan
 Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services)
 North Yorkshire County Council

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

15 October 2019

NOTICE OF MOTION

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Purpose of report

1. To present the views of the Corporate and Partnerships and Overview Scrutiny on a Notice of Motion referred to it by the council at its July 2019 meeting.
2. This report explains why, as far as the committee is concerned, pursuing the action proposed in the motion would not be in the best interests of the Brierley Group and/or the County Council.
3. The report of the Assistant Director Strategic Resources (BES/CS) made available to the committee, giving background and context to the subject, can be accessed via the following webpage:

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=29&meetid=4105>

4. To help make sense of the issues raised, much of the content of that officer's - relatively short - report is quoted in this account of the committee's considerations.

Notice of Motion

5. County Councillor Geoff Webber's motion, seconded by County Councillor Bryn Griffiths, invited the council to consider:

That this council allocates 20% of the net profit made by Brierley Homes to a fund specifically to support the provision of social housing.'

6. When attending the committee meeting on the 2 September to introduce the motion, the mover and seconder of the motion made the following comments (paraphrased):

The Government acknowledges that housing is a priority at both national and local level, recognising that it is a key driver for other strategic ambitions such as growth, education, health and for stronger communities. Britain faces a housing crisis; there is a shortage of affordable homes in many areas, particularly social homes for rent.

Everyone deserves a safe, secure, and affordable place to call home. Quoting from a recent shelter report, adequate social housing provision contributes to the

wellbeing of both parents and children. Studies show that children in stable housing do better in school and are less likely to experience disruption in their education due to unwanted moves. Housing also is important to the economic vitality of communities. Social housing and affordable homes can attract and retain employees to our communities, and support the local workforce so they can live close to their jobs. A healthy mix of housing options ensures opportunities for all individuals to improve their economic situation and to contribute to their communities.

Proper provision of social housing is, therefore, at the heart of what we, as a local authority, are trying to achieve in terms of the welfare of the population we serve. While housing is a responsibility of district councils, a lack of council houses impacts on a number of county council responsibilities, such as education, public health and social services.

The county council shares a common purpose with all local authorities and housing associations to find ways to stimulate and support social housing initiatives. What is stopping us is a lack of political will. Adopting the motion in order that the county council pursues the course recommended would ensure that we are doing our bit.

Officer Advice to the Committee.

7. We reviewed the officer advice.
8. Brierley Homes is a start-up business created by the County Council to develop housing and to create value for its shareholder. The business operates as a commercial sector organisation and conforms to local planning policy, including the need to be policy compliant with affordable housing at each of its sites on a case by case basis, subject to viability.
9. **Cash Issue** - The business plan approved by the Shareholder Committee on 23 April outlines the existing portfolio of sites that are being considered for development up to 2023/24. Within that timeframe, the company has highlighted the need to drawdown £8m of the £25m loan available. The plan also highlights the need to reinvest any surplus generated from sites to avoid drawing down further on the loan. Subsequently the company will be obliged to repay the loan. As such in the medium term (next 5 years) the company will not have cash available to distribute profit for the purpose of social housing.
10. **Issue of Principle** - The County Council has progressed the commercial agenda as a means to reduce the impact of austerity by using surplus generated to support frontline services. Within the Council's existing medium term financial strategy £1.6m saving has been achieved through commercial endeavours. This is a direct benefit to the Council reducing its need to make savings elsewhere and therefore to some extent relieving the pressure on frontline services.
11. **Planning Compliance** - Brierley Homes operates in a competitive environment, through that it must ensure compliance with planning policy in the same way any private sector organisation would do. As such Brierley Homes delivers the affordable housing component of a site where viability allows, on a site by site basis.

Views expressed at the Committee Meeting

12. The substance of the motion and the implications of adopting it were deliberated upon at great length.
13. We needed to properly understand what the likely effect of adopting the motion would be on the business operation of Brierley Homes and the Brierley Group. Coincidentally, but fortuitously, the 2018-19 Brierley Group report was up for review at our meeting. I am aware that the Executive has already received this report so will not repeat its content here. Having this before us meant we could take into account directly relevant background information about the business objectives, financial structure and performance of the Group, including Brierley Homes. We were, therefore, well placed to make an objective assessment not just of the information in the officer's report, but also to reach an informed view about his recommendation.
14. In this context, the following officer advice weighed heavily in our considerations.

In-line with the agreed business plan, any profit generated is initially to be reinvested into the business to allow it to grow, and any future dividend distributions are to be used to subsidise Council business therefore partially offsetting the need to reduce frontline services.

As the business is still in early stages of its own development, it is recommended that any ask of its profit not be considered at this point in time so that the company has the ability to grow in-line with its approved business plan.

The Committee's Recommendation

15. For the following two main reasons, the Committee concluded (by majority vote) not to support the motion:
 - a) Members acknowledged the laudable intentions underpinning the motion - that of improving the availability of housing bearing in mind its key role in promoting health and opportunity. Local government is at the heart of the housing solution. And, like all local authorities, the county council has a role to play in promoting housing activity - across all tenures - and ensuring delivery to meet the housing market needs of their local population. But the county council does not have a statutory duty for housing. In a two tier area the responsibility in relation to the provision of social housing remains with district and borough authorities. Any intervention into this arena must not prejudice the council's interests.
 - b) Members were mindful of committing Brierley Homes, so early in its business plan and development, to a course of action the effect of which would be to restrict and most likely impair the Group's ability to achieve its primary objectives.

Since the committee meeting, County Councillor Webber has advised that, ideally, he would want to change the wording of the motion to remove any ambiguity around how the "...20% *net profit*" was interpreted. He confirmed that his intention was for the 20% figure to refer to what a commercial company would term a dividend. He may wish to comment upon this when you meet.

16. Given that at the time the scrutiny committee met this was not the interpretation members were invited to place upon the motion, it is not clear whether this different meaning would have influenced the position the committee arrived at.

DEREK BASTIMAN

Chairman, Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON
4 October 2019

Background Documents - Nil.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****Response by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Notice of Motion on contributions to a flood and coastal protection scheme.****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the recommendation of the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in response to a Notice of Motion suggesting that ‘the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers’.

Background

2. A Notice of Motion was put to County Council on 24 July 2019 by County Councillor Derek Bastiman, seconded by County Councillor David Jeffels, proposing that ‘the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers’.
3. The Chairman determined that the Motion should not be debated on the day, and instead referred it to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. The Notice of Motion was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24 October 2019. After some deliberation, the Committee resolved that the Chairman, Councillor Derek Bastiman, write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to call for the financial contribution from utility companies to be mandatory. The Committee also authorised Councillor Derek Bastiman in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA SIG) Coastal Issues to contact (in consultation with the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council) other relevant agencies to call for utility companies to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution where flood defence schemes will protect their infrastructure.

Recommendation

5. That County Council agree to support the recommended course of action determined by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24 October 2019.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services)
North Yorkshire County Council

Author:
Jonathan Spencer
Principal Scrutiny Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
1 November 2019