



# **QUARTERLY MEETING**

**19 February 2019**

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes  
and Reports**



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend the Meeting of the County Council to be held at **Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton, DL6 2UU**, on **Wednesday 19 February 2020 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 6 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 13 November 2019** having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(Pages 5 to 11)

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 12 to 14)

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](mailto: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, 14 February 2020**. 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. Appointment of Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services**

County Council to note the appointment of Karl Battersby as the new Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services. Karl Battersby, an experienced candidate with over 12 years Director experience, was selected for the post, following David Bowe's decision to retire in July 2020. The Chief Officers Disciplinary and Appointments Sub Committee undertook a robust recruitment process, which attracted a strong field of 40 applications.

- 8.** To consider the **report and recommendations of the Allocations Committee** and make decisions on them.

**(Report not yet available)**

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

**Executive Report only (Pages 15 to 22)**

- 1** Budget - Executive Summary

**(Appendices Booklet pages 3 to 7)**

- A. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24, Revenue Budget and Council Tax

**(Appendices Booklet pages 8 to 166)**

- B. Capital Plan

**(Appendices Booklet pages 167 to 182)**

- C. Treasury Management

**(Appendices Booklet pages 183 to 243)**

- 2** The Council Plan

**(Appendices Booklet pages 244 to 273)**

- 3** School Admission Arrangements 2021/22

**(Appendices Booklet pages 274 to 344)**

- 4** Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution

**(Appendices Booklet pages 345 to 360)**

- 10.** To consider the **report and recommendations of the Members' Independent Remuneration Panel** and make decisions on them.

**(Pages 23 to 34)**

- 11. 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 35 to 53)**

- (a) Executive Member for Customer Engagement - County Councillor Greg White
- (b) Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects - County Councillor Gareth Dadd
- (c) Executive Member for Children's Services - County Councillor Janet Sanderson

- (d) Executive Member for Education and Skills - County Councillor Patrick Mulligan
- (e) Executive Member for Access - County Councillor Don Mackenzie
- (f) Executive Member for Stronger Communities - County Councillor David Chance
- (g) Executive Member for Health and Adult Services - County Councillor Michael Harrison
- (h) Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing - County Councillor Caroline Dickinson
- (i) Executive Member for Open to Business - County Councillor Andrew Lee

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:**

**(Pages 54 to 66)**

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

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 18 February 2020**, the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, and this is then circulated to all Members.

**12. Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion have been received within the deadline.

**13. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions**

RICHARD FLINTON  
Chief Executive Officer

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON.  
11 February 2020

# North Yorkshire County Council

## County Council

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held at The Golden Lion, Northallerton on 13 November 2019 commencing at 10.30 am.

### **PRESENT:-**

County Councillor Jim Clark in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Andrew Backhouse, Bob Baker, Philip Barrett, Derek Bastiman, David Blades, Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Liz Colling, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, John Ennis, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, Bryn Griffiths, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Robert Heseltine, Mel Hobson, David Hugill, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Stanley Lumley, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackay, Don Mackenzie, John Mann, Stuart Martin MBE, John McCartney, Zoe Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Stuart Parsons, Caroline Patmore, Yvonne Peacock, Chris Pearson, Clive Pearson, Joe Plant, Gillian Quinn, Tony Randerson, Janet Sanderson, Karin Sedgwick, Andy Solloway, Peter Sowray, Helen Swiers, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter, Callam Walsh, John Weighell OBE, Richard Welch, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Windass.

### **APOLOGIES:-**

County Councillors: Lindsey Burr MBE, Richard Cooper, David Goode, Roberta Swiers and Geoff Webber.

### **ATTENDING:-**

Honorary Aldermen: John Fort BEM.

A member of the press was present. There were no members of the public.

### **106. Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 24 July 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 24 July 2019, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**107. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted.

**108. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to note.

**109. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Yvonne Peacock to her first County Council meeting.

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

The Chairman acknowledged the sad and untimely death of former County Councillor Caroline Seymour. Caroline served as a County Councillor from 1989 until 2013 and was the County Council Chairman in 2010/11.

County Councillor Bryn Griffiths paid tribute to former County Councillor Caroline Seymour. A minute's silence was held.

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

**110. 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 11456 to 11458 of the Minute Book).

County Councillor Carl Les welcomed County Councillor Yvonne Peacock her first meeting of the County Council since her election to the Upper Dales seat in October 2019.

County Councillor Carl Les noted that County Councillors Andrew Lee and Mike Jordan were standing in the Parliamentary Elections on 12 December 2019 and wished them luck.

**111. Public Questions or Statements**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

**112. Allocations Committee**

The recommendation in the report (page 11462 of the Minute Book) 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 following changes be made:

### Scrutiny and Audit

- County Councillor Stuart Parsons to come off Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- County Councillor Yvonne Peacock to be appointed to the vacancy on the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 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

- County Councillor Andrew Jenkinson declined to take up the appointment to the Appeals Committee (Home to School Transport) and nominated County Councillor Stephanie Duckett in his place.

## **113. Report of the Executive**

### Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring

The section of the quarterly performance and budget monitoring report at paragraph 3.1 of the report (page 11466 of the Minute Book) 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 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 approved.

### Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board

The recommendation at paragraph 3.2 of the report (page 11467 of the Minute Book) 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 Annual Report of the Pension Board for 2018/19, as Administering Authority for North Yorkshire Pension Board, be noted.

### North Yorkshire Pension Board - Amendment to Terms of Reference

The recommendation at paragraph 3.3 (page 11467 of the Minute Book) 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 amended Terms of Reference for North Yorkshire Pension Board be approved.

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

The recommendation at paragraph 3.4 (page 11467 of the Minute Book) 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 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.

**114. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**

The recommendation at paragraph 3 of the report (page 11468 of the Minute Book) 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 following be re-appointed to the North Yorkshire Pension Board of David Portlock - Independent Chair; Gordon Gresty (retired member) - Scheme Member Representative; Louise Branford-White (Hambleton District Council) - Employer Representative and County Councillor Bob Baker - North Yorkshire County Council representative.

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 Standards Committee, the Pension Fund Committee and the Chief Officers Appointments and Disciplinary Committee.

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

**115. Standards Committee**

The recommendation (page 11470 of the Minute Book) 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 Annual Report of the Standards Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**116. Audit Committee**

The recommendation (page 11476 of the Minute Book) 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 Annual Report of the Audit Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**117. Statements of Executive Members and Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

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 11486 to 11487).

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 11488 to 11490), 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 (pages 11492 and 11493).

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 11494 to 11495).

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 11496 to 11497), 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 11498 to 11500), 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 11502 to 11504).

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 11506 to 11507).

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 11508 to 11510), and responded to 11510 questions.

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 11512 to 11528) were noted.

## 118. Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were received within the deadline.

Two Notices of Motion that had been put to Council on 24 July 2019 and referred to overview and scrutiny were considered.

### (a) Brierley Homes

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:

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

A statement written by County Councillor Geoff Webber, who was unable to attend the meeting, was circulated and read out by County Councillor Bryn Griffiths.

The motion, as originally moved at the meeting of County Council on 24 July 2019, was considered.

**The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared defeated, with 58 against, 8 in favour and 1 abstention.**

### (b) Contributions to a Flood and Coastal Protection Scheme

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.”

The motion, as originally moved at the meeting of County Council on 24 July 2019, was considered.

An amendment was moved and seconded, in line with the recommendations of the report from the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (page 11539 of the Minute Book).

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

**119. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions**

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

#### **Financial Settlement**

Elsewhere in this agenda we will consider in great detail the financial settlement made to us by the government. In arriving at a balanced budget as required by law we must consider the savings and efficiencies we can make, the settlement made to us, and the level of council tax we need to levy to make the equation work.

I'm grateful to government Ministers for listening to our concerns, either made directly to them or through our membership of the County Council Network, and for the support given to us by our MP's who have also taken up our issues.

We have played our part in the programme of austerity that has allowed central government to address the imbalance in the national economy. Now as austerity comes to an end we can look forward not only to increases in infrastructure spending, but also a fairer funding review to address the iniquitous position where rural areas must pay 3 or more times the level of council tax compared to large cities and London.

We will also welcome a more equitable way of funding adult social care.

#### **Climate Change**

Progress is being made on developing the Council's carbon reduction plan linked to with our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030.

I would like to thank Cllr Stanley Lumley and his joint scrutiny committee, and Cllr Greg White leading a small part of the Executive, for the work they have done since the last Council meeting. I intend continuing making a statement about progress made at each Council, but I anticipate that Greg will present more detailed reports as we proceed.

The council's aspiration to be carbon neutral has been included as an integral part of the council's ambitions and values in the draft council plan that you be considering later in this meeting.

As reported to the Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee on 22 January 2020 (<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=117&meetid=4398>) we have established a baseline carbon footprint figure for the Council in 2018/19 of 13,492 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, which includes corporate buildings, street lighting and business travel. This is down from 19,574 tCO<sub>2</sub>e four years earlier, a reduction of just over 30%. Our carbon footprint is moving in the right direction, but there is still a long way to go in next 10 years. We also need to reduce our wider carbon footprint and to encourage, in conjunction with partners, a reduction in the carbon footprint of the whole county.

We have identified eight areas with the potential to make a very significant change to the Council's carbon footprint and have started to explore the feasibility and impact of these:

- Solar farm
- NYCC vehicle fleet
- Home to school transport
- Converting all buildings to high efficiency gas boilers

- Converting all buildings to alternative methods of heating
- Tree planting and peat restoration as a method of offsetting
- Buying only electricity produced from renewable sources
- Support for schools and other organisations related to the council to significantly improve their energy efficiency

Each of the eight areas will have its own challenges and costs, and these will need to be worked on and understood. In some of the areas we may be able to recover the capital cost within a few years, for others it may take significantly longer. One of the questions that will need to be explored is what level of 'green premium' is the council able and prepared to spend for what reduction in our carbon footprint, and where is that money going to from?

Alongside the eight areas we will continue to increase our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint through everyday management and personal activity such as reducing energy use through simple things like switching off lights and computers when not needed, challenging the necessity for travel, taking every opportunity when equipment need to be replaced or services need designing to make the best choices.

### **Rural Commission**

The eight independent Rural Commissioners have started their investigation into the sustainability of our most rural communities. This is a unique and dynamic initiative by the Council to address the crisis in rurality, and we should congratulate the Commissioners for the way they are going about their task, and be grateful to them for giving up their time so willingly. The Commission's job is to provide an action plan and workable recommendations to maximise sustainability over the next 10, 20 and 30 years and to refresh the evidence base as leverage for increased Government support.

The Commission is wanting to hear from local people, businesses and organisations about the issues that affect our most rural communities. Written submissions can be sent by email to [ruralcommission@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ruralcommission@northyorks.gov.uk) at any time up until May 2020. The Commission is also holding focused meetings with local people, farmers, businesses, business networks and support organisations, public sector partners and academics, and will be visiting some rural communities.

Meetings to date have focussed on food, farming and the economy; with future sessions focusing on housing, transport, education, connectivity and the environment. The Commission is expected to report in autumn 2020 and the report will then be considered by the Council, and our partners, and action plans developed.

I would ask you to encourage local people, businesses and organisations with views and practical ideas about the issues that affect our most rural communities to contact the Commission – further information is available at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-rural-commission>.

### **Salt of the Earth – celebrating kindness in North Yorkshire communities**

There is already an abundance of kindness in North Yorkshire, with an active and thriving network of volunteers and dedicated community groups. Acts of kindness make a huge difference to people and that giving and welcoming culture is something we are famous for the world over.

We are celebrating that North Yorkshire spirit - with Salt of the Earth - a kindness movement which aims to galvanise even broader social action in our communities.

In partnership with JPI media and Newsquest, and supported by BBC Radio York, we aim to engage and inspire a wider audience to make a difference by seeing kindness as 'just what we do in North Yorkshire'. We will tackle misconceptions over the next 12 months and try, where we can, to remove the barriers - perceived real -that get in the way of people helping each other out.

### **Devolution**

This seems to have been a long time coming, but we are finally making some progress. Clear messages have been received from government, that One Yorkshire will not happen in this Parliament, and that sub-regional deals if pursued actively will be successful in outcomes. Consequently Sheffield City Region is agreed, and we should recognise the compromises that will have been made on all sides to allow this to happen; West Yorkshire is ready for signing, and negotiations have started for a York & North Yorkshire set of devolved powers.

Devolution remains the right thing to do, if only for two reasons – it comes with gainshare of many millions of pounds over a long and guaranteed time period, and decision making on our existing funding streams passes from Whitehall to local town halls.

However, once we have the details to accompany the framework of devolved powers we will then need to communicate the benefits to our communities, as one change in governance that will be required will be the creation of an elected mayor, working with a Combined Authority. It will be essential to keep this arrangement small, responsive and above all inexpensive.

CARL LES

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**19 February 2020**  
**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 26 November 2019, 17 December 2019, 14 January 2020 and 4 February 2020.

**2.2 26 November 2019 Executive (Performance Monitoring) meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 26 November 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 were present.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Annabel Wilkinson, Stanley Lumley and Andrew Paraskos.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Quarterly Performance and Budget report.
- North Yorkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services.
- Participation in the Government's Global Resettlement Scheme.
- Appointments to Committee and Other Bodies.
- Consideration of Potential Investment Opportunity - Private Item.
- 5G Rural Connected Communities - Private Item.

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4037>

**2.3 17 December 2019 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 17 December 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 were present.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Paul Haslam.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Area Constituency Committee Feedback.
- Trading Standards Enforcement Policy.
- Medical Education Service - Proposal for Alternative Model.

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4038>

#### 2.4 **14 January 2020 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 14 January 2020. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White were present.

Apologies: County Councillor Don Mackenzie

Substantive agenda items were:

- Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution.
- Parental Leave Policy for County Councillors.
- Schools Budget.
- Appointments to Committee and Other Bodies.
- Extra Care Housing in Bedale - Outcome of Procurement and Consideration of Scheme Proposals - Appendices A and B confidential.

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4039>

#### 2.5 **4 February 2020 Executive meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 4 February 2020. 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 were present.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Area Constituency Committee Feedback.
- Budget 2020/21 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- Council Plan 2020-2024.
- Admissions Arrangements 2021/2020.
- Harrogate Rail Line Enhancement Scheme - Confidential item.

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4040>

#### 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 26 November 2019. The Executive were asked to consider the proposed Prudential Indicators and make a recommendation to Council. This is detailed on page 72 of the Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report.



**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

The revised Prudential Indicators for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as detailed in paragraphs 3.24 to 3.26 on page 72 of the Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report be recommended to the County Council for approval.

**3.2 Budget 2020/21 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)**

This item was considered at Executive on 4 February 2020, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020/21 to 2023/24, the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 and Council Tax for 2020/21.

A full copy of the report is available in the Appendices Booklet, section 9.1A pages 8 to 166.

Please note that some minor updates have been made to the Budget Report to ensure that it better reflects discussions at the Executive on 4 February 2020. These are section 3.4.17 and section 8.15 in the report. See Appendices Booklet, section 9.1A at pages 20 and 45 respectively. The updates have also been highlighted in the report to make it clear what the additional material is.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the County Council approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020/21 to 2023/24, the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 and Council Tax for 2020/21, which includes.
  - a) The Section 25 assurance statement provided by the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (paragraph 8.15) and the risk assessment of the MTFS detailed in Section 9 be noted.
  - b) In accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 75 of The Localism Act 2011), a Council Tax requirement for 2020/21 of £321,725,322 be approved and that a Council Tax precept of this sum be issued to billing authorities in North Yorkshire (Section 3.3 and Appendix C).
  - c) In accordance with Section 42B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 75 of The Localism Act 2011) a basic amount (Band D equivalent) of Council Tax of £1,363.47 be approved (paragraph 3.3.6 and Appendix C).
  - d) A Net Revenue Budget for 2020/21, after use of reserves, of £389,489k (Section 4.0 and Appendix F) be approved and that the financial allocations to each Directorate, net of planned savings, be as detailed in Appendix B.
  - e) In the event that the final Local Government Settlement results in a variance of less than £5m in 2020/21 then the difference to be addressed by a transfer to / from the Strategic Capacity Unallocated Reserve in line with paragraph 3.2.8 with such changes being made to Appendix D as appropriate.

- f) The Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service be authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and the Executive Members for Schools and Finance, to take the final decision on the allocation of the Schools Budget including High Needs, Early Years and the Central Schools Services Block (paragraph 3.4.12).
- g) The Fees and Charges Strategy set out at Appendix M be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2020 (para 3.5.6).
- h) A one-off sum of £1m be provided in 2020/21 to work up potential solutions which will help to advocate for capital funding for the Council and its schools as set out in paragraph 3.9.2.
- i) A recurring sum of £3m be provided as an annual refresh sum for the Council’s IT capability in line with paragraph 3.9.3. and that such funding be released subject to satisfactory business cases resulting in the approval of the Corporate Director of Strategic Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for IT and the Executive Member for Finance.
- j) A one-off sum of £2m be provided in 2020/21 to fund potential future redundancy costs as set out in paragraph 3.9.5. k) and that a recurring sum of £5.1m be provided in 2020/21 followed by a further recurring sum of £5.1m in 2021/22 in order to address sustainability issues in the care sector in line with paragraph 3.9.6.
- l) The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2023/24, and its caveats, as laid out in Section 3.0 and Appendix F be approved.
- m) The Corporate Director – Business & Environmental Services be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for BES, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix A1 (BES 1 to 6).
- n) The Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for HAS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix A1 (HAS 1 to 12).
- o) The Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Services be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for CYPS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix A1 (CYPS 1 to 11).
- p) The Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Central Services, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix A1 (CS 1 to 10).
- q) Any outcomes requiring changes following Recommendations m), n), o) and p) above be brought back to the Executive to consider and, where changes are recommended to the existing major policy framework, then such matters to be considered by full County Council.
- r) The existing policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance be retained at £27m in line with paragraphs 3.6.4 to 3.6.5 and Appendix E.
- s) The attached pay policy statement (Appendix H) covering the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 be approved as set out in Section 6.
- 2. That County Council note and agree the delegation arrangements referred to in Section 10 that authorise the Corporate Directors to implement the Budget

proposals contained in the report for their respective service areas, and for the Chief Executive in those areas where there are cross-Council proposals

3. That County Council have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (identified in Section 7 and Appendix I) in approving the Budget proposals contained in the report.

### 3.4 Capital Five Year Spending Plan

This item was considered at Executive on 4 February 2020, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval the Capital Plan Five Year Spending Plan.

A full copy of the report is available in the Appendices Booklet, section 9.1B pages 167 to 182.

#### **The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That County Council approve the Capital Plan Five Year Spending Plan, which includes:

- a) The refreshed Capital Plan summarised at paragraph 3.4 be approved
- b) No action be taken at this stage to allocate any additional capital resources (paragraph 6.7); and
- c) The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to issue the certificate under the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 to confirm the County Council's powers to enter into the Deed of Variation in respect of the proposed expansion of Barlby Community Primary School and that an indemnity be given by the County Council to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services, against any claim that may arise out of or in connection with the issue of the certificate under the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 as outlined at paragraph 3.12.

### 3.5 Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21

This item was considered at Executive on 4 February 2020, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21.

A full copy of the report is available in the Appendices Booklet, section 9.1C pages 183 to 243.

#### **The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That County Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21, which includes:

- a) The Treasury Management Strategy at Annex 1, including:
- b) The Capital Prudential Indicators (Appendix A), Borrowing Strategy and Treasury Prudential Indicators (Appendix B) and Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21 (Appendix C), and in particular:

- i. an authorised limit for external debt of £576m in 2020/21;
  - ii. an operational boundary for external debt of £556m in 2020/21;
  - iii. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 to 2022/23;
  - iv. a limit of £40m of the total cash sums available for investment (both in house and externally managed) to be invested in Non-Specified Investments over 365 days;
  - v. a 10% cap on capital financing costs as a proportion of the annual Net Revenue Budget;
  - vi. a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for debt repayment to be charged to Revenue in 2020/21;
  - vii. the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources to report to the County Council if and when necessary during the year on any changes to this Strategy arising from the use of operational leasing, PFI or other innovative methods of funding not previously approved by the County Council;
- c) The Capital Strategy at Appendix D.
- d) The Treasury Management Policy Statement as attached as Schedule 1;
- e) That the Audit Committee be invited to review Annex 1 including Appendices A to D and Schedules 1 to 6 and submit any proposals to the Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

### 3.6 Council Plan 2020-2024

This item was considered at Executive on 4 February 2020, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval the draft Council Plan and that the County Council authorise the Chief Executive to make any necessary changes to the text, including reflecting decisions made by the County Council on the budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and updated performance data.

A copy of the County Council Plan report is available in the Appendices Booklet, section 9.2 pages 244 to 273.

#### **The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That County Council approve the draft Council Plan and authorises the Chief Executive to make any necessary changes to the text, including reflecting decisions made by the County Council on the budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and updated performance data.

### 3.7 Admissions Policy 2021-22

This item was considered at Executive on 4 February 2020, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the school year 2021/22.

A copy of the Admission Policy 2021-22 report is available in the Appendices Booklet,

section 9.3 pages 274 to 344.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That County Council approve the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the school year 2021/22, which include:

- The proposed admission policy for community and voluntary controlled schools; and
- The proposed admission policy for nursery schools, schools with nursery classes and pre-reception classes, appendices 1 & 2.
- The proposed co-ordinated admission arrangements appendix 3
- The proposed In-Year Fair Access Protocol appendix 4
- The proposed published admission numbers (PAN's) for community and voluntary controlled schools as shown in appendices 5 (Primary) and 6 (Secondary)
- Catchment area Admiral Long CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School and Ripley Endowed CE Voluntary Controlled School appendix 7
- Catchment area Malton School appendix 8.

3.8 **Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution**

This item was considered at Executive on 14 January 2020. It was recommended that the proposed changes to the Constitution be approved at the meeting of County Council on 19 February 2020.

A copy of the report on Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution is available in the Appendices Booklet, section 9.4 pages 345 to 360.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

That County Council approve the proposed changes to the Constitution outlined in:

- the Amendments Chart at Appendix 1
- Appendices 2 and 4
- the Officers' Delegation Scheme and consequential amendments to the Executive Members' Delegation Scheme as set out in Appendix 3.

3.9 **Appointments to Committee and Other Bodies**

The following appointments to the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board are for County Council to note:

The Executive met on 26 November 2019 and approved the appointment of Rachel Pippin of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service as the Emergency Services representative on the Board.

The Executive met on 14 January 2020 and approved the following appointments to the Board:

- a. Steve Russell, Chief Executive of Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust as the representative of Acute and Community Hospitals
- b. Fiona Bell-Morrith, Lead Officer, Primary Care, as the nominated substitute for Phil Mettam, Accountable Officer, Vale of York CCG
- c. Wendy Balmain, Director of Strategy and Integration, as the nominated substitute of Amanda Bloor, Accountable Officer for the North Yorkshire CCGs.

**The Executive RECOMMENDS:**

|  |
|--|
| <p>That County Council notes the appointments to the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> |
|--|

CARL LES  
Chairman  
County Hall  
Northallerton

10 February 2020

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2020

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

**1.0 PURPOSE OF PAPER**

- 1.1 (a) To bring to the attention of the County Council the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration.
- (b) To seek approval to the recommended scheme of allowances for 2020/21.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The report of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration is attached as **Appendix A** for consideration by the County Council.
- 2.2 The County Council needs to consider the report and its recommendations and decide whether it wishes to amend its allowances scheme.

**3.0 PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 In making its recommendations, the Panel considered the allowances paid at the current time in the context of the current financial climate, and also comparator information from other Councils.
- 3.2 The County Council must approve any amendments to the Members' Scheme of Allowances, and must approve a Scheme of Allowances before the start of the financial year. The Panel has recommended the following changes to the current scheme:
- An increase of 2.6% to the Basic Allowance and all unit-based Special Responsibility Allowances. The Basic Allowance would therefore rise to £10,142 and the Special Responsibility Allowances would increase to the levels shown in Appendix 3.
  - Following a recommendation from the Panel two years ago, the Council agreed that if attendance falls below a benchmark of 60%, Members would be invited to return of a proportion of any allowances received, except where there are mitigating circumstances such as illness. The Panel is now recommending that this threshold is raised to 66%.
  - The Panel recommends that, if there are any increases in the travel and subsistence rates payable to staff, a similar increase should be made to the rates in the Members' Allowances Scheme to come into effect at the same time.

**4.0 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

- 4.1 In line with the Regulations and previous practice, a notice publicising the report of the Panel has been placed in the Yorkshire Post and on the County Council's website. A copy of the report has been made available for public inspection at County Hall.
- 4.2 If the County Council adopts the proposed Allowances Scheme then it must ensure that copies of the Scheme are available for inspection by the public. In addition the Council must publish in one or more newspapers circulating in their area a notice which states that the Council has amended the Allowances Scheme and specify the period of time for which the

Scheme has effect. In line with previous practice, this notice will be placed in the Yorkshire Post, and on the County Council's website.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 That the County Council approves:

- (a) An increase of 2.6% to the Basic Allowance and all unit-based Special Responsibility Allowances
- (b) That County Councillors are invited to voluntarily return a proportion of their allowance if their attendance falls below a benchmark of 66%, except where there are mitigating circumstances such as illness, in line with the existing scheme for County Councillors
- (c) That, if there are any increases in the travel and subsistence rates payable to staff, a similar increase be made to the rates in the Members' Allowances Scheme, to come into effect at the same time.

Report prepared by:

Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Democratic Services

Background papers: None

County Hall  
Northallerton  
31 January 2020



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON THE REMUNERATION OF**  
**MEMBERS OF NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**2020/21**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

We are a Remuneration Panel of four members, convened by legislation approved in 2003. Although appointed by North Yorkshire County Council we are, as agreed in writing, an independent body. Our responsibility is to review the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme to ensure that payments are set at the appropriate level to undertake the role and, at the same time, to ensure the Scheme is sufficiently attractive to all who would wish to serve as a Councillor of North Yorkshire.

The Panel as agreed (by Council in 2009) was that:

- The Panel would consist of a maximum of four members and that there would normally be a four year term of office. A member could be reappointed for a further term of four years, meaning that each member could only sit for a maximum of eight years on the Panel
- In 2011 it was confirmed by Council that the Panel chooses its own Chairman
- There should be a recruitment process even for Panel members who have sat the original four year term
- Regarding independence, although the HMRC treat any allowance as taxable employment income, Panel members are not employees and are therefore independent of the Council. Panel members do not have a line manager in the Council and therefore are under no direction or influence from the Council in any way. Any remuneration is taxable through the NYCC payroll, but the appointment is not pensionable. Panel members can claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred on IRP business at rates set by NYCC.

We make recommendations to the County Council on the levels of remuneration we consider are justified for Council's Members to retain the balance between public duty and a realistic recompense for the time given up, commitment and responsibility to undertake the role.

In our 2018/19 report we recommended a 4.5% increase in the Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowance unit rate (SRAs). We recognised that this was not an insignificant amount at a time of financial stringency, but we believed that this was affordable, justified and necessary to compensate Members adequately for the duties they perform and to encourage a wide range of people to consider becoming Councillors, as well as to go some way to restoring North Yorkshire's Basic Allowance comparator position from its 14<sup>th</sup> position out of 16 comparator county councils.

For 2019/20 we continued to believe there was a case for a further increase in allowances for the reasons described above, but our recommendations were tempered by the financial challenges which continued to face the Council and the projected salary increases for its own employees. Despite the increases over the last three years, North Yorkshire's position is still 9% below the average for comparator county councils following increases elsewhere (see Appendix 1).

For 2020/21 we are recommending that Members agree to an increase this year in the Basic Allowance of 2.6%, taking account of prevailing and forecast inflation. The Basic Allowance would therefore become £10,142, with the value of a unit increasing to £1,741. The aggregate cost of the increase in the Basic Allowance would be £18,504 per annum.

The Panel did not carry out any ad hoc reviews of Special Responsibility Allowances this year as no submissions were received. The overall annual cost increase of our recommendations on County Council Special Responsibility Allowances would be £7,240, reflecting the 2.6% increase across all Special Responsibility Allowances.

The total financial implication of our recommendations for the Council's budget for 2020/21 would be £25,744. This represents less than 0.01% of the Council's net budget.

The Panel has reviewed the threshold for attendance at meetings and recommends that this be increased from 60% to 66%. If a Councillor's attendance falls below 66% over a 12 month period, they should be requested to repay an appropriate sum of the allowances received during that period, subject to mitigating circumstances such as illness or parental leave.

In relation to Travel and Subsistence Allowances, the Panel recommends that if there are any increases in the rates payable to staff, that a similar increase should be made to the rates in the Members' Allowance Scheme to come into effect at the same time.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Panel is convened under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These regulations, which arise out of the relevant provisions in the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to review and provide advice to their council on Members' allowances. This allows an independent group to review and make recommendations on the appropriate levels of remuneration and expenses to Councillors who, by law, have to make a decision on the levels of remuneration and expenses they collectively receive.
- 1.2 In 2018/19 the Panel also commenced reviews for the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panels currently overseen by the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.3 The County Council seeks the advice of the Panel before it makes any changes or amendments to its Members' Allowance Scheme and therefore should consider its recommendations and its reasoning before setting a new or amended Members' Allowance Scheme.
- 1.4 The current membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel is as follows:-

### **Mr John Thompson – Chairman**

Appointed in December 2013. Reappointed 2019 – past employment includes: Regional Manager for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Regional Director, Yorkshire & Humber for the Institute of Directors. Former Magistrate for 8 years. Director and senior manager of several diverse companies and PLCs and member of a range of business advisory groups, boards etc. Holds and has held a wide range of voluntary/community positions.

### **Mr Howard Whitehead**

Appointed in 2016 – past employment includes American, Dutch, UK multinational and private businesses in engineering, manufacturing, chemicals and distribution in senior positions up to Shareholder and Director level. A fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and previous Governing Council Member for 9 years.

### **Mr Keith Trotter**

Appointed in 2016 – Retired Managing Director of hardware company. A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Member of the Institute of Consultants and a Certified Management Consultant. Member of the Volunteering Programme for Start Up Companies financed by the Business Enterprise Fund.

### **Dr Stuart Green**

Appointed in 2019 – Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Current employment as a lecturer at a leading UK university. Holds and has held a variety of non-executive and governance roles.

- 1.5 The Terms of Reference of the Panel are currently as follows:
  - (i) To consider issues relating to Members' remuneration and expenses;
  - (ii) To consider representations;
  - (iii) To make recommendations and provide advice to the County Council;
  - (iv) To carry out a full review of Special Responsibility Allowances for implementation every 4 years (the last being 2019/20);
  - (v) To respond to requests to consider issues relating to the remuneration and expenses of independent and community members on relevant bodies;

(vi) To consider the remuneration of Councillors serving on other bodies/organisations when requested.

- 1.6 The Panel consists of four members, recruited by open advert, for a four year term of office. It is open for any member of the public to apply. Members can be appointed for a further term of up to four years. Appointments to the Panel are made by the Leaders of formal Groups, the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer. The Panel chooses its Chairman.

## 2.0 CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Panel carried out research over the autumn of 2019 and met at County Hall in September and November 2019 to consider evidence as part of its review and to formulate its recommendations. The evidence considered included national and local contextual information on benchmarking data, attendance data, financial context and input from Group Leaders and senior council officers.
- 2.2 **Attendance at meetings 2018/19** – Overall attendance of Councillors was at 80.4% in 2018/19. The attendance level for full meetings of the County Council was 90.6%. This is a decrease on the previous year (86.6% and 92.3% respectively). Nevertheless, we consider these attendance levels to be satisfactory.
- 2.3 Three years ago the Council accepted our recommendation that if a Councillor's attendance falls below 60% over a 12 month period, they should be requested to repay an appropriate sum of the allowances received during that period, subject to mitigating circumstances such as illness. The Council cannot enforce this repayment but we recommended that a strong message should be endorsed by the Council that attendance at meetings is a critical part of a Councillor's representative role. Last year we reviewed this threshold and recommended that it remained at 60% but also that the attendance at the Police, Fire and Crime Panel was similarly monitored for all members of that Panel.
- 2.4 We have reviewed this threshold again this year and recommend that it is now raised to 66%. Whilst we recognise that a Councillor's representative role goes well beyond attendance at formal Council meetings, we believe that Councillors should make every effort to attend meetings of those formal Council committees to which they have been appointed.
- 2.5 **Financial position of the Council** – Council funding continues to be challenging in the context of uncertainty around future funding and the wider economy. The County Council has already achieved savings of £172.9m over ten years but still needs to find a further £24.8m by the end of 2021/22. The Council continues to work on plans and proposals for further savings to meet the remaining funding gap.
- 2.6 We also took account of the external auditor's annual audit letter for 2018/19 and the conclusions reached about the Council's arrangements to secure value for money, having looked at the Council's arrangements to make informed decision making, sustainable resource deployment and working with partners and third parties. The auditors continued to be satisfied that the authority had appropriate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.
- 2.7 **Inflation rates** - The figures below show the latest position.

|                            | Inflation Rates for the preceding 12 months up to |               |               |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
|                            | December 2017                                     | December 2018 | December 2019 |
| Retail Price Index (RPI)   | 4.1%  | 2.7%          | 2.2%          |
| Consumer Price Index (CPI) | 3.0%  | 2.1%          | 1.3%          |

Source ONS website

- 2.8 **Local Government Pay Award** – Following a two year pay agreement reached in 2018, most local government employees, including Chief Executives and Senior Managers, received a 2% increase in April 2019. Those on the lowest pay grades received a larger increase, as in previous years. Local government unions have submitted a 10% pay claim to the national employers' body for next year. North Yorkshire County Council is currently budgeting for a 2% increase in 2020/21.
- 2.9 **Residents' views** – In 2017 the Panel broke new ground by canvassing the views of the public on the Members' Allowances Scheme through the Citizens' Panel Survey. As a reminder, the summarised findings were that almost half (48%) of all respondents said that they believed the current level of basic allowance was 'about right'. However, when asked whether Councillors in North Yorkshire should receive 'below the average', 'above the average' or 'about the same' in relation to the basic allowance paid to Councillors in other comparable authorities, the majority of all respondents (59%) were of the view that they should receive 'about the same'. *Source NYCC Citizens' Panel 32 – Summer 2017 survey – Survey Report* <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/citizens-panel>

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS' BASIC ALLOWANCE

- 3.1 The number of councillors is determined by the Boundary Commission and the Council's budget is determined by central government, but we still examine the comparator information to ensure there is no significant disproportion applicable to North Yorkshire County Council. The Panel considered information regarding total expenditure on Members' Allowances as a proportion of the budget of comparator authorities and noted that North Yorkshire is in line with other local authorities in this regard.
- 3.2 Every local authority must make provision in its scheme of allowances for a basic flat rate allowance payable to Members (Basic Allowance). This allowance must be the same for every Councillor and is paid in instalments through the year. One of the purposes of the Basic Allowance is to recognise the time commitment of Councillors and to compensate Councillors for the expense incurred for being a Councillor. There are currently 72 councillors on the County Council.
- 3.3 The Basic Allowance for 2019/20 is £9,885 or 5.825 units (the value of 1 unit is £1,697). Comparator information with other County Councils for the last six years is shown in Appendix 1. This shows that, despite the 9.6% increase implemented since April 2017, the Basic Allowance for North Yorkshire places the authority 12th out of 16, and is still 9% below the average of the comparator group.
- 3.4 It continues to be the strong belief of this Panel that, while the previous reluctance of Members to accept proposed increases in the Basic Allowance has been admirable in the light of the financial climate, Members should be adequately and appropriately compensated for their contributions. In our opinion, our recommendation is also necessary to attract the required calibre of candidate from a more diverse range of backgrounds to stand and serve as a Councillor.
- 3.5 We also take into consideration the increased pressure on Councillors in their workload, due to the continued reductions in Council budgets and the rationing of resources, as well as the impact of an ageing population. At the same time we remain mindful that the role also carries a strong element of voluntary public service for the community. The principles underpinning the Scheme, as set out in the introduction to the Scheme in the Council's constitution, continue to articulate the position well.
- 3.6 We continue to believe that the Basic Allowance should be based on the system of units which the Council has adopted, and that it should remain at the present value of 5.825 units. In the light of all the evidence we have considered, the view of the Panel is to recommend an increase of 2.6% in the value of each unit for 2020/21. This will bring the value of 1 unit to £1,741. The Basic Allowance for 2020/21 would therefore rise to £10,142. Our recommendation reflects the prevailing and predicted rates of inflation as well as recent local

government pay settlements, recognising that lower paid staff received more than the 2% baseline increase. It is noted that those staff on the lowest spinal point received over 5% increase in 2019/20.

- 3.7 We consider that such an increase will do little more than maintain the current position for councillors in terms of mitigating the impact of inflation. However, we acknowledge that a very significant increase would be required to further improve North Yorkshire's position with regard to its comparator authorities, and we do not believe that this would be appropriate for this year in the continuing very challenging financial climate faced by local authorities.
- 3.8 Nevertheless, we do still strongly believe that there remains a case for further increases over the next few years in order to ensure that North Yorkshire's Allowance Scheme adequately reflects the demands made on its Councillors.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES (SRAs)**

- 4.1 In addition to the Basic Allowance, each local authority may make provision for the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for those Councillors who have significant responsibilities over and above the normal work of a Councillor. The current allowances paid by North Yorkshire County Council are shown in Appendix 2. It is important to note that the Panel's role is to review the Special Responsibility Allowance that is associated with each specific role but that the Panel has no involvement in the appointment of individual councillors to these roles.
- 4.2 The proposed increase in the value of a unit set out in paragraph 3.6 above will also have the effect of increasing all Special Responsibility Allowances based on units by the same figure of 2.6%.
- 4.3 The Panel's approved Protocol of 30 November 2017 requires it to carry out an in-depth review of SRA's every 4 years. The last full review was carried out in 2018 for the 2019/20 scheme, which was carried out in accordance with the Protocol.
- 4.4 This year we therefore restricted our review of Special Responsibility Allowances to an ad hoc review of any allowances where we were made aware of significant changes in roles and responsibilities since the last review was undertaken. We noted that there have been no significant changes to legislation or the council's constitution. We concluded that there were no roles determined to have changed since the last substantial review.
- 4.5 The Panel's next full in-depth review of SRAs will take place in 2022 for 2023/24. In the meantime, if requested to do so, the Panel will still review the SRA of any post holder on an ad hoc basis.

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER ALLOWANCES**

- 5.1 The Panel considered the current arrangements for travel and subsistence allowances. The arrangements are linked to the rates for council staff. We are not recommending any changes as there have been no changes in staff rates. However, in order to maintain this link, the Panel recommends that, if at any time staff rates are increased, a similar increase should be made to the rates in the Members' Allowances Scheme to come into effect at the same time.
- 5.2 This year the proposal for a possible Parental Leave Policy was put forward by the County Council Executive. We agree with the need for such a policy to ensure that a diverse range of candidates are able to stand for election, and feel that it is appropriate for this issue to be incorporated into the Members' Allowances Scheme prior to the County Council elections in May 2021. We have been made aware however that the County Council now intends to consider the matter in the wider context of the pastoral care, illness or bereavement leave entitlements and other associated resources available to all members, to ensure that there are no barriers to standing or remaining as Councillors. In order to be able to review a

broader package of entitlements for councillors being proposed by the County Council Executive during 2020, we agree to defer making any recommendations until our next report which will still be in time for the 2021 election.

## **6.0 INDEX LINKING**

- 6.1 The Members' Allowances Regulations provide that  
*"A scheme may make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such index as may be specified by the authority and where the only change made to a scheme in any year is that effected by such annual adjustment in accordance with such index the scheme shall be deemed not to have been amended."*

*Where an authority has regard to an index for the purpose of annual adjustment of allowances it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the independent remuneration panel established in respect of that authority on the application of an index to its scheme."*

- 6.2 The Panel received a report on the practice of comparator authorities in relation to the index linking of allowances and discussed the possibility of index linking of increases in allowances for future years. However, whilst not ruling out the potential application of index linking in the future, the Panel concluded that it did not feel that such an approach was appropriate at this point in time, and that an annual review of the scheme continued to be the favoured approach to its work in order to ensure that relevant local and national factors can be taken into account.

## **7.0 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

- 7.1 The Panel has considered the areas it intends to review in advance of setting the 2021/22 Members' Allowance Scheme, as follows:
- Annual review of the Basic Allowance
  - Ad hoc review of the Special Responsibility Allowances until 2022 when a full SRA review will be conducted following the County Council elections in 2021
  - Planning for Citizens' Panel survey in 2021
  - Review in 2020 the broader package of entitlements for councillors being proposed by the County Council Executive
- 7.2 The Panel proposes that it will review and report here, the timely availability and performance of its essential support facility provided by NYCC, commencing in the next report.

## **Appendices**

- 1 Basic Allowance comparator information
- 2 Current SRAs
- 3 Proposed new SRAs

John Thompson

Chairman

Date: 28 January 2020

## BASIC ALLOWANCE – COMPARATOR INFORMATION

|                          | 2014/15      |           | 2015/16      |           | 2016/17      |           | 2017/18      |           | 2018/19      |           | 2019/20      |           |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Authority                | £            | Rank      | £            | Rank      | £            | Rank      | £            | Rank      | £            | Rank      | £            | Rank      |
| Nottinghamshire          | 12,906       | 1         | 13,190       | 1         | 13,190       | 1         | 14,325       | 1         | 14,325       | 1         | 14,613       | 1         |
| Dorset                   | 10,536       | 3         | 10,536       | 4         | 10,641       | 3         | 10,641       | 5         | 10,641       | 7         | 13,000       | 2         |
| Devon                    | 10,970       | 2         | 10,970       | 2         | 10,970       | 2         | 10,970       | 2         | 12,607       | 2         | 12,859       | 3         |
| Somerset                 | 10,354       | 4         | 10,580       | 3         | 10,582       | 4         | 10,795       | 3         | 11,011       | 3         | 11,231       | 4         |
| Leicestershire           | 10,152       | 5         | 10,152       | 6         | 10,152       | 7         | 10,691       | 4         | 10,905       | 4         | 11,124       | 5         |
| Norfolk                  | 9,018        | 10        | 9,216        | 9         | 9,308        | 10        | 9,401        | 11        | 10,710       | 5         | 10,924       | 6         |
| Derbyshire               | 10,047       | 7         | 10,047       | 7         | 10,371       | 5         | 10,476       | 6         | 10,692       | 6         | 10,896       | 7         |
| Lincolnshire             | 10,100       | 6         | 10,322       | 5         | 10,322       | 6         | 10,426       | 7         | 10,530       | 8         | 10,792       | 8         |
| Oxfordshire              | 8,377        | 14        | 10,100       | 8         | 10,201       | 8         | 10,303       | 9         | 10,509       | 9         | 10,719       | 9         |
| Cambridgeshire           | 7,700        | 16        | 7,700        | 16        | 7,855        | 16        | 10,315       | 8         | 10,315       | 10        | 10,315       | 10        |
| Gloucestershire          | 9,000        | 11        | 9,100        | 11        | 10,000       | 9         | 10,000       | 10        | 10,100       | 11        | 10,300       | 11        |
| <b>NYCC</b>              | <b>8,994</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>8,994</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>8,994</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>9,221</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>9,635</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>9,885</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Warwickshire             | 8,975        | 13        | 8,975        | 14        | 9,263        | 11        | 9,263        | 13        | 9,448        | 13        | 9,637        | 13        |
| Staffordshire            | 9,022        | 8         | 9,072        | 10        | 9,221        | 12        | 9,313        | 12        | 9,406        | 14        | 9,594        | 14        |
| Worcestershire           | 9,020        | 9         | 9,020        | 12        | 9,020        | 13        | 9,020        | 15        | 9,192        | 15        | 9,357        | 15        |
| Cumbria                  | 8,030        | 15        | 8,322        | 15        | 8,322        | 15        | 8,322        | 16        | 8,405        | 16        | 8,573        | 16        |
| Year average             | 9,575        |           | 9,762        |           | 9,894        |           | 10,218       |           | 10,527       |           | 10,864       |           |
| <b>NYCC % of average</b> | <b>93.9</b>  |           | <b>92.1</b>  |           | <b>90.9</b>  |           | <b>90.2</b>  |           | <b>91.5</b>  |           | <b>91.0</b>  |           |



| Special Responsibility Allowances, Other Allowances, and Allowances for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2019/20  |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Number of Units | Current Allowance<br>£ | Number of Allowances | Total Cost of allowance<br>£ | Notes                         |
|   | A               | B                      | C                    | D                            | E                             |
| Value of a Unit   |                 | 1,697                  |                      |                              |                               |
| <b>SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES</b>  |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| Chairman of the County Council  | 6               | 10,182                 | 1                    | 10,182                       |                               |
| Vice Chairman of the County Council   | 2               | 3,394                  | 1                    | 3,394                        |                               |
| Leader of the County Council  | 19              | 32,243                 | 1                    | 32,243                       |                               |
| Deputy Leader   | 10              | 16,970                 | 1                    | 16,970                       |                               |
| Other Executive Members   | 9               | 15,273                 | 8                    | 122,184                      |                               |
| Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  | 6               | 10,182                 | 1                    | 10,182                       |                               |
| Chairman of Other Overview and Scrutiny Committees  | 3               | 5,091                  | 4                    | 20,364                       |                               |
| Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committees   | 1               | 1,697                  | 5                    | 8,485                        |                               |
| Chairman of Area Constituency Committee   | 1.5             | 2,546                  | 6                    | 15,276                       |                               |
| Chairman of Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee   | 2.5             | 4,243                  | 1                    | 4,243                        |                               |
| Chairman of Planning and Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee   | 1               | 1,697                  | 1                    | 1,697                        |                               |
| Chairman of Appeals Committee   | 3               | 5,091                  | 1                    | 5,091                        |                               |
| Vice Chairman of Appeals Committee  | 0.5             | 849                    | 1                    | 849                          |                               |
| Chairman of Pension Fund Committee  | 3               | 5,091                  | 1                    | 5,091                        |                               |
| Chairman of Audit Committee   | 2               | 3,394                  | 1                    | 3,394                        |                               |
| Chairman of Standards Committee   | 1               | 1,697                  | 1                    | 1,697                        |                               |
| Champion for Young People   | 1               | 1,697                  | 1                    | 1,697                        |                               |
| Champion for Older People   | 1               | 1,697                  | 1                    | 1,697                        |                               |
| <u>Leaders of Political Groups</u>  |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| Second largest group membership   | 3               | 5,091                  | 1                    | 5,091                        |                               |
| Third largest group membership  | 1.5             | 2,546                  | 1                    | 2,546                        |                               |
| When there is only one second largest group, and no other eligible groups, the Leader of the second largest group receives an SRA of 3 units. In all other cases the total SRA allocation is then shared between the eligible Group Leaders on the basis that the Leader/s of the second largest group(s) receive an SRA twice the amount as the Leader/s of the other eligible groups. The basis of the calculation is to ensure there is not an increase to the cost of the total SRA allocation.                 |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| <u>Secretaries of Political Groups</u>  |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| Largest Group Membership  | 1.5             | 2,546                  | 1                    | 2,546                        |                               |
| Second largest group membership   | 1               | 1,697                  | 1                    | 1,697                        |                               |
| Third largest group membership  | 0.5             | 849                    | 1                    | 849                          |                               |
| When there is only one second largest group, and no other eligible groups, the Secretary of the second largest group receives an SRA of 1 unit. In all other cases the total SRA allocation is then shared between the eligible Group Secretaries on the basis that the Secretary/ies of the second largest group(s) receive an SRA twice the amount as the Secretary/ies of the other eligible groups. The basis of the calculation is to ensure there is not an increase to the cost of the total SRA allocation. |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| <b>POLICE, FIRE &amp; CRIME PANEL (PFCP)</b>  |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 5               | 8,485                  | 1                    | 8,485                        |                               |
| Vice Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel  | 2               | 3,394                  | 2                    | 6,788                        |                               |
| Members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 1               | 1,697                  | 7                    | 11,879                       |                               |
| Community Members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 1               | 1,697                  | 2                    | 3,394                        |                               |
| <b>OTHER ALLOWANCES</b>   |                 |                        |                      |                              |                               |
| Independent Persons   | 0.5             | 849                    | 2                    | 1,698                        |                               |
| Chairman of the Pension Board   |                 | 3,000                  | 1                    | 3,000                        |                               |
| <b>Total Special Responsibility Allowances</b>  |                 |                        | <b>42</b>            | <b>277,465</b>               |                               |
| <b>Independent Persons</b>  |                 |                        | <b>2</b>             | <b>1,698</b>                 |                               |
| <b>Total NYCC funded</b>  |                 |                        | <b>44</b>            | <b>279,163</b>               |                               |
| <b>Total Police &amp; Crime Panel Allowances</b>  |                 |                        | <b>5</b>             | <b>30,546</b>                | <b>Funded by Home Office</b>  |
| <b>Pension Board</b>  |                 |                        | <b>1</b>             | <b>3,000</b>                 | <b>Funded by Pension Fund</b> |
| <b>Total</b>  |                 |                        | <b>50</b>            | <b>312,709</b>               |                               |

| Special Responsibility Allowances, Other Allowances, and Allowances for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2020/21  |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Number of Units | Current Allowance | Number of Allowances | Total Cost of allowance | Recommended change | Updated allowance if implemented | Updated total cost if implemented | Notes                  |
|   |                 | £                 |                      | £                       | £                  | £                                | £                                 |                        |
|   | A               | B                 | C                    | D                       | E                  | F                                | G                                 | H                      |
| Value of a Unit   |                 | 1,697             |                      |                         | 1,741              |                                  |                                   |                        |
| SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES   |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Chairman of the County Council  | 6               | 10,182            | 1                    | 10,182                  |                    | 10,446.00                        | 10,446.00                         |                        |
| Vice Chairman of the County Council   | 2               | 3,394             | 1                    | 3,394                   |                    | 3,482.00                         | 3,482.00                          |                        |
| Leader of the County Council  | 19              | 32,243            | 1                    | 32,243                  |                    | 33,079.00                        | 33,079.00                         |                        |
| Deputy Leader   | 10              | 16,970            | 1                    | 16,970                  |                    | 17,410.00                        | 17,410.00                         |                        |
| Other Executive Members   | 9               | 15,273            | 8                    | 122,184                 |                    | 15,669.00                        | 125,352.00                        |                        |
| Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  | 6               | 10,182            | 1                    | 10,182                  |                    | 10,446.00                        | 10,446.00                         |                        |
| Chairman of Other Overview and Scrutiny Committees  | 3               | 5,091             | 4                    | 20,364                  |                    | 5,223.00                         | 20,892.00                         |                        |
| Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committees   | 1               | 1,697             | 5                    | 8,485                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 8,705.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of Area Constituency Committee   | 1.5             | 2,546             | 6                    | 15,276                  |                    | 2,612.00                         | 15,672.00                         |                        |
| Chairman of Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee   | 2.5             | 4,243             | 1                    | 4,243                   |                    | 4,353.00                         | 4,353.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of Planning and Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee   | 1               | 1,697             | 1                    | 1,697                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 1,741.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of Appeals Committee   | 3               | 5,091             | 1                    | 5,091                   |                    | 5,223.00                         | 5,223.00                          |                        |
| Vice Chairman of Appeals Committee  | 0.5             | 849               | 1                    | 849                     |                    | 871.00                           | 871.00                            |                        |
| Chairman of Pension Fund Committee  | 3               | 5,091             | 1                    | 5,091                   |                    | 5,223.00                         | 5,223.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of Audit Committee   | 2               | 3,394             | 1                    | 3,394                   |                    | 3,482.00                         | 3,482.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of Standards Committee   | 1               | 1,697             | 1                    | 1,697                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 1,741.00                          |                        |
| Champion for Young People   | 1               | 1,697             | 1                    | 1,697                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 1,741.00                          |                        |
| Champion for Older People   | 1               | 1,697             | 1                    | 1,697                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 1,741.00                          |                        |
| Leaders of Political Groups   |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Second largest group membership   | 3               | 5,091             | 1                    | 5,091                   |                    | 5,223.00                         | 5,223.00                          |                        |
| Third largest group membership  | 1.5             | 2,546             | 1                    | 2,546                   |                    | 2,612.00                         | 2,612.00                          |                        |
| When there is only one second largest group, and no other eligible groups, the Leader of the second largest group receives an SRA of 3 units. In all other cases the total SRA allocation is then shared between the eligible Group Leaders on the basis that the Leader/s of the second largest group(s) receive an SRA twice the amount as the Leader/s of the other eligible groups. The basis of the calculation is to ensure there is not an increase to the cost of the total SRA allocation.                 |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Secretaries of Political Groups   |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Largest Group Membership  | 1.5             | 2,546             | 1                    | 2,546                   |                    | 2,612.00                         | 2,612.00                          |                        |
| Second largest group membership   | 1               | 1,697             | 1                    | 1,697                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 1,741.00                          |                        |
| Third largest group membership  | 0.5             | 849               | 1                    | 849                     |                    | 871.00                           | 871.00                            |                        |
| When there is only one second largest group, and no other eligible groups, the Secretary of the second largest group receives an SRA of 1 unit. In all other cases the total SRA allocation is then shared between the eligible Group Secretaries on the basis that the Secretary/ies of the second largest group(s) receive an SRA twice the amount as the Secretary/ies of the other eligible groups. The basis of the calculation is to ensure there is not an increase to the cost of the total SRA allocation. |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL (PFCP)   |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 5               | 8,485             | 1                    | 8,485                   |                    | 8,705.00                         | 8,705.00                          |                        |
| Vice Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel  | 2               | 3,394             | 2                    | 6,788                   |                    | 3,482.00                         | 6,964.00                          |                        |
| Members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 1               | 1,697             | 7                    | 11,879                  |                    | 1,741.00                         | 12,187.00                         |                        |
| Community Members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel   | 1               | 1,697             | 2                    | 3,394                   |                    | 1,741.00                         | 3,482.00                          |                        |
| OTHER ALLOWANCES  |                 |                   |                      |                         |                    |                                  |                                   |                        |
| Independent Persons   | 0.5             | 849               | 2                    | 1,698                   |                    | 871.00                           | 1,742.00                          |                        |
| Chairman of the Pension Board   |                 | 3,000             | 1                    | 3,000                   |                    | 3,000.00                         | 3,000.00                          |                        |
| Total Special Responsibility Allowances   |                 |                   | 42                   | 277,463                 |                    |                                  | 284,659                           |                        |
| Independent Persons   |                 |                   | 2                    | 1,698                   |                    |                                  | 1,742                             |                        |
| Total NYCC funded   |                 |                   | 44                   | 279,161                 |                    |                                  | 286,401                           |                        |
| Total Police & Crime Panel Allowances   |                 |                   | 5                    | 30,546                  |                    |                                  | 31,338                            | Funded by Home Office  |
| Pension Board   |                 |                   | 1                    | 3,000                   |                    |                                  | 3,000                             | Funded by Pension Fund |
| Total   |                 |                   | 50                   | 312,707                 |                    |                                  | 320,739                           |                        |

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**STATEMENT OF CLLR GREG WHITE**

**Library and Information Service**

**Library Strategy 2020 – 30**

After a decade of great change for libraries in North Yorkshire, residents are being invited to have their say on the way forward for the next ten years.

The new strategy recognises the changes of the past decade and has been developed together with partners, volunteers and other stakeholders. It demonstrates the council's commitment to continue investing in libraries as a community resource able to support its ambitions for North Yorkshire.

We have a family of libraries in North Yorkshire that includes volunteers, charities, partner organisations, parish and town councils, all of whom are involved in delivering services. We recognise the huge contribution in time, energy, commitment and fund raising efforts of community library groups which together with the staffing, infrastructure and financial support from the County Council is critical in keeping all our libraries open.

The strategy shows how working together the service as a whole can develop and remain relevant to the communities served by our libraries. It focuses on four core objectives: literacy and learning; health and wellbeing; digital and communities. These are set against key outcomes of raising aspirations, stimulating enjoyment of culture and helping people live independent lives.

The draft strategy acknowledges that without the support of over 2,000 volunteers and others the service as exists today would not be possible. Its aim is to provide an ambition for libraries rather than revisit the delivery model.

The consultation will be open for six weeks, with results being discussed at the full council meeting in May. People can take part online before Monday 24th February.

**Buzzy Bees**

North Yorkshire Libraries are abuzz with an exciting new initiative for under-fives. From March, preschool children are invited to zoom along to their local branch with parents and carers to join 'Buzzy Bee's Honey Hunt'.

To be launched in March, Buzzy Bee's Honey Hunt is a free scheme which rewards young children who borrow books from the library with cards, stickers and a certificate. A set of colourful cards designed by local artist Wendi New, depicting locations across North Yorkshire, will be given to each child as they progress through the scheme. The cards are designed to encourage discussion about the pictures and feature popular songs and rhymes to share.

Enjoyment of books is a key factor in nurturing children's development and preparing them for school. Buzzy Bee's Honey Hunt offers a happy, vibrant and stimulating journey around the county, which will add value and entertainment to library visits for young children and their families.

**Reading Well**

Libraries across North Yorkshire are offering a new collection of books designed to support children with their mental health and wellbeing.

Libraries Connected and the Reading Agency with funding from Arts Council England have developed the new Reading Well for Children scheme, which is aimed at primary school children. The books have been chosen in collaboration with health partners, children and their families and aim to provide advice and support for coping with feelings and worries, daily life and getting through tough times. As with the existing Reading Well schemes, health professionals will be able to recommend titles on the list to families. All the books can be requested free of charge at any North Yorkshire library and are free to borrow.

North Yorkshire libraries have embraced the Reading Well books on prescription scheme for some years, already focusing on mental health, dementia and issues facing young people. This latest collection adds another strand to the support that people can find at their library, again showcasing libraries' important role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

A webcast with a concentration camp survivor and commemorative displays are among the ways libraries across North Yorkshire marked Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January.

In the run up to the day, Pickering library showcased a webcast on 24 January, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, by concentration camp survivor Susan Pollack MBE. Other libraries featured displays of posters, educational materials, leaflets and books

### **Read2dogs**

Two lovable Labradors are lending their ears to young readers.

Selby library has launched Read2Dogs sessions to help children improve their confidence as readers by sharing books with Dora and Morgan, two Pets as Therapy dogs that visit the library with their owners, Rachael and Tony Wilson, of Selby.

Read2Dogs has been shown to help children develop literacy skills and confidence, through the calming effect of the dog's presence on children and because the dog will listen to the children read without being judgemental. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence needed to read aloud.

Sessions take place on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. People can book 15-minute slots, which are open to children of any age and adults with learning difficulties.

### **Registrars**

As I indicated in November, opposite sex civil partnerships were introduced on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 with the first signing being on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Most couples are opting for the cheap simple signing at £46 excluding the cost of the certificate.

Demand has exceeded slightly exceeded expectations, even if still comparatively low in numbers. 14 ceremonies have already been held (up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020), and there are a further 40 ceremonies booked between 1<sup>st</sup> February and the end of December 2020. Demand is expected to decrease after this initial first rush

The next change expected is that there will be a conversion routine whereby opposite sex couples who are married can convert their marriage to a civil partnership. Exact details are not yet known.

We also await further announcements on changes to marriage law but no date is set for when these changes will be announced.

## **Archives**

The Record Office is working on a major new campaign with the Communications team. Titled 'Made in North Yorkshire', the first series of stories will look at Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters and will focus on people from history who were born in the county or who came here, made a difference and made North Yorkshire what it is today. Working with local heritage groups across the county, the campaign will tell the stories of people who made a difference in their local communities and who embody the values of North Yorkshire and its shared heritage. The campaign will run for ten months on the website and social media, at the end of which the public will be invited to vote for the person whom they believe most clearly represents the values and character of the county.

## **Customer update**

We launched a new customer 'contact us' form on the website in November. In the last 60 days over 8000 customers have accessed this service with only 700 e-mails being received in the Customer Service Centre from the form.

The 'contact us' form is designed to help Customers find their way to the right service - re-directing them to information relevant to their query. Early indications from the data show that contact us is successfully helping customers find information without having to make contact with us.

Using data we are continually amending the process to make further improvements for our customers

In December we launched "request to refill a grit bin" on-line for both customers and parish. Usage is low because we have not yet had a weather event so far this year. Older person bus pass and blue badge still reporting over 90% on-line. Overall digital demand for services in the portal is running at 88%.

## **Members' IT**

Last year the whole council was affected by our emails becoming blocked when sent to both customers and partners, which created serious operational challenges. This problem was created through a phishing attack, where a user entered their user name and password into a malicious site.

While we attempt to cover all eventualities from a technical level and also from a training perspective, we cannot legislate for all activity. In light of this, we have implemented a new security measure when accessing NYCC webmail.

The new, more secure access method will include the use of two factor authentication, similar to the system some banks use online, so in addition to entering User-ID and Password, a One Time Passcode (OTP) will also be required each time a user logs on. This new security system was implemented on **4 February**.

Staff from T&C are onsite today to help with any IT issues.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19 February 2020**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD**

**Budget / Medium Term Financial Strategy / Fair Funding**

As the Leader has already indicated, one of the key items for County Council today is the budget for 2020/21 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy which runs up to 2023/24. I do not propose to go through the detail of that budget in this statement but wanted to flag a number of related issues for Members attention.

As members are already aware, the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2020/21 is a one year roll over of 2019/20 and we continue to await a new Spending Review which will set out the quantum of funding for councils. The new formula for funding in line with the Fairer Funding Review has also been delayed to 2021, as has the review of the Business rates retention system which will determine the share of business rates that Councils can expect as part of their core funding.

Whilst 2020/21 will be the first year in a decade with a real terms funding increase, these delays coupled with growing demand led cost pressures in both Adult Social Care and Children's services mean we will continue to work in a risky environment.

As you would expect the Leader, myself and relevant officers continue to make strong representations to the Government to ensure that the voices of rural councils like North Yorkshire are heard; to lobby for a fairer deal for local government generally; and to achieve more certainty over future funding to enable more informed longer term planning.

However, in the meantime we continue to work with significant uncertainty which is why it is important that we remain focussed on delivering a sound financial plan in the medium term.

On the national scene, a number of you may have seen some headlines last month when the LGA's Labour Group published their projection on reductions in funding for Metropolitan Councils under the new Social Care Formula being proposed by Government. Member's may have also seen further information later produced by the County Council's Network which questioned that analysis and showed that both Metropolitan and County Councils were forecast to gain under the changes but based upon a whole raft of assumptions.

Such headlines are possibly a sign of things to come as the Government builds up to consulting on the complete set of proposals under the Fair Funding Review. In the meantime, I would urge Members to simply await Government settign out the full proposed system as it is simply not possible to work out the impact on individual councils until we have all of the moving parts together. Then of course we need to know how much money is being put into the Local Government system in the first place before we can talk about distribution and that is of course subject to the Government's Spending Review which we expect during this year so all is somewhat speculative in the meantime.

**Q3 Finance Update**

As alluded to in the update on the Budget and MTFs above and as reported in previous quarterly updates to the Executive, we are experiencing significant cost pressures in our Adult and Children's services and managing in-year overspends largely through non-recurring savings in both Corporate and Business and Environmental Services.

Over the last quarter the position overall has improved but the underlying challenges remain. Given the challenges, work is underway to bridge the gap through a programme of transformation, focussed reviews and service planning. Work in these areas continues to progress to allow proposals to be included within the revenue budget / MTFS report.

### **County Hall Works**

As Members are aware, works remain ongoing within the Brierley Building at the County Hall Campus that will both result in the transformation of the building to provide a working environment that meets the requirements of a Modern Council and also address the essential maintenance requirements of the building.

I am pleased to note that the project is progressing in accordance with both programme and budget expectations. The works that have been completed to date include significant amounts of demolition within the building to open up former individual offices to form what will be larger, open and more flexible working areas. Demolition of the single storey corridor to the courtyard has also now been completed. Maintenance works to refurbish original sash windows throughout the building and to address failing masonry remain ongoing.

The project will include important environmental improvements, including the replacement of the current gas boilers with more efficient alternatives, the provision of a more controllable heating system and more efficient lighting. These features will improve the environmental performance of the building and make a contribution to the County Council's wider sustainability targets.

The works, which will complete during the Autumn of this year, form part of broader plans for the rationalisation of the County Council's property in Northallerton which will result in the achievement of annual revenue savings of £173,000 by 2023. Further updates will be provided to Members during the course of the year.

In addition, work is also being undertaken in other areas of the County to identify and implement further rationalisation opportunities. It is expected that this work will result in the achievement of annual revenue savings of a further £208,000 by 2021-2022. The detail of each scheme will be provided to Members as they are implemented.

### **LGS Pay 2020**

Members may be aware that the Unions had lodged a 10% pay claim. That was always unlikely to be accepted and the employers have made a subsequent offer of 2% which the unions have unsurprisingly rejected. There will now be further discussions between the employers and trade unions and we await progress. In the meantime, the budget has provided for a headline of 2.75% increase.

GARETH DADD

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire – February 2020**

The local authority welcomes the additional £5.4m funding for High Needs within the funding settlement however this will leave a funding gap of c.£5.1m in 2020/21; this is set in the context of unprecedented increases in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). In addition, there is an impact on the cost of SEN Transport. In the absence of future funding increases, further measures will need to be identified to address the accumulating and in-year deficit.

Funding from the Department for Education for the Opportunity Areas and Partners in Practice programmes currently remains uncertain and plans are in development for different scenarios. Although this information appears in my Statement to Council it should be noted that both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service have joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

**Children & Families and Children in Care**

Performance in North Yorkshire's Children & Families Service remains strong. Over the past Quarter we have seen stability from last Quarter in terms of the number of contacts being received by the Multi Agency Screening Team (Q2 = 5,371 / Q3 = 5,328). Compared to Quarter 3 2018/19, we have seen a 12% reduction in the number of contacts received, indicating a decrease in demand. Referrals to Children's Social Care have reduced over Quarter 3, down by 17% from Quarter 2, with the year to date figure being 13% lower than for the same period last year. Although demand has reduced, performance in regard to timeliness has continued to excel, with 98.5% of assessments being completed within 45 days (against a national average of 83.1%). We are continuing to see stability with regards to the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 354, down slightly from last Quarter. Our LAC rate (37.9 per 10k) is considerably lower than the latest national average (65 per 10k). It is worth noting that since 2013, whilst the national number of children in care has increased by 15%, North Yorkshire has seen a 13% decrease in complete opposition to the national trend.

**North Yorkshire Partners in Practice**

North Yorkshire continues to support Local Authorities with an Ofsted rating of 'requires improvement' to share best practice in areas such as Looked After Children and No Wrong Door through the Partners in Practice Programme. The Programme also provides 'Understanding Excellence' funding which enables NYCC to invest in improvements such as our Single View of a Child Project which aims to combine information across systems to one place. As I mention above, the DfE Partners in Practice funding is due to come to an end in March 2020 and, as such, arrangements are in place to permanently adopt learning which has shown benefit across No Wrong Door, Leaving Care, Restorative Practice and Psychology.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET SANDERSON



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2020

## STATEMENT OF EDUCATION &amp; SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25**

The annual review of the Strategic Plan for 2018-2019 has taken place. This review shows good progress towards the actions in the plan and can be found at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/send-specialist-support-and-inclusion>.

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

- Development of the new model of targeted mainstream provision
- Development of the new locality boards with boards established in Selby, Scarborough and Hambleton/Richmondshire.
- The opening of Mowbray School (Ripon) in January 2020.
- Final stages of 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.

We are now scoping the work in phase 2 of the Strategic Plan which will focus on the following areas:

- Early years provision
- Commissioning additional targeted provision
- Capital funding to support the Strategic Plan
- Joint commissioning of services and provision for children and young people with SEND.

**School funding**

Schools in North Yorkshire will benefit from:

- a minimum protection of a +1.84% increase in funding as part of the school funding settlement for 2020-21;
- no funding transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block, and;
- each primary school will receive the mandatory minimum £3,750 per pupil and each secondary school will receive the mandatory minimum £5,000 per pupil.

We remain concerned about schools who continue to experience financial pressures and challenges. In December, there appeared to be an incremental and positive step forward which reflects our continued lobbying about the underfunding of small and rural schools. The government acknowledged that "...there is a case for providing further support for small schools, including those in remote areas. [DfE] will therefore consider ways to ensure that the NFF better supports these schools from 2021-22". We welcome this development and look forward to engaging with the Department for Education to secure a fairer funding deal for North Yorkshire's pupils and schools.

**School organisation changes**

Clapham CE VE Primary School – Consultation is now underway on a proposal to cease to maintain the School with effect from 31 August 2020. The consultation period closes on

28 February. The Executive is then scheduled to consider the responses on 24 March and determine whether to proceed with the statutory notice stage.

St Hilda's RC Primary School, Whitby – At the time of writing this briefing, I am to be asked on 11 February to approve consultation on a proposal to cease to maintain the School with effect from 31 August 2020. If approved the consultation is expected to run between 24 February and 6 April.

### **School Ofsted Inspections**

In North Yorkshire 81.8% of pupils attend a primary school which is judged as good or outstanding. This is similar to the Yorkshire and Humberside region (81.7%). At secondary 79.9% of pupils attend a school which is judged as good or outstanding. This is above the Yorkshire and Humberside region (72.0%).

In North Yorkshire there are currently 19 schools judged inadequate. Of these there are 14 primary schools (4.5% of primary schools), 4 secondary schools (9% of secondary schools) and 1 special school (10% of special schools).

### **North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme**

The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme is a £6million scheme focussed on improving social mobility in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. Since 2017, the programme has funded a large number of projects with the highest levels of investment being in recruiting and keeping teachers, helping secondary schools to achieve the highest outcomes for pupils and boosting literacy skills. The programme was due to end in August 2020 but a twelve month extension was announced by the Department for Education in November 2019. We will work with the DfE to make sure that this programme continues to help improve social mobility across the coast.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**STATEMENT OF THE ACCESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
DON MACKENZIE (INCLUDING HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT,  
BROADBAND, MOBILE TELEPHONY)**

**A59 Kex Gill**

The scheme to divert the A59 trans-Pennine route northwards away from Kex Gill to a more stable alignment continues to be progressed. A planning application for the new road went live on the planning portal in December and the statutory consultation process is underway.

The full business case is under active consideration by the Department for Transport and the Treasury. A decision had been expected last year but was delayed by the general election.

The procurement of a contractor has completed its first phase with selection of companies for the tender list. This process will resume once we know that our business case has been approved. Negotiations continue with landowners, as does the work on the necessary orders required for the scheme.

Subject to granting of planning permission and approval of funding, and assuming that the Secretary of State does not call for a public inquiry, construction work will start this summer.

**Highways Contracts**

Preparatory work continues on establishing our Teckal company, NY Highways, which will take over the operational highways maintenance services for the County Council from April 2021.

The vision of the new company will prioritise the delivery of excellent value for money for our residents, putting our customers at the heart of all we do, and focusing on an effective and efficient service.

The Professional Services Contract for design and consultancy works, which comes to an end on 31 March, has been re-awarded to WSP, following their successful bid to retain the work. The new 4-year contract will commence on 1 April 2020, and includes the provision of top up design services for in-house client teams and specialised services like geotechnical engineering and traffic modelling.

**Harrogate Rail Line**

At our meeting earlier this month, the Executive voted unanimously to accept the North Yorkshire LEP's grant of £9.6m, and to approve a contribution from the County Council to fund track and signalling upgrades on the Harrogate Rail Line at Cattal. This scheme will enable the frequency of train journeys between Harrogate and York to be doubled. Network Rail is going through the industry's statutory processes and consultations, which are due to end in February.

It is now hoped that work can get underway within a few weeks and be completed in time for the improved frequency to begin with the introduction of the December 2020 timetables.

The County Council's contribution to the funding of the scheme will come from our on-street parking surpluses.

### **Public Services Vehicle Accessibility Regulations**

Members are aware that the County Council was subject to a legal challenge last September in relation to home to school transport. It was made clear that the PSVAR apply to home to school transport whenever a fare is paid. As a result, we were compelled to stop charging non-entitled and post-16 pupils for travel, making use of spare seats on buses.

In a letter to local authorities last November, the Department for Transport gave details of a process by which councils could apply for a temporary exemption to the regulations until December 2021. We have applied for exemptions on 109 eligible services and these were granted last month.

We are now able to reintroduce charges on home to school transport, and expect to publish a consultation later this month in order to seek views on whether the council should continue to use non-accessible vehicles for school transport, and under what circumstances we should charge for the use of spare seats on our services.

The DfT has issued a further letter to local authorities on 30 December 2019 and asked for that to be distributed to all schools and colleges to make them aware of an exemption for pupil transport services which they procure themselves. This exemption has been offered only until July.

### **Broadband and Mobile Telephony**

We made a bid for £1m last year to the Government's Rural Connected Communities programme to seek funding to develop 5G networks. If successful, we will use the award to bring this latest technology to places like Reeth, Muker, Leyburn and Middleham, where existing mobile phone coverage is inadequate. I am confident of a positive outcome.

In my statement in November, I made reference to the proposal by Government and by the four mobile network operators to introduce a Shared Rural Network, which would improve geographic coverage of a 4G signal in our county from 60% to over 90%. This would bring about a remarkable improvement for our rural areas. We expect the proposal to be ratified in next month's budget statement.

Our £15.1m Local Full Fibre Networks project is well underway. Having started laying fibre last October in Brayton, our contractor has so far dug 27km of fibre underground in Selby, Easingwold, Malton, Pickering, Tadcaster, Thirsk and Whitby. Installation of full fibre is now taking place in Harrogate and Scarborough, which will lead to a big increase in speed of deployment.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

## 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****Inspire Fund Update**

Members will be aware of the Inspire Fund, which awards small grants of up to £1,000 to encourage people and local groups to get involved in their community, by delivering services, events or activities that increase social connections and community well-being.

More than 250 small grants have been awarded since July 2017, with two-thirds of those grants being awarded to new groups and activities that have never approached Stronger Communities before. While some of these groups have contacted the Programme on the advice of their local Member; I would urge Members to continue to encourage residents and local groups who are seeking, or already contributing to community life, to access the support that is available to help them do this.

Independent evaluation of the Stronger Communities Programme has noted that the evidence for the efficacy of the Inspire Fund is strong. They highlight that in 2018/19, projects that had been supported through the Inspire Fund had engaged with over 40,000 people, 1,600 volunteers (over a third of whom were new volunteers), who gave 32,000 volunteer hours for their communities. In order to understand the ongoing and long term impact of the Inspire Fund, the independent evaluators have just concluded follow up engagement with those groups that received an award within the first 18 months.

**School Readiness Pilot**

In my last update I informed Members that Stronger Communities is part of the School Readiness Pilot, supporting the development of 'Ready Communities'. This Pilot will inform the wider Public Health and CYPS Childhood Futures Transformation Programme.

Community organisations were being sought to help coordinate and develop community provision across the pilot areas of East Whitby and the main Ryedale urban centres. The competitive grant process has now concluded and the bids that were received will be evaluated in early February with the intention of starting with the successful organisation(s) later in the month.

**Social Norms Campaign**

I reported in my last update about a social norms campaign that was being developed by the Stronger Communities and Communications Teams to celebrate 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.

This campaign has now launched as 'Salt of the Earth' with many stories and acts already submitted. Members may already have seen some of these stories across local and social media. The campaign will continue to shine a light on the informal but impactful ways we can be kind and help those around us, as well as where possible, remove barriers to kindness.

I would encourage Members to share this campaign in their communities and continue to lead by example. Acts of kindness and individual stories can be submitted to:

[SaltOfTheEarth@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:SaltOfTheEarth@northyorks.gov.uk)

### **Legal and Democratic Services**

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. Early indications are that the bulk season for 2020 will be as busy. The team also administers Exclusion Appeals and Home to School Transport Appeals. Although these are relatively few, they are complex and increasing in number. There is also an increasing number of exclusion appeals arising out of primary schools.

Overview and scrutiny – the Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee met in January to review what action is being taken by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to meet the 2030 net zero emissions target. Significant progress has been made with the emissions reduction plan and scrutiny of the further development and implementation of the plan will now pass to the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees, with Scrutiny Board playing a key role in co-ordinating that scrutiny.

Area Constituency Committees – the committees have become more established, having met now 6 or 7 times over the past 18 months. The committee work programmes are wide ranging and robust and reflect local issues that are also a strategic concern for the Council. In January 2020, the committees reviewed the Council's budgetary position, with a strong focus on the budget pressures specific to their area. The committee chairs are now setting up meetings with the local MPs over the summer period, so that the dialogue with our Westminster representatives can continue.

### **County Councillor Locality Budgets**

The County Councillor Locality Budget scheme has closed for the 2019/20 financial year. The scheme for the next financial year will start on Monday 11 May 2020.

A report on the expenditure and operation of Locality Budgets in the 2019/20 financial year will be presented to Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

DAVID CHANCE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2020

STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH  
INTEGRATION

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

**Winter Assurance Plans**

Health and Adult Services have ensured business continuity plans are in place to manage any additional pressure on services that may arise during the winter months, and these are developed in partnership with the NHS. The plan considers whether additional staffing is needed; how people will be supported if the weather disrupts usual business; daily calls with the NHS monitoring service capacity and making sure people are discharged effectively and appropriately from hospital. The plan is reviewed regularly by the Health and Adult Services Leadership Team and there are on call arrangements in place to add additional resilience.

Ongoing discussions also continue through Heads of Service meetings to review our Reablement and in-house provider capacity. Incident Management plans and Business Continuity plans are in place, with system resilience and ongoing escalation processes in place in Locality areas. Commissioning conversations are held jointly to understand external provider pressures.

**Update on Key Operational programmes**

Transfers of Care Coordinators have now been in place for four months and key successes include a reduction in the length of stays for people in acute services, with our Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC) performance maintained despite increasing activity. This involves basing NYCC staff in NHS premises, working directly alongside NHS colleagues.

Discharge to Assess processes are now embedded in Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby. We are currently implementing this model in Scarborough which will be followed by York and Harrogate. This process is designed to speed up hospital discharge times by discharging people to their own home or a community setting with appropriate support whilst assessing their short or longer term care needs.

**Home Care in Reeth**

Provision of home care in the Reeth area has presented issues for some time. The area also has a lack of local care homes and social/health community facilities is limited due to its rurality. We have been exploring options to create a more sustainable position in relation to the provision of health and social care and we are now working on a two phase pilot project for the Reeth area.

Phase one of the pilot will develop a more sustainable contracting model for homecare delivery by working with one provider who already has links in the area. Phase two will engage with the local community to co-produce a wider support service and test new ways of working through digital innovations, environmental sustainability, community support programmes, carer support, housing opportunities and integration with community health

services and primary care. Whilst this project is in its early stages it will inform our wider programme of reimagining homecare across North Yorkshire.

### **Workforce Planning**

To support Brexit planning, Health and Adult Services and Resourcing Solutions have been supporting providers with information and signposting relating to EU Settled Status. A very small number of providers have been identified that have a significant number of staff who may be affected. These providers have confirmed that they are aware of EU Settled Status arrangements and are supporting their staff to achieve this. Where there are any concerns identified in relation to workforce, providers have been encouraged to notify us through a dedicated email account and the situation will continue to be monitored.



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2020

## STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION AND SUPPORTED HOUSING

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

**Working together to thrive in Scarborough**

In early December I attended an event hosted by the YMCA in Scarborough which brought together 76 participants representing partners across the local authorities including the Public Health and Stronger Communities teams, clinical commissioning group and the voluntary and community sector to explore working differently for the benefit of Scarborough Borough in relation to tackling poverty and inequalities. Notwithstanding the breadth of work being done in the Borough it was acknowledged that more progress is needed to increase healthy life expectancy in these communities.

The event was about working together to better understand the factors that influence health so we can focus on what really matters in designing, planning and delivering services that can benefit people facing multiple disadvantages and poverty. Equal partnership with residents of the targeted neighbourhoods is also important if solutions are going to endure and develop without being overly reliant on public sector funding.

The event consisted of presentations, workshops and an opportunity to map local services/opportunities. We heard from inspiring speakers including local residents who shared their personal stories about living with mental health problems and the support that help them to maintain their personal resilience. There was a workshop addressing the issue of loneliness in the Borough that emphasised how loneliness can affect anyone, and probably will at some point in their life. Each person has a role to play in helping themselves and helping each other and we discussed how this can also be a particular, creative topic to engage the talents of young people in the area.

**Hepatitis A in Ripon**

North Yorkshire County Council and wider partners were involved in the management of a large outbreak of Hepatitis A virus in Ripon in summer 2019. In total, there were 32 confirmed cases of Hepatitis A between mid-May and mid-July. The majority of cases were associated with a single school, although around a third of cases occurred in people who lived in or ate in Ripon, or who were contacts of school-associated cases.

An Outbreak Control Team was set up by Public Health England to manage the outbreak, which included County and District Council staff alongside CCG colleagues and wider partners. Groups of people identified as being at higher risk of infection were offered vaccination, arranged and delivered by the PHE screening and immunisation team and the School Nursing Service. In total 942 children and staff were vaccinated in 4 schools and one mop up session. In addition, communications teams in PHE, NHS England and NYCC worked together to deliver a public information campaign based around hand washing, and were also able to deliver united messages on the outbreak and the ongoing response.

A debrief session was held in January, where it was formally noted that the efforts partners had pre-emptively put in to outbreak response, particularly through the production of the North Yorkshire Mass Treatment and Vaccination Plan, had meant that organisations were able to function with greater confidence as a system to manage the outbreak.

## **Workplace Wellbeing Champions**

Since the North Yorkshire Workplace Wellbeing Award was launched in March 2019 we have 36 organisations signed up including one of our hospitals with 8,500 staff. There has also been good take up by schools, with 21 individual schools and 1 Multi Academy Trust covering 7 schools. One of the objectives of the Award is to develop capacity and capability within local organisations and businesses who have made a public commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of their staff through signing up to the award. This includes identifying workplace health and wellbeing champions to undertake induction training.

The induction outlines the importance of good physical and mental health in the workplace and the role of champions in promoting health and wellbeing. The sessions are practical in focus and include Making Every Contact Count training. This enables champions to provide brief opportunistic advice on key health and lifestyle issues to their colleagues on an informal basis. A total of 29 Workplace Wellbeing Champions have been trained to date.

## **Warm and Well**

The Warm and Well service provides a single point of contact for North Yorkshire residents living in or at risk of a cold home, fuel poverty, struggling to afford their energy bills, or worried about winter. The service has been run by Citizens Advice Mid North Yorkshire since September 2017. The service also includes co-ordinating wider activities around winter health, for example drafting funding bids, organising partnership events, and running awareness campaigns to communicate messages around keeping warm in winter. Training has also been provided for professionals on identifying vulnerable groups who may be at risk of living in fuel poverty, and highlight the support available to them so that agencies can make easy referrals into the contact centre.

A key success of the Warm and Well programme has been to help secure over 1 million pounds of additional funding to support the winter health partnership. This has included over £300,000 from the British Gas Energy Trust to provide follow up assistance for households in North Yorkshire, for example on energy efficiency measures, debt advice and a hardship fund for households in need. Further funding has included £1,280,000 from the Warm Homes Fund for first time gas central heating systems or air source heat pumps for vulnerable residents, plus additional money from the Big Energy Saving Network to provide training and information campaigns giving good energy advice.

## **Strong and Steady**

Strong and Steady is a 12-week exercise programme that improves strength, flexibility and mobility in people aged 65 and over who have had, or are at risk of having, a fall. The programme operates in 20 locations across North Yorkshire, delivering exercise in the heart of communities. 600 people have benefitted from the programme to date with improvements across a range of well-being indicators, including people's ability to carry out everyday tasks and getting out of a chair and moving around. Ultimately this contributes towards someone's ability to continue to live independently in their own home.

As well as the exercise there is a strong focus on social interaction, with every session offering a cup of tea and a chat at the end which helps to foster a sense of belonging, reducing loneliness and isolation and creating friendships, as well as the opportunity to signpost to other local services such as Warm and Well. The funding also enables the promotion of a more universal service in order for people to step up and step down. This includes supporting local groups to set up age appropriate activities in the community.

For more information visit <https://www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/strong-and-steady> or watch one of North Yorkshire Sport's videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdepqg3EW74>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ1gMTX0nxw>

### **Living Well Smokefree**

Living Well Smokefree completed its service restructure on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 with all staff now working under North Yorkshire County Council terms and conditions and locality based. There were 3 vacancies and following a successful period of recruitment all posts will be filled by February 2020.

With the full stop smoking service now up and running across North Yorkshire, in community clinics and throughout Primary Care, the focus is moving into the next development phase. This phase is prioritising referral routes into the service, through the Customer Service Centre and online options for both individuals and referral partners. This will make the service more resilient and accessible for the people in North Yorkshire. In addition, there are projects ongoing to move aspects of internal and external training online, developing a data and performance dashboard and to distribute our newly developed branding and communications across the county.

In the first 6 months of 2019 (April-September) since the service was brought in-house, 469 people have set a quit date and 287 have managed to quit at 4 weeks which is 61% - a high success rate. This has provided a solid foundation to build on in the future.

### **Living Well**

The Living Well team continue to support a wide range of people to build their confidence and reduce their loneliness and social isolation. In October 2019, the service celebrated its fourth year of practice and there have been 10,000 referrals in that time. 94% of people say that the service they have received has been successful and 85% say that they would definitely recommend the service to others.

Increasingly Living Well referrals are received direct from health (42% during 2019). Living Well has developed very positive partnerships with GPs and other health professionals and is currently in contract negotiations with 5 Primary Care Networks to deliver social prescribing link workers in Selby and Harrogate. The link workers will be based in GP practices and work directly with patients; particularly people who visit the practice frequently; isolated or frail patients and individuals with low level mental health issues. In Harrogate, this work will be in addition to the work in GP practices funded through the Improved Better Care Fund.

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****19 FEBRUARY 2020****STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY  
COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS  
RELATIONS)****Trading Standards**

Food, Farming and Health

Operation Wagtail - a large scale operation against illegal tobacco in Scarborough has uncovered 29,000 cigarettes and 29.25kg of tobacco worth more than £27,500. Illicit products were discovered during the raids that were coordinated by North Yorkshire County Council Trading Standards, supported by its Public Health team, Scarborough District Council and North Yorkshire Police. The intelligence-led operation sought to tackle illicit tobacco supply across the Scarborough region using specialist tobacco detection dogs from Wagtail UK. Detection dogs can find tobacco and cigarettes in the most unlikely places and in addition to having their stock confiscated offenders could face unlimited fines and up to ten years in prison if found in possession.

On this occasion the dogs were able to identify cigarettes and tobacco concealed in cardboard boxes, kitchen shelving units and concealed drawers which would not have otherwise been discovered during the raids. Trading Standards will continue to investigate the origin of the seized cigarettes and tobacco whilst working with the community to raise awareness of the issues regarding illicit tobacco. These activities will involve pro-active visits to retailers, the use of social media and the production of a warning letter in both Polish and Kurdish Sorani languages to raise awareness in those communities, about the dangers and consequences of illicit tobacco supply in North Yorkshire.

**Planning Services**

Following Examination Hearing Sessions into our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan both last year and the year before, 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 responded. Work now continues on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications and public consultation on that Schedule will follow shortly after.

**Economic Development**

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review has concluded with York, North Yorkshire and East Riding becoming York and North Yorkshire.

This includes North Yorkshire County Council, all seven District Councils and City of York Council. Leeds City Region will revert to the five West Yorkshire authorities of Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield.

We will continue to collaborate closely ensuring we benefit from our close economic links.

## **Waste Management**

### **Frade**

I am excited to be able to announce that in January we launched a project at two household waste recycling centres to increase the amount of household items that are reused. We are working in partnership with our waste contractor, Yorwaste and a local reuse charity called Frade to separate items such as tables, chairs, pictures, toys, non-electrical equipment and lots of other unwanted home and garden items that people deliver to the household waste recycling centres. Frade collect the items from Catterick Bridge and Northallerton Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and take them to sell in their new shop on the High Street in Northallerton. Frade's core values of reducing poverty, reducing waste and increasing employability mean that they sell goods at affordable prices in their high street shop, offering further discounts for people on universal credit. The charity will also collect bulky items for free from homes in the local area to sell in their 'home starter' kits which include essential furniture items to kit out a new home.

Frade also recruits volunteers of all ages with the aim of tackling social isolation, helping people to learn new skills and increasing their chances of employment by providing experience through work placements. This is a six month pilot project in the first instance but I am very hopeful that it will continue and we can increase the number of sites that separate materials for reuse by Frade or other charities in the future.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY BOARD

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.

There have been two meetings of Scrutiny Board since my last statement to Council. The first was on 22 November 2020. At that meeting the following matters relating to the delivery of overview and scrutiny at the Council were discussed:

- Update on the work of the Older People's and Young People's Champions and the links with overview and scrutiny
- How overview and scrutiny could work with Healthwatch North Yorkshire and the data, information and analysis that they are able to provide
- Executive Q2 Performance Report
- Overview and scrutiny practice and whether it was timely to conduct a self-assessment.

The second meeting of the Board was on 7 January 2020. At that meeting members started an informal self-assessment of overview and scrutiny practice at the Council. During the discussions a number of areas were identified for further investigation over the coming months. The issues identified to date are ones that relate to the day-to-day running of the Council's overview and scrutiny function and have no implications for the Constitution. For example, training for committee chairs and vice chairs and a new approach to setting the committee work programme.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Q2 Performance Management meeting on 26 November 2019, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance under the heading of 'Health and independent living'. This included clarifying:

- Whether it will be possible to maintain good performance in adult social care services as the demand for services increases and the challenges around community care provision and residential care provision continue?
- Are there any lessons that can be learned from other local authorities about the management of the care market and the way in which to respond to the challenge of permanent care placements above approved rates?
- Whether the reductions in Delayed Transfers of Care has been achieved through discharge to the 'right' placement or discharge to any placement as an interim measure and then putting the 'right' package of care in place?
- What impact the current budgetary pressures faced by Health and Adult Services will have upon its ability to meet its objectives and service standards?

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

- Whether the increase in the number of Electively Home Educated pupils was an indicator with a fall in satisfaction with some North Yorkshire schools and general financial stress within the education system?
- Why it was that a small number of Looked After Children experience multiple placements in a relatively short period of time?
- What lessons have been learned locally, regionally and nationally from the response to the July 2019 flash floods.

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.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN  
Chairman of Scrutiny Board  
21 January 2020

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19 February 2020**

**STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

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

At the meeting the Committee received a presentation on the use of the customer portal and we were pleased to note the ongoing work to both encourage a channel shift to online services and to examine and address reasons why some residents are still choosing to contact Customer Services by telephone. We were reassured that a telephone service will always be provided for those who do not want to or are unable to access online services for whatever reason. We also discussed ways of promoting a new online Registrar facility and made a number of suggestions about promoting the new service through Hospitals, Funeral Directors, Doctors Surgeries, Solicitors and Care Homes.

In addition, the Committee received an update on progress with the delivery of the County Council's alternative investment framework, which highlighted the categories under which opportunities for investment fall, the limit set on the sums for investment, and the targets set on returns so that appropriate assessment of the risks and rewards can take place.

We were made aware of the ongoing work to identify an appropriate tenant for the County Council's vacant unit at Harrogate Royal Baths, and the work underway to understand the potential for investment in a solar farm. As it fits with the County Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, we agreed the opportunity for a solar farm should not be missed and we will be receiving an update on this in due course.

In regard to housing loans, we questioned what more could be done to encourage Social Landlords to take up available funding, and we were surprised to learn that as Housing Associations were awash with funding, they are not interested in the scale of funding the County Council is able to offer. We also queried whether the loans to NYCC companies were delivering the right returns and were pleased to note the agreed high level decision framework was being applied in every case.

At the same meeting, the Committee received updates on the Community Safety Partnership's work on its first Domestic Homicide Review, and on NYCC Property Services' approach to rationalisation.

In regard to the lessons learnt from the Domestic Homicide Review we were pleased to note the multi-agency approach, and the excellent working relationship between the relevant agencies, practitioners and professionals across North Yorkshire and beyond its boundaries. We also noted a number of themes coming out of the national data on intimate partner homicides and the links to mental health.

In regard to property rationalisation, we were pleased to note a new asset management system was in place, and that a county wide plan and asset register were in development. The Committee will be receiving six-monthly updates on this going forward.



Finally, the Committee assessed the governance arrangements for the Brierley Group and were reassured that appropriate robust measures were in place. Members of the Committee have been issued an open invitation to attend future meetings of the Shareholder Committee and we will receive a further update on this in 12 months' time.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**19 February 2020**

**Transport, Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Chairman's Statement**

**Committee – 23 January 2020**

Corporate Director's Update

- 1 We expressed our frustration over delays to the government decision whether or not to fund the re-routing of the A59 at Kex Gill. The Prime Minister has pledged to invest in new transport projects in the North so let's hope the A59 diversion will be part and parcel of seeing that pledge fulfilled. If government funding does not come off or a decision from government is further delayed, there will more expense incurred to the taxpayer to stabilise Kex Gill. This would provide no guarantee though of there being further landslips.
- 2 The route has to be diverted no matter what and as a last resort the County Council will have to step in to fund the whole costs. A time limit now needs to be set to hear back from government before we have to act. As we know the closure of the A59 at Kex Gill does not impact only on settlements between Skipton and Harrogate but also brings traffic in Ilkley and Otley to a standstill.

York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Update (LEP)

- 3 Related to the discussion about the A59 at Kex Gill, we queried if the LEP would be able to step in to fund the A59 diversion. The reality is the LEP would at best would be able to provide a contribution to reduce the amount that the County Council would have to fund.
- 4 The Committee was asked to comment on the draft York and North Yorkshire Local Industrial Strategy's emerging priorities as follows:
  - Priority 1: Invest in places, communities, identity and culture to drive productivity
  - Priority 2: Unlock constrained growth and realise productivity potential
  - Priority 3: Lead the transformation to a carbon neutral circular economy
- 5 The Committee supported the priorities in particular priority 3 and related to this the LEP's ambitious target for York and North Yorkshire to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- 6 Arising from the government's 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnership' review in 2018 resulting in the recommendation that LEPs should remove overlapping boundaries, the approach now is to have a York and North Yorkshire LEP rather than a merger with the Leeds City Region. Both LEPs remain committed to supporting a 'One Yorkshire' devolution model. This approach continues to make the most sense in order to fully realise the economic potential across Yorkshire.

However, government, whilst not ruling out a single Yorkshire arrangement in the longer term, is seeking initial sub regional deals at the geographies of:

- Sheffield City Region (South Yorkshire)
- West Yorkshire
- Humber
- York & North Yorkshire.

### Winter Maintenance Policy

- 7 Climate change might be bringing with it warmer wetter winters but it's also likely to bring with it freak weather conditions from time to time. There continues to be a need to ensure we have plenty of salt reserves but we discussed whether there is the potential to reduce grit density spread on the roads as well as reducing the number of gritting vehicles and adapting them to do other tasks at other times in the year. We also discussed the pros and cons of redirecting resources on the basis of the topography of an area. The existing Winter Maintenance Policy is sufficiently broad in its wording to allow a number of these changes to be implemented without it having to be overhauled.

### **Single-use Plastics Review**

- 8 As agreed by the Committee in October 2019, the task group will meet later this month to begin its work. Its agreed remit is:
- To establish additional ways to reduce the use of single use plastics by North Yorkshire County Council staff and visitors.
  - To establish how North Yorkshire County Council can work with partner organisations, local businesses and residents to encourage a reduction in the use of single-use plastics across North Yorkshire.
  - To look for alternatives to single-use plastics and best practice elsewhere including but not limited to other local authorities.
- 9 The government was due to have published its response to the DEFRA/HM Treasury Consultations on Elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy by now. However, the timescale has now been pushed back and is expected to report in June or July 2020.

### **20 mph speed limit policy task group**

- 10 The task group has now concluded its review and a report with recommendations is scheduled to go to the 15 April 2020 Committee.
- 11 In summary key points that the report will make and related recommendations are as follows:
- It is unrealistic for there to be a blanket approach of 20mph speed limits existing in all settlements in the county and to cover a wide area both in terms of cost and enforcement. Speed limits should reflect the nature of the road and in essence be 'self-explaining'.
  - The economic impact has to be taken into account with regards to extending journey times by a wide area introduction of 20mph speed limits.

- Ongoing improvements in car technology are seeing the introduction of enhanced driver safety driver aids such as automatic braking and speed limiters.
- There is an existing County Council policy on 20mph speed limits. This allows a degree of flexibility already to allow our communities to introduce 20mph speed limits in their areas. The policy though would benefit from some updating and to be promoted. Some communities might not be aware of the policy but could benefit from the introduction of 20mph speed limits.
- The policy should be more explicit in considering 20mph speed limits in school zones.
- The policy should reference links to the wider policy agenda in relation to driver education (promoting behavioural change), supporting alternative modes of transport and shaping the built environment. This is so that the wider policy focus is not exclusively constrained by historical accident statistics in determining 20mph speed limits, if an otherwise strong case can be made for a 20mph speed limit to be introduced in a specific area.
- For 20mph limits to be adhered to there needs to be a partnership approach involving a wide number of organisations including planning departments.
- Education, as part of the 95 Alive Partnership, also needs to continue to be strong theme in relation to getting motorists to keep to the speed limit and avoid being distracted – the latter being the main cause of motor vehicle accidents in the county.

**County Councillor Stanley Lumley**

**Chairman**

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall

Northallerton

6 February 2020

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE**

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, and to demonstrate to our satisfaction that, where appropriate, public consultation has occurred. 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 changes to health services in the county are numerous and complex often demanding a significant understanding of medical processes and how specialist services are delivered. These changes can be temporary or permanent. They can also be substantial in size and ambition or minor. All of this can make it challenging for committee members to keep apace of the changes and to understand the overall impact upon the local system.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee formally met on 13 December 2019. At that meeting, the following changes to NHS services used by the people of North Yorkshire were scrutinised.

**East Coast Services Update**

The committee received an update from commissioners on the progress being made with the East Coast Review and what this means for Scarborough General Hospital. The committee was pleased to note that the review had identified the need to ensure the long term sustainability of an Accident and Emergency department at the hospital and also of general surgery provision. We were also pleased to hear that £40million of capital has been secured, which will enable Scarborough General Hospital site to be developed in a way that promotes new ways of working to be adopted that are safer, more efficient and sustainable.

Whilst this is good news, there remain concerns about the supposedly temporary relocation of smaller, specialist services over time to York Teaching Hospital and Hull Teaching Hospital. Over the past 12 months this has included: urology; general oncology; and specialist breast oncology. Typically, the re-location of services is driven by workforce shortages and concerns about what this will mean for patient safety. We remain alert to the risk of 'temporary' changes becoming permanent by default.

**Transformation of Community Mental Health Services in Harrogate and Rural District**

The committee has on numerous occasions over the past 3 years scrutinised proposals for changes to the way in which mental health services are provided in the county. The changes have been driven by a strategy of reducing the number of and use of in-patient beds and then re-investing the money saved into specialist and emergency community services. In the greater Harrogate area alone, it is estimated that the re-investment could be as much as £500,000 per annum.

The committee is broadly supportive of the change in emphasis from in-patient treatment to enhanced community treatment but will continue to scrutinise the development and implementation of new, enhanced community services, the transition arrangements for ensuring, as beds close, that the new services are there and ready, and the impact that this transition has upon patient outcomes and carers.

### **Immunisation coverage in North Yorkshire**

The committee has been interested to understand immunisation coverage rates and what this means for the health of people in North Yorkshire. Dr Lincoln Sargeant attended the committee and gave an overview of how coverage in North Yorkshire compares to other areas of the country. Whilst coverage of first dose immunisations in the county is good, second dose take up is less good. This is similar to other parts of the country and work is underway to improve the take up of second dose immunisations. The committee was pleased to note that parental confidence in the national immunisation programme is strong and there is no evidence to suggest that anti-vaccine activism has had a major impact on immunisation rates nationally, regionally or locally.

### **Area Constituency Committee links**

Scrutiny of Health's links with the Area Constituency Committees (ACCs) continue to develop. Members of the Scarborough and Whitby ACC have participated in meetings where the East Coast Review has been scrutinised. Also, the Skipton and Ripon ACC has completed its scrutiny of the re-development of the Castleberg Hospital in Giggleswick. I anticipate that there will be more opportunities over time to delegate scrutiny of local health changes to the ACCs. Also, to respond to concerns about health service developments or reconfigurations that have been identified at a local level by the ACCs.

### **Castleberg Hospital, Giggleswick**

The Castleberg is a small, community hospital that provides step-up and step-down beds and some end of life support. The hospital was temporarily closed on 13 April 2017 due to significant problems with the building structure. A public consultation was then held over the period September to December 2017 and the decision was taken to re-open the hospital in May 2018. Work commenced on the site and it was formally re-opened on 26 November 2019. Few people locally or on the Scrutiny of Health Committee expected the hospital to re-open, and it is a testament to the hard work, openness and creativity of the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group and the Airedale Foundation Trust that the hospital has re-opened and that it will continue to provide a much needed local service to people across Craven district.

### **The Friarage hospital, Northallerton**

The committee has been scrutinising the challenges facing the provision of urgent and emergency care at the Friarage for over 2 years, as the commissioner and provider have worked hard to find a solution to persistent workforce shortages in anaesthesia and emergency medicine. The new Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) model was adopted on 27 March 2019 and a 12-week consultation commenced on 13 September 2019, with a pause for the General Election.

The consultation options are for either a 24-hour or a 16-hour service in the UTC, which will be open 7 days a week for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses. The detailed analysis of the consultation responses will come back to the committee on 13 March 2020.

Throughout the consultation period the committee has been kept informed of how the Urgent Treatment Centre model is working. It has been reassuring to note that it is working well and appears sustainable with 9 out of 10 people continuing to receive a service at the Friarage.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN ENNIS  
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee  
23 January 2020

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

## YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Elective Home Education**

1. Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school.
2. The level of national and local awareness and attention in the topic has increased significantly over the last two years. There has been a major parliamentary enquiry; published guidance "Elective home education, Departmental guidance for local authorities in April 2019" has made the government's position on the responsibilities of schools, parents and local authorities much clearer; and the findings of an OFSTED inquiry have clarified particular issues such as "off-rolling" - of which more later.
3. North Yorkshire's experience of increasing numbers of known EHE children is in keeping with national trends. LAs have reported an average 20% year-on-year increase in the number of children and young people known to be home schooled over the previous 5 years.
4. As an authority we are compliant with the latest guidance. We use our power to require schools (including independent schools) to provide information about children who leave at the school's standard transition times, to help ensure that there is knowledge at local authority level of a child's schooling status.
5. Members noted that of the reasons quoted by parents for choosing to home educate the largest proportion, by some distance, was "stress and anxiety". Whilst it was acknowledged that this category could cover a range of experiences, members wondered whether it points towards just how many parents who opt to home-school their children are doing so possibly to avoid bullying, exam pressure and stress. This is about children having some sort of difficulty at school. The decision to home educate might sometimes be taken 'on the spur of the moment', often as a response to difficulties in relation to the child's schooling, difficulties that might or might not be resolvable. Members believed this may tell us a great deal about where NY efforts should be addressed.
6. Where parents have withdrawn a child from a setting they regarded as unsatisfactory, we explore options which are different from the previous setting. Members liked the practice whereby we commit to exploring with parents and the school the extent to which additional support can be put in place at the school even if initial efforts to secure this have not worked.

7. Some parents choose to home educate their children because they believe this is the best option. The worry for members was those parents and carers who are not actively choosing elective home education but are being compelled into it.
8. Members were reassured about efforts to identify “off-rolling”. This is the controversial practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without using a permanent exclusion, when the removal is primarily in the best interests of the school, rather than the best interests of the pupil. This includes pressuring a parent to remove their child from the school roll. It was noted that OFSTED if it finds evidence of the practice will now publish this in their inspection report. And under our new framework which takes effect later this year, any schools that are off-rolling are likely to be judged inadequate for leadership and management.
9. In the light of information given, and the evidence in front of them, members believed that the directorate has a good understanding of the issues associated with EHE, and procedures and practices are well thought through and are effectively observed.
10. The overall conclusion was that the issue is being handled well, with no further scrutiny work needed at this stage, but we will revisit this in about 6-9 months to pick up developments and progress.

### **Looking Ahead**

11. At our next meeting we will look at:

- The challenges faced by schools, especially those in rural areas, in recruiting teaching staff.
- School deficits and Financial Pressures.
- An account of the work over the last 12-18 months undertaken by the Looked After Childrens Members Group.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET JEFFERSON

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON  
5 February 2020

Background Documents - Nil



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19 February 2020**

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Support for Carers**

1. *“Caring will touch all of our lives at some point, yet society and public services still haven’t grasped the extent to which our economy relies on the unpaid care provided by family and friends. If even a small percentage of people were unable to continue caring, the economic impact would be catastrophic”* Heléna Herklots, Chief Executive of Carers UK)
2. Carers themselves can live long and healthy lives and be able to continue to care as long as possible and as long as they would want to. We want to encourage more carer friendly communities, and promote carer issues across wider society.
3. There are around 65,000 people in North Yorkshire across all age groups who identified themselves as providing unpaid care in the 2011 census, which is more than one in ten people. This is higher than the average both nationally and through the Yorkshire and Humber region. In reality, there are likely to be many more people providing unpaid care, who either do not recognise themselves as a carer or do not wish to be recognised as a carer.
4. We reviewed how far we have progressed since the launch of the Caring for Carers’ Strategy 2017-2022 in 2017. Our current offer is geared up to meet the strategy’s objectives, but we were pleased to hear that work is planned upon some areas we believe to be key:
  - Improving information and advice.
  - Enabling carers to take a break.
  - Improving carers health and wellbeing.
  - Enhancing financial wellbeing.
  - Involving carers as experts.
  - Improving identification of carers.
5. We liked the process for reviewing the strategy, the coverage of the planned consultation events and the project’s robust governance arrangements. The committee will look to play its part. We will be particularly interested to hear about how support is provided through respite and short breaks provision.

**Annual Safeguarding Board Report**

6. We met with Dr Sue Proctor, Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Adults Safeguarding Board. All councillors share a responsibility in relation to safeguarding. Reviewing the Board’s Annual Report is one way we meet our specific scrutiny responsibilities to ensure that vulnerable adults are safeguarded.

7. The main themes discussed the meeting were:

- The evidence of strong commitment from parties within the Board to the Safeguarding Agenda is welcome. There is a high level of leadership attendance at Board meetings.
  - Building relationships with military and farming communities is still a Board aim.
  - Understanding the relationship between mental health, isolation and safeguarding is continuous.
  - Joint working with the NY Safeguarding Children's Board continues to improve.
8. We were struck by Dr Proctor's comment that one of the most significant areas of interest for the Board, in terms of volume of incidents and scale of potential risk, was the challenges of recruitment, retention and quality of the social care workforce.
9. Our overriding conclusion was that that the council and its partners are discharging their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding effectively.
10. Members reflected upon how much they understand their responsibilities as councillors when it comes to safeguarding. Many had concerns about the level of awareness at a local elected member level. It is important for member training on safeguarding – for new councillors especially – to focus not just on strategic and organisational aspects, but on practical, ground level community leadership expectations.

### **Annual Report of the Older Peoples Champion**

11. Andy Paraskos presented his first Annual report as Older Peoples Champion. The report illustrates how the role can celebrate the ways we support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for older people.

### **Looking Ahead**

12. At our next meeting we will major on Social Prescribing. This 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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR KARIN SEDGWICK

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON  
5 February 2020

Background Documents - Nil

# CIVIC CENTRE FIRE ASSEMBLY LOCATIONS

