

North Yorkshire County Council

22 July 2020

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

Chairman's Statement

1. The Committee last met in public on 23 January 2020; details of the discussion and recommendations from that meeting were presented to Full Council on 19 February 2020. Our April and July 2020 committee meetings were cancelled in light of the COVID pandemic but the Single-use Plastics task group managed to meet before the lockdown arose.
2. Looking ahead, the intention is for the committee to meet formally on 22 October 2020, and ideally for this to be a face-to-face meeting. Video conferencing technologies have of course been a godsend during the current pandemic. Scrutiny though works best when there is detailed debate and discussion and so in that regard video conferencing has its limitations. We will however have to judge at the time what arrangements will be best in order for the meeting to still be able to go ahead.

Single-use Plastics Review

3. The task group met on 27 February 2020 to set the direction of the review and to discuss the general policy environment including relevant aspects in the Environment Bill. We also began to look at measures to reduce single-use plastic, including 'quick wins' that could be put in place at the County Council, based upon good practice in other local authorities. At present it is not clear if the use of single-use plastic in the County Council can be readily quantified but if the County Council comes to demonstrate best practice in reducing its own use of unnecessary single use plastic, it could act as a leader and exemplar to partner organisations and businesses. The COVID pandemic has of course highlighted the importance of single-use plastic for medical use-age and for personal hygiene. However, there remains other single-use plastic items that could be made out of more environmentally-friendly materials and could in turn save money.
4. The task group was due to have met again in June but subject to the conditions at the time now plans to meet on 10 September 2020. At that meeting the focus will be on the LEP's work on the circular economy/examples of good business practice, and the County Council's current use of single-use plastic. The latter will also include County Council initiatives undertaken to date and further measures that could be implemented to reduce our unnecessary use of single-use plastic. Staff from procurement, cleaning & catering services and facilities management will be invited to attend.

5. Further meetings will include a meeting with businesses demonstrating good practice in reducing single-use plastic and a separate meeting with campaign groups.

20 mph speed limit policy task group

6. The task group’s report with recommendations will go to the next committee meeting for discussion before being submitted to the Executive.
7. The report was finalised during the COVID-19 pandemic and so by way of a postscript makes reference to the possible longer-term transport and environmental legacy that the crisis could have upon the use of our roads, with possibly more support for car free spaces or 20mph speed limits in some of our town centres.

Committee – 22 October 2020

8. The following items are planned to be brought to the next committee meeting on 22 October 2020. The meeting will have an economic theme, in light of the profoundly negative impact that the pandemic has and will continue to have on the national and local economy and particularly for younger people:

Apprenticeships	To provide an update on the County Council's progress in supporting apprenticeships in North Yorkshire including responding to the Apprenticeship Levy introduced in 2017
North Yorkshire County Council's Economic Growth Plan	Update on Economic Growth Plan refresh
Highways Maintenance Contract	To receive the annual report on actions being put in place by the highways maintenance & highways improvement contractor (Ringway)

**County Councillor Stanley Lumley
Chairman**

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

1 July 2020