

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**22 July 2020**

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes  
and Reports**

## QUESTIONS

**Council Procedure Rules 2.4 and 10** set out the procedures for asking questions at the County Council Meeting.

### 2.4 Reports, Statements and Questions

- (a) Any reports of the Executive or committees shall, whenever possible, be printed and circulated to Members of the Council before the meetings at which they are to be considered.
- (b) The Leader of the Council may make a statement to the Council on any matters relevant to the Council and any portfolio holder (including the Leader if he/she holds a portfolio) or Chairman of any overview and scrutiny committee may make a statement to the Council on any matters relevant to that portfolio or the work of that overview and scrutiny committee. Members of the Council may, without notice, ask the Member who made the statement questions arising from matters raised in that statement or may ask any questions on matters in that portfolio not mentioned in the statement, but unless notice has been given by 10 am the previous day the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, with a copy being placed in Members' Group Rooms. The provisions of Council Procedure Rule 10 (b), (c), (d) and (e) shall apply to questions under this Council Procedure Rule.
- (c) No Member shall speak more than once or for more than two minutes on any statement made by the Leader or a portfolio holder or Chairman of the Scrutiny Board or of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, except that one representative of each Group may speak for 5 minutes when responding to the statement made by the Leader. The Leader or portfolio holder or Chairman of the Scrutiny Board or of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee making the statement is not limited in the time allowed to make the statement or limited in time or frequency of speaking when responding to questions.

### 10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

- (a) In addition to his/her right under Council Procedure Rule 2.4 to put questions or statements to the Leader or a portfolio holder or Chairman of an overview and scrutiny committee or in any report, a Member may ask the Chairman of any committee, other than an overview and scrutiny committee, any questions relating to the business of the Council.
- (b) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.
- (c) With the consent of the Chairman of the Council, the Member who has asked a question may ask a supplementary question arising out of the reply. In these circumstances the speaking time will be limited to one minute.
- (d) Where the information asked for in a question is contained in any of the Council's publications, it shall be deemed a sufficient reply if the publication containing the information is indicated.
- (e) Where the reply to any question cannot conveniently be given orally, it shall be deemed a sufficient reply if the answer is supplied to the Member asking the question as soon as reasonably possible and copies shall at the same time be placed in the Members' Group Rooms.
- (f) The Chairman shall call on Members to ask questions under this Council Procedure Rule in the order of respondent set out below and, within that order, in the order in which notice of questions was given to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) by noon the previous day. In the absence of prior notice having been given, Members must inform the Chairman of their wish to ask a question and these will be called in the order received, but after questions of which prior notice was given. Copies of all written Member questions received for a meeting of County Council will be circulated to all Members in the Council Chamber.
- (g) The time limit for questions under this Council Procedure Rule for each respondent will be 5 minutes. Once the time allocated for any respondent has expired at any meeting, the Chairman shall not permit any further questions to be asked of that respondent under this Council Procedure Rule but, if a question or response has been started it may be completed, irrespective of the time limit, as may any response to any question being asked when the time limit is reached.

#### Order of questions

- (i) to the Chairman of the Standards Committee;
- (ii) to the Chairman of an area committee;
- (iii) to the Chairman of any other of the Council's committees.



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend the Annual General Meeting of the County Council to be held **remotely** on **Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 10.30 am**, at which the following business will be transacted.

This meeting is being held remotely using Skype and will be live broadcast to the Council's YouTube site. Further information on this is available on the committee pages on the Council website - <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/> . Recordings of previous live broadcast meetings are available via the following link - [www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings)

### BUSINESS

1. **Election of the Chairman of the County Council** to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2021.
2. **Apologies for absence.**
3. To move that the **Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 February 2020** having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.  
**(Pages 6 to 14)**
4. **To elect a Vice-Chairman of the County Council** to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2021.
5. **Declarations of Interest**
6. **Chairman's Announcements** - Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chairman of the Council.
7. **A Statement by the Leader of the Council**  
**(Pages 15 to 16)**
8. **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, 17 July 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.

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

**Executive Report only (Pages 17 to 21)**

- **Revised Library Strategy (Appendix 1)** (Pages 22 to 75)

10. To consider the **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20** (Pages 76 to 93)

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 94 to 118)**

- (a) Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects - County Councillor Gareth Dadd
- (b) Executive Member for Children's Services - County Councillor Janet Sanderson
- (c) Executive Member for Education and Skills - County Councillor Patrick Mulligan
- (d) Executive Member for Access - County Councillor Don Mackenzie
- (e) Executive Member for Stronger Communities - County Councillor David Chance
- (f) Executive Member for Health and Adult Services - County Councillor Michael Harrison
- (g) Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing - County Councillor Caroline Dickinson
- (h) Executive Member for Open to Business - County Councillor Andrew Lee
- (i) Executive Member for Customer Engagement - County Councillor Greg White

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:**

**(Pages 119 to 129)**

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

- (n) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Karin Sedgwick)
- (o) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)

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 21 July 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

### NHS Parking

“That this council makes known to all NHS Hospital Trusts in North Yorkshire that this council supports and encourages free on-site parking for NHS staff at their workplaces.”

Proposed by County Councillor Geoff Webber  
Seconded by County Councillor David Goode

## 13. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

RICHARD FLINTON  
Chief Executive Officer

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON

13 July 2020

## North Yorkshire County Council

### County Council

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held at Hambleton District Council Offices, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton on 19 February 2020 commencing at 10.30 am.

#### **PRESENT:-**

County Councillor Jim Clark in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Bob Baker, Philip Barrett, Derek Bastiman, David Blades, Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, Lindsay Burr MBE, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Liz Colling, Richard Cooper, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, John Ennis, David Goode, Caroline Goodrick, 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 MBE, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter, Callam Walsh, Geoff Webber, John Weighell OBE, Richard Welch, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Windass.

#### **APOLOGIES:-**

County Councillors: Andrew Backhouse and Helen Grant.

#### **ATTENDING:-**

Honorary Aldermen: Bernard Bateman MBE, John Fort BEM and John Marshall.

A member of the press was present. There were two members of the public.

#### **120. Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 13 November 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 68 for, none against and two abstentions.**

#### **Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 13 November 2019, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **121. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted.

### **122. Declarations of Interest**

County Councillor Michael Harrison declared two interests: the first that a family member works for the Council's Health and Adult Services; the second that his employer is one of the companies named in the Treasury Management report. He confirmed that he had received the necessary dispensations from the Standards Committee.

County Councillor Karl Arthur declared an interest as his employer is Network Rail.

### **123. Chairman's Announcements**

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

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Chairman, Leader and Chief Executive of Hambleton District Council for enabling the County Council meeting to be held at their offices.

The Chairman passed on congratulations, on behalf of the Council, to County Councillor Peter Sowray who was awarded an MBE in the recent New Year's Honours list for services to the community.

The Chairman acknowledged the death of former County Councillor John Yeoman Williamson who died age 91 on 22 October 2019. John was a Conservative County Councillor representing Eskdale, Whitby for nearly 20 years. A minute's silence was held.

The Chairman informed Members who are school governors that they do not need to declare an interest under the Code of Conduct in the item on school admissions, as this is not a role carried out for profit or gain.

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

The Chairman made a number of announcements relating to work that he was doing in his role as Chairman.

### **124. 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 11548 to 11550 of the Minute Book).

### **125. Public Questions or Statements**

There was one statement from a member of the public.

The statement was read out by Jan Mitchell, Secretary of the Osgodby Residents Action Association. A summary of the key points in the statement is provided below:

- The residents of Osgodby are fully supportive of the need to improve SEND facilities in Selby District

- The concern is regarding the location of the proposed SEND school
- The proposed site is outside the local development plan boundary, on a green field site and would require access onto the very busy A63
- Osgodby is a small village of about 360 properties, with 5 working farms
- Any major development here would be detrimental to the village, the community, the rural economy and the environment
- There has been no transparency in the process so far. We have made 4 complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office regarding NYCC and triggered 2 internal reviews because NYCC have failed to respond within the statutory period.
- There has been a lack of communication with residents despite promises made by the Council
- The process for site selection and approval has been rushed and confused
- There are far more suitable locations in Selby district and the site at Flaxley Road, Selby, was previously the preferred option.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member Education and Skills, responded to the statement as summarised below:

1. The need for a special school in the Selby area was a key finding of the ISOS review into special education provision in North Yorkshire
2. In July 2018 the Government published guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative free schools. This was clear that the focus was on putting special free schools in the places where good new schools would be most beneficial and needed.
3. This guidance was clear that the government was particularly looking for bids which offered good value for money and where there was a commitment to use a local authority or government owned site on a peppercorn lease.
4. The following factors were taken into account in the process of identifying a site to be included in the bid for a special free school in Selby: ground contamination; flood risks; and significant topographical issues.
5. During the process of identification of a suitable site, two sites on the western side of Selby at Cross Hills were considered, as well as the Osgodby site. The Cross Hills sites were discounted on the basis of flood risk assessment. A search was undertaken of other Council and Government sites but none were deemed as suitable.
6. The Osgodby site was selected on the basis of the following: it was already in the County Council's ownership; it was large enough for potential expansion of the school; it was easily accessible; it had a lower flood risk assessment than the other sites and so better meets the criteria set by the DfE.
7. Local county councillors are not involved specifically in the selection of a site for a project, whether it is a site owned by Council or one that is to be purchased. Neither is there any obligation to inform the local parish/town council or consult with residents. Directorates engage with the relevant Executive Member about service projects and may engage with local members, depending on the nature of the project. This would include information about the possible physical location of the project.
8. The formal approval of a purchase or the allocation of a site may be given by officers or by a specific Executive Member or by the Executive, depending on the value of the site and other issues. This is in accordance with the Property Procedure Rules.
9. In this case, a report was submitted to the Executive Member for approval to allocate the site for the project and the decision to allocate the site was taken on 2 October 2018.
10. The process for site selection and approval, was undertaken to meet the DfE timescales.



11. The site happens to be a green field site but was identified as the most appropriate site.
12. The school will be designed and procured by the DfE and their consultants though they will work with the County Council and the trust appointed to open and operate the school. The design will need to address the impact on the landscape and neighbouring properties, highway access and traffic, and the public right of way which crosses the site.
13. The planning authority for the school will be Selby District Council. A planning application for the school will be submitted by the DfE's consultant. This process will allow residents and other interested groups to express their views about proposals for the school.
14. Local county councillors have been kept fully informed of progress and emails were sent in September informing them of the intention to gain approval from the Executive member for the submission of the bid for the establishment of the proposed special free school on the Osgodby site.
15. During the process appropriate communication has also taken place with the farmer who leases the land.
16. A meeting for residents in Osgodby was held on 8 July 2019. Following the meeting the residents' questions were collated and responses written.
17. A report was presented to the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee on 8 November 2019 giving an update on the proposed special free school. This was attended by local councillors as well as representatives from the Osgodby Residents Association. This report is publicly available.
18. The website about the proposed free school is kept up to date and new information is added when available.
19. Communication has taken place between NYCC officers and parents/carers in the Selby area.

A supplementary question was asked by Jan Mitchell, Secretary of the Osgodby Residents Action Association. A summary of the key points in the statement is provided below:

The Flaxley Road site had only one issue, relating to flood risk, which could have been mitigated. The Osgodby site has a number of issues and risks associated with it relating to town planning, flooding to its southern portion, highway safety and access, relocation of a public footpath, risk of running sand and problems with mains sewers. In that case, why was Osgodby pushed forward for the bid in preference to the clearly more suitable site at Flaxley Road?

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member Education and Skills responded to the question by referring to points 3 to 6 in his earlier response to the statement and re-iterating the process that was undertaken for the identification of a preferred site.

A copy of the full statement and response is at pages 11552 to 11555C of the Minute Book.

## **126. Appointment of Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services**

**Resolved -**

That the appointment of Karl Battersby as the new Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services, on the retirement of David Bowe in July 2020, be noted.

## **127. Allocations Committee**

The recommendation in the report (page 11558 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 Mike Jordan to continue to have a seat on the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee but as a member of the NY Independents Group.
- Conservative County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE to give up his seat on the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- NY Independents County Councillor Andrew Backhouse to take up the vacant seat on the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ordinary Committee

- County Councillor Mike Jordan to continue to have a seat on the Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee but as a member of the NY Independents group.

**128. 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 11564 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 in paragraphs 3.24 and 3.26 on page 72 of the report be approved.

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

The section of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24, Revenue Budget and Council Tax at paragraph 3.2 of the report (pages 11564 to 11566 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

**The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with 64 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.**

**For the motion:** County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Bob Baker, Philip Barrett, Derek Bastiman, David Blades, Eric Broadbent, Lindsay Burr MBE, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Jim Clark, Liz Colling, Richard Cooper, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, John Ennis, Caroline Goodrick, 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, Zoe Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Caroline Patmore, Yvonne Peacock, Chris Pearson, Clive Pearson, Joe Plant, Gillian Quinn, Tony Randerson, Janet Sanderson, Karin Sedgwick, Andy Solloway, Peter Sowray MBE, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter, Callam Walsh, John Weighell OBE, Richard Welch, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Windass.

**Against the motion:** County Councillors John McCartney and Stuart Parsons.

**Abstentions:** County Councillors Philip Broadbank, David Goode, Bryn Griffiths and Geoff Webber.

**Resolved -**

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2023/24, the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 and Council Tax for 2020/21 at paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved.

Capital Five Year Spending Plan

The recommendation at paragraph 3.4 of the report (page 11566 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 Capital Five Year Spending Plan be approved.

Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21

The recommendation at paragraph 3.5 of the report (pages 11566 to 11567 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 Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 be approved.

Council Plan

The recommendation at paragraph 3.6 of the report (page 11567 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

**The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with 68 for, none against and 2 abstentions.**

**Resolved -**

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

### Admissions Policy

The recommendation at paragraph 3.7 of the report (page 11568 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

**The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with 69 for, none against and 1 abstention.**

### **Resolved -**

That the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the school year 2021/22 be approved.

### Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution

The recommendation at paragraph 3.8 of the report (page 11568 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 changes to the Constitution as outlined in the report be approved.

### Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

The recommendation at paragraph 3.9 and the supplemental report (pages 11569 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

Group Secretaries then notified Council of the following changes to committee membership:

#### Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee

County Councillor Caroline Goodrick to have a seat on Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee

County Councillor Richard Musgrave to give up his seat on Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee.

#### Pension Fund Committee

County Councillor Stuart Parsons to give up his seat on the Pension Fund Committee

County Councillor Don Mckay to have a seat in the Pension Fund Committee.

#### Pension Board

Emma Barberly – Askham Bryan College – Employer Representative and David Hawkins – York College – Associate non-voting Member (reserve Employer Representative) both to become members of Pension Board.

#### Board to Coast Pensions Partnership

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan appointed to the position of Shareholders representative for Border to Coast Pensions Partnership. Barry Kahn to stand down from that position.

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

**Resolved -**

That the appointments to the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board, committees, the Pension Board and the Shareholder representative for Border to Coast Pensions Partnership be noted.

**129. Report and recommendations of the Members' Independent Remuneration Panel**

The recommendations at paragraph 5.1 at page 24 (page 11971 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

**The vote was taken and, on a show of hands, the motion was declared carried, with 66 for, 4 against and no abstentions.**

The following County Councillors asked that their votes against the motion be recorded in the minutes: Lindsay Burr MBE, John McCartney and Stuart Parsons.

**Resolved -**

That the County Council approved:

- (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.

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

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 11986 to 11988).

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 11990 to 11991) and responded to questions.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children's Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (page 11992).

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 11994 to 11995).

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 11996 to 11997), 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 11998 to 11999) and responded to questions.

County Councillor Michael Harrison, Executive Member for Health and Adult Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12000 to 12001).

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 12002 to 12004).

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 12006 to 12007).

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 12008 to 12021) were noted. Questions were asked of County Councillors Derek Bastiman (Chair of Scrutiny Board and the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Stanley Lumley (Chair of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee), and John Ennis (Chair of the Scrutiny of Health Committee).

**131. Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion were received within the deadline.

**132. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions**

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

The meeting closed at 12:40.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2020

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

I am concentrating on only two topics this time. That is not to say that there aren't other issues I could report on, including our regular report on progress on climate change, but these two appear to be all encompassing at this time.

**Covid -19**

Colleagues will cover in more detail the impact of the virus on their portfolio areas, and the immense efforts undertaken by staff to minimise the impact. All have played their part. Very many of our staff, and Members, have gone way above the call of duty to serve our residents to the best of our ability.

I want to say a huge thank you to all our staff, from the most senior to the most junior, to the staff of our partners, to the blue light services, to the NHS rightly recognised in other places as well, to the Army and other MoD units, to business for doing their job and sometimes changing their jobs to assist, and of course to volunteers in our communities, both in organised settings like our 23 supported CSO's, and informal groups who set themselves up.

At every opportunity I say I am pleased I live in North Yorkshire, and I couldn't be more proud of our Council.

We must continue the fight against Covid, and it isn't over yet, but we can also start to look towards actions we need to take about recovery.

We will work with businesses, our Local Resilience Forum, and partners such as the LEP and Welcome to Yorkshire to implement recovery plans for both economic recovery and community recovery.

We must also be aware of the huge financial pressures we are facing. Our monthly Delta financial returns to Government estimate our exposure to Covid related costs to the present timeframe will be £75m. I am very grateful to the support received so far from Government (around £30m) and for our MP's who regularly take up issues on our behalf. The Minister has said this is a journey we are on, and we will continue to press for further funding support, backed up by evidence so it is not a request for a blank cheque.

**Devolution**

I have said at every Council meeting that devolution is the right path to follow, if only for two main reasons.

Firstly it must make sense to transfer decision making from Whitehall to the town hall. Secondly, with the devolution of powers and the relevant spending comes a sum of money called gainshare, and this could be at least £25 m a year for the next 30 years of unfettered money to spend in our region.

I have also said that as government is being asked to give up powers, it is only right that they set some conditions.

We have been painfully slow at getting to where we are today. Over 5 years we have had numerous false starts, with Greater Yorkshire, One Yorkshire and others. Other places have had devolution and the benefits for some years, whilst we fall behind. Close to hand I look at the progress being made in the Tees Valley, helped along by a very energetic and able Mayor.

The Local Government Minister Simon Clarke visited York and North Yorkshire Leaders last week. He emphasised that he is also a Minister for Recovery, and that devolution is a key part of recovery, and that it is also part of the Prime Minister's levelling up agenda, especially in Yorkshire.

He emphasised that there was a willingness and a capacity in government to progress devolution deals. Our "asks" drawn up over a number of months benefit all parts of the County and York, and run to some 40 pages. I'd like to recognise the cooperation of the Directors of Development, and CEX's of all the councils in Y&NY, and the National Parks for their inputs, and James Farrah from the LEP for holding the ring.

Leaders were unanimous that these asks should now be put through each Councils decision-making process so that they can be submitted to MHCLG and HM Treasury so that negotiations can begin. We will take these to Executive on 28<sup>th</sup> July. I must emphasise that this is only the start of the process, not the end. We will circulate the document to all as part of the Executive report.

The Minister reaffirmed the Government's requirement for devolution to be accompanied by the introduction of an Elected Mayor and a Combined Authority. He also stated that previously there had been a request for local government reorganisation. This is now a requirement. We must consider what options we have in this, and I will work with any council, any group, any group leader to try to arrive at a consensus position.

This is not about self-preservation. Far from it. Even if we were to argue successfully that it should be a single unitary Council within the County's boundaries, it will still be a new authority that will be formed with elections in 2022.

What we must preserve are the outputs and the outcomes of the many high value and personal services that we deliver to the residents of North Yorkshire, often at very local level. We must seek to protect local decision-making and accountability, whilst at the same time getting the best solution for our residents and our tax payers.

If there are competing proposals, we must ensure that the Secretary of State has a viable and sustainable choice to make, and on which to consult our communities.

CARL LES



**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**22 July 2020**  
**The Report of the Executive and the Executive in Consultation with**  
**the Chief Executive Officer**

**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 and the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Executive since the last meeting of the County Council on 19 February 2020.

**2.0 Details of meetings**

- 2.1 The following sections provide details of decisions made and recommendations to County Council by the Executive and the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Executive since the last meeting of the County Council on 19 February 2020. The meetings were held on the following dates:
- The Executive met on 10 March 2020, 19 May 2020, 9 June 2020 and 14 July 2020.
  - The Chief Executive Officer meetings in consultation with the Executive were on 31 March 2020, 7 April 2020, 14 April 2020, 21 April 2020 and 28 April 2020.
- 2.2 The meeting of the Executive that was scheduled for 24 March 2020 was cancelled following the commencement of the national lockdown on 23 March 2020 and the ban on all public gatherings. At that point, it was not possible to hold a legally binding local authority committee meeting via remote access, video or telephone based conference. As such, the Council agreed to invoke the emergency decision making process that is identified in the Council's Constitution to allow the Chief Executive Officer to make all appropriate decisions and to allow for appropriate consultation. The first Chief Executive Officer meeting in consultation with the Executive was held on 31 March 2020.
- 2.3 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4 April 2020. They made provision for remote attendance at, and remote access to, council meetings held on or before 7 May 2021. Throughout April and early May 2020, different software platforms were tested. The solution adopted was Skype using OBS software to enable a live broadcast meeting to be held and be put on the Council YouTube site. The first live broadcast meeting of the Executive was on 19 May 2020.
- 2.4 **10 March 2020 Executive Meeting**  
 The Executive met on Tuesday 10 March 2020, in person. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance County Councillor Derek Bastiman.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function - Suggested Changes to Practice
- Better Together Collaboration Agreement Review
- Extra Care Housing in Bedale - Outcome of Procurement and Consideration of Scheme Proposal (Appendices B and C contain Exempt Information)

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4042>

2.5 **31 March 2020 Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer**

The Executive met with the Chief Executive Officer on 31 March 2020. County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Public Report
- Clapham CE VC Primary School - Closure Proposals
- Springhead School - Proposal for Satellite Specialist Sixth Form Provision
- Proposals to Add, Amend and Remove Provision for Special Educational Needs by Providing Targeted Mainstream Provisions in Nine Mainstream Schools from September 2020
- Healthy Child Programme Targeted Service Procurement
- Changes required to the Constitution
- Proposal for Living Allowance Payment changes for eligible children under Leaving Care Act 2000

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=118&meetid=4410>

2.6 **7 April 2020 2020 Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer**

The Executive met with the Chief Executive Officer on 7 April 2020. County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Shielding and Supporting Communities
- Decision to give Grants
- Financial Support for Early Years Providers for Covid-19
- Exercise of Care Act Easements within Health and Adult Services
- The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020
- Changes to Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules Delegation.

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=118&meetid=4411>

**2.7 14 April 2020 Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer**

The Executive met with the Chief Executive Officer on 14 April 2020. County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Shielding and Supporting Communities Update
- Proposed Extension of Loan Facility to Welcome to Yorkshire

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=118&meetid=4412>

**2.8 21 April 2020 Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer**

The Executive met with the Chief Executive Officer on 21 April 2020. County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Revised Library Strategy
- Lowering the age range of Riccall Community Primary School to 2-11
- Funding Arrangements for A1(M) J47 and Harrogate Rail Line Improvements
- Grants for Businesses Update

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=118&meetid=4413>

**2.9 28 April 2020 Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer**

The Executive met with the Chief Executive Officer on 28 April 2020. County Councillors present via Skype and phone: Carl Les, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- A1(M) Junction 47 and Harrogate Rail Line Funding Arrangements

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=118&meetid=4414>

**2.10 19 May 2020 Executive Meeting**

The Executive met on 19 May 2020. It was a live broadcast meeting using Skype and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors present David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance County Councillor Paul Haslam

Substantive agenda items were:

- Authorisation to accept Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Award Funding from WYCA/DfT
- Home to School Transport - Use of Accessible Vehicles and Provision of Transport for Non-Entitled and Post 16 Pupils

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4300>

#### 2.11 **9 June 2020 Executive Meeting**

The Executive met on 9 June 2020. It was a live broadcast meeting using Skype and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance County Councillor Paul Haslam

Substantive agenda items were:

- Publication of Statutory Notices on Removal, Alterations and Establishment of Special Need Provisions in Mainstream Schools from 1 September 2020
- Clapham CE VC Primary School - Closure Proposal
- Developer Contributions for Education
- Verbal Update on County Council's Covid-19 Actions
- Children and Young People's Service - Schools Condition Capital Programme 2020/21 (Annexes B and C contain exempt information)

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

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4288>

#### 2.12 **30 June 2020 Executive Meeting**

The Executive meeting that was scheduled for 30 June 2020 was cancelled as all items that were due to be considered at that meeting had be rescheduled for future meetings.

#### 2.13 **14 July 2020 Executive Meeting**

The Executive met on 14 July 2020. It was a live broadcast meeting using Skype and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Also in attendance County Councillor Paul Haslam

Substantive agenda items were:

- Outbreak Management Plan
- Appointment of Director York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies.

The link to the report for this meeting is as follows:

<https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=18&meetid=4290>

### 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 Revised Library Strategy

This item was considered at Executive consultation with the Chief Executive Officer on 21 April 2020. Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

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

That the revised Library Strategy *Your Library, your place* be approved as part of the Council's Policy Framework. The implementation would also involve community libraries and engagement with communities.

CARL LES  
Chairman  
County Hall  
Northallerton

13 July 2020

# Appendix 1 to Item 9 - Executive Report

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Chief Executive Decision Session

21 April 2020

#### Revised Library Strategy

##### Report of the Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships and Communities

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform the Executive of the consultation on the revised library strategy *Your Library, your place*.
- 1.2. To seek agreement of the Executive to submit the revised library strategy *Your Library, your place* to the County Council for adoption.

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Library Strategy is part of the Council's Policy Framework. The current document (*New Look, No Shush!*) was developed over ten years ago so does not reflect the current model of delivery in partnership with community libraries and volunteers; the changes that have taken place in the use of public libraries with the development of the virtual library; or the increasing role of libraries as community hubs supporting delivery of wider council services.
- 2.2. *Your Library, your place* sets out a strategic vision for the next ten years, recognising these changes and how the service will prioritise resources and continue innovating to meet the needs of communities – in partnership with those communities.

### 3. Context

- 3.1. *Your Library, your place* recognises the significant contribution by communities in maintaining our full county-wide network of libraries since 2017, with front line services at 31 of them now delivered by volunteers – over 160,000 hours annually given freely – but also the innovative ideas that have contributed to our service being recognised as in the top 10 performers across England.
- 3.2. The document is designed to celebrate achievements and recognises best practice. It demonstrates how libraries support council priorities, meet national strategic directions whilst allowing for local flexibility to meet local priorities, and acknowledges that the ambitions are only achievable working with and continuing to support our community libraries as full partners. It is not intended as a prescriptive list of requirements.

### 4. Overview

- 4.1. The document is based on four key strategic themes outlined below, all of which link to the ambitions set out in the Council Plan. It is supplemented by performance data and a 12-month action plan, which will be updated annually by officers.
- 4.2. The four key strategic themes are:
  - i. Literacy and Learning - with priorities around school readiness and under 5 library use; business information services, co-location with Adult Learning and young volunteers
  - ii. Health and Well-being - with priorities around mental health, dementia and loneliness
  - iii. Digital - with priorities on supporting online access, eBook contracts, teen use of libraries and coding activities
  - iv. Communities - with priorities to develop community hubs, celebrate North Yorkshire past and present, and refurbishments of Malton and Scarborough libraries

## **5. Consultation (June 2019 - February 2020)**

- 5.1. The initial draft was developed in consultation with all library staff, community libraries and other stakeholders, over the summer of 2019. Library Managers attended team meetings and community library network meetings across the county, using local and national priorities to stimulate discussion around key expectations and ambitions for the service. These meetings informed a draft document which was then circulated for further comment and discussion at team meetings, community library network meetings and with community library management groups. Senior library managers attended meetings within HAS and CYPS directorates, as well as groups including North Yorkshire Forum of Older People and the Community Learning Partnership. Feedback from all of this informed the final draft to go out for public consultation.
- 5.2. *Your Library, your place* went to public consultation 7 January – 24 February 2020 with the document published on the council website with an on-line questionnaire. 282 responses were received from individuals, volunteers and organisations.
- 5.3. An analysis of the response to the public consultation can be found in Appendix 1.

## **6. Key messages from the consultation**

- 6.1. The draft strategy was well received and the four objectives are supported. All the community libraries responding were supportive.
- 6.2. The vast majority of the respondents had a positive opinion of the strategy with 83% of those who replied feeling that it was 'very good' or 'good'. Only 4% (10 people) felt it was 'poor' or 'very poor'. The majority of respondents agreed with all the objectives, with 95% agreeing (strongly or somewhat) with the objectives: Literacy

and learning and Digital; 92% with Communities and 91% with Health and wellbeing.

- 6.3. Overall feedback on the document itself were positive with 85% finding the strategy is easy to understand, 84% it was easy to navigate, 81% found it appealing and 77% said that the case studies are useful. Those disagreeing were asked why. There were comments about the wording (3 comments) and being shorter/more focused (3 comments). The largest number of comments (9) were about the strategy itself rather than the document. Others were more general in relation to service delivery including a small number with specific issues. Comments relating to concerns about specific libraries will be considered and where feasible addressed. As many of these relate to space available and environment it will not be possible to satisfy all – especially those wanting quiet during pre-school storytimes or about teenagers using libraries!
- 6.4. The comments from the community libraries tended to be supportive but highlighted the need for ongoing funding and support.
- 6.5. In response to the consultation feedback the document has been revised to ensure that terms used are consistent throughout and whilst use of service specific jargon cannot be totally removed it has been reduced.
- 6.6. In response to comments around it being shorter/more focused we are working with Communications to develop an easy read version and plan on a page that can be updated regularly to show progress against the ambitions. Similarly, an annual one-page celebration of successes will be published.
- 6.7. A small number felt that the document should be contain more specific detail on actions to achieve the ambitions and funding required. This has been considered, however agreed that the document is intended to be high level and achievable within budget, with grant funding sought for specific projects, and as such the need to include budget specifics was not considered necessary.
- 6.8. The vast majority of respondents did not provide a comment suggesting that they did not think anything was missing from the Strategy. The two most prominent areas/themes highlighted as missing were facilities for quiet study and research particularly for local history (8 comments) and books and reading (6 comments). The need for space for quiet study space is more service related as being limited by space available and will be addressed locally where feasible. It was felt that the Strategy covered learning and curating of local history material as expectations. The comments around books and reading tended to relate to those who see books as the sole function of a library. It was felt that reading is included as a priority, however that whilst the lending of books remains and will continue to be our core offer a 21st century library has a wider role as recognised by the Strategy.
- 6.9. The need to provide ongoing and long term support for volunteers and funding for community libraries was highlighted together with several general comments that libraries are essential for communities. As expected several responses were around the fact that the local authority should not have to rely on volunteers. That said, the majority were pleased that the service is still available with several



complimentary responses about specific libraries and these have been forwarded to the relevant staff and volunteers.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. The County Council has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area. In providing this service, the council must encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service, and lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.
- 7.2. The revised library strategy *Your Library, your place* seeks to ensure that the County Council continues to fulfil the statutory duty.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1. The revised library strategy does not have any specific financial implications. All financial implications will continue to be dealt with through normal budgetary and approval processes.
- 8.2. The revised library strategy recognises 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 to keeping all our libraries open.

## **9. Equality implications**

- 9.1. An initial EIA screening form has been completed. It is the view of officers undertaking the assessment that there is unlikely to be any adverse impacts on any persons with protected characteristics as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 so a full EIA is not required.
- 9.2. The EIA screening form can be found in Appendix 3

## **10. Alternatives considered**

- 10.1. The principal alternatives to adopting a revised library strategy are to:
  - a. Continue with the existing strategy *New Look, No Shush!*, but this was developed over ten years ago so does not reflect the current model of delivery in partnership with community libraries and volunteers; the changes that have taken place in the use of public libraries with the development of the virtual library; or the increasing role of libraries as community hubs supporting delivery of wider council services.
  - b. Cease to have a library strategy, but this would leave the Council and its partners without a clear statement about the role of the library service.

## 11. Recommendations

- i) That the Executive supports the revised library strategy *Your Library, your place* and recommends it to the County Council for approval as part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- ii) That the implementation of the revised library strategy should involve community libraries and engagement with communities.

Neil Irving  
Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships and Communities  
6 April 2020

**Report Author** – Chrys Mellor; General Manager - Libraries

### Appendices

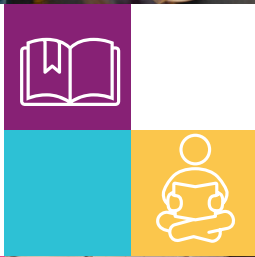
Appendix 1 Draft Strategy *Your Library, your place 2020 - 30*  
Appendix 2 Library Strategy Consultation report  
Appendix 3 EIA screening form

### Background documents

Arts Council England: Strategy 2020-30 Let's Create  
Libraries Connected: Strategic review of the Universal Offers: Final report 2019

# Your library, your place 2020-2030

Draft libraries strategy  
2020-2030



The logo for North Yorkshire County Council, featuring a stylized rose flower inside a circular emblem, with the text 'North Yorkshire County Council' to its right.

# Introduction

What an exciting time for libraries in North Yorkshire! The last few years have seen many remarkable moments, not least the amazing partnership with volunteers and communities that has seen the service recognised nationally as high performing and innovative. I know there will be many more such moments to come that will benefit our customers and communities across North Yorkshire.

**We are a family of libraries that nurtures opportunities through access to ideas, imagination and connections.**



This family includes all volunteers and partners engaged with delivering services - charities, partner organisations, parish and town councils. 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 North Yorkshire County Council is critical in keeping all our libraries open.

Our services are delivered in partnership with our volunteers within our communities; only together can we continue to deliver a comprehensive county-wide service. This document sets out the strategic direction as to how the Council will develop libraries in partnership with them. It celebrates the dedicated teams at all of our service points and recognises the need for the continued support including funding, infrastructure and professional expertise.

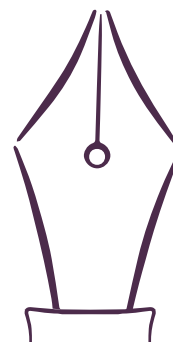




There are five essential requirements for a successful library service in North Yorkshire: bright, attractive spaces; support from trained and dedicated professional staff and volunteers; quality book stock; accessible IT; and a programme of activities and events for existing and new customers. North Yorkshire's libraries are more than a collection of books, they are a vibrant and accessible community asset that contain the resources and tools to support individuals and communities to thrive and prosper. The range of events and activities held in our libraries clearly demonstrate this along with the many successful funding bids to enable projects to be developed – as seen on the next page.

There has been national recognition of the achievement in retaining our library service and maintaining standards, with several national newspapers featuring positive articles, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance states we are “a high performing low cost service” and the Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport has declared our service a ‘trend-buster’ - one of 10 high performing authorities in England and Wales.

**Cllr Greg White**  
Executive member for Libraries



# Let's celebrate!

Our family of libraries includes six core libraries, five hybrid, 31 community libraries and a super mobile library serving 20 communities.

In 2018/19 there were:



 **2,118,855** visits to libraries;



**2,145,589** book loans;




 **123,776** e-book loans;



**4,000+** events;



 **9,650** children doing the summer reading challenge;



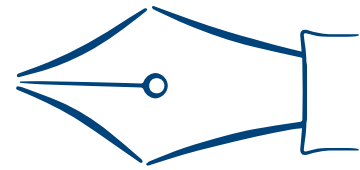
**40,875** doors knocked on by the home library service;

 **20,502** individuals supported to use ICT.



*This wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of our 2,007 volunteers who contributed 158,122 hours of their time.*

# Over 2 million visitors a year can't be wrong!



*The Globe@Stokesley - international 'Meet and Code' award.*

*Newby and Scalby library - ITV Calendar news #peoples lottery award.*

*BIC Technology Excellence in Libraries Award (TEiLA) Accreditation.*

*Great Ayton Discovery Centre North Yorkshire County Council Community Project of the year 2018.*

*Grassington HUB and Derwent Valley Bridge winners of Duke of York Community Awards.*

*Derwent Valley Bridge awarded Muck and Magic Gold awards for their community garden.*

*Skipton, Selby, Richmond and Filey libraries have all been refurbished in the last two years. We have also seen investment in new public IT across all libraries.*

- *Settle, Pickering, and Derwent Valley Bridge libraries have successfully bid for funding to use community transport schemes to enable housebound residents to visit the library. Boroughbridge library is using community transport to bring children from rural schools to visit their nearest library and learn about the facilities available.*
- *North Yorkshire libraries at Catterick, Selby, Whitby and Skipton have partnered with Yorkshire based arts organisations to deliver exhibitions, workshops and digital projects with over £90,000 grant funding.*
- *Community libraries and volunteers have been recognised in community awards – including Bedale, Easingwold, Boroughbridge, and Skipton (young volunteer).*
- *Filey, Bilton and Woodfield, Nidderdale Plus, Newby and Scalby, Bedale, Stokesley, Easingwold, Starbeck, Sherburn and Eastfield have received funding from a range of sources to support community projects including health and well-being, digital skills, isolation and community cohesion.*



*Harrogate library - Bookseller Library of the Year 2019.*

# National and local strategic directions

The library service is a statutory service delivered under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. We consider it important that all our libraries are part of this statutory provision as recognised currently by Government. This can only be maintained with the continued guidance, advice and support of North Yorkshire County Council library staff together with access to a county-wide stock collection. Networked resources managed via a single system to ensure a

consistent offer and delivery of the core library service county-wide is also vital.

Nationally public libraries are expected to deliver on seven ambitions as per the Governments Libraries Task Force, using four key themes as Universal Library Offers (see below). These provide a framework for service planning and in 2016 informed the service agreement with community groups with a straight forward outline of expectations.

## Universal Offers, revised 2019





# Key expectations of libraries - as outlined in our service agreement



*Provide books in a variety of formats, including e-books.*

*Promote reading for pleasure, study and learning.*

*Arrange activities and events e.g. author visits, reading groups, story times, groups and creative opportunities.*

*Provide internet access and free Wi-Fi.*

*Assist customers to use public services and supporting them to use services online.*

*Signpost customers to other services.*



*Help customers to use the digital library e.g. e-books, e-magazines, online resources etc.*

*Assist customers to find reliable information whether from books, the internet, or other organisations.*

*Provide information on local groups, societies, events and learning opportunities.*

*Provide a local, safe and neutral space for the community.*

*Help to reduce isolation by providing the home library service.*

# Vision:



**“A family of libraries that nurtures opportunities through access to ideas, imagination and connections.”**

*This strategy focuses on four core aims for North Yorkshire reflecting local priorities as shown below, set against the proven outcomes research shows that libraries deliver: raising aspirations, stimulating enjoyment of culture and helping people live independent lives.*

*Our libraries will be at the heart of their community, owned and shaped by them, able to respond to changing demands and needs; a place to exchange, share, learn and create ideas. The first choice for people wanting to find out, learn, enjoy and read - with skilled teams to support their ambition.*

Literacy & learning	Health & wellbeing	Digital	Communities
<p><b>Support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help people and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.</b></p>	<p><b>Support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.</b></p>	<p><b>Provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.</b></p>	<p><b>To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.</b></p>



# Literacy and learning



**Why? Customers rely on their library as a source of high-quality books, information and resources to be informed, educated and entertained.**

## Strategic direction

- Build the collection of books, e-Books and other materials to meet community needs.
- Enhance our skills and abilities to offer a better service to our customers.
- Offer opportunities for all ages and needs that spark curiosity, nurture learning and develop creative and critical thinking.
- Develop constructive activities for school-aged children including homework support.
- Provide space for study, work and creativity.
- Promote enjoyment of reading for all.

## Case study

*Encounters (2018) - Whitby Library worked with partners Invisible Dust, the County Record Office and volunteers from the library on a series of projects to explore the legacy of Captain Cook. Events included two specially commissioned art works by internationally recognised artists, workshops and artist and author talks. Volunteers researched Whitby during the time of Cook, curating an exhibition with material from the County Record Office and the library. Young people worked with the project artists to explore material from the National Maritime Museum, Kew, British Library and Royal Society and documented their own creative journey. The library was a focal point during the Cook 250 festival providing access to ideas and creative activities. A visitor commented that the event would “make me think more about different perspectives on history” and one young person has been inspired to set up an art/environment ‘collective’ at the library.*



## Aim: To support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help children, adults and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.

### Our ambitions

- To foster a love of reading and encourage the development of creative and critical thinking.
- To support children's futures and school readiness.
- For libraries to be centres for lifelong and self-directed learning.
- For the quality of materials held to be effectively maintained and relevant to each community, with a wide range and depth across the whole collection.
- To provide opportunities for individuals to increase employability skills.
- To take advantage of funding opportunities to deliver a wide range of cultural activities across the county.

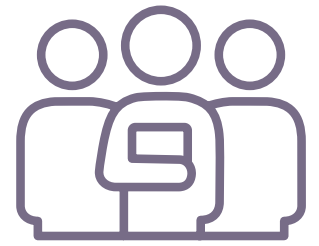
### Activities

- Summer reading challenge
- Bookstart/story times and Rhymetimes
- Cultural events e.g. author events
- Book groups
- Creative workshops e.g. Scribblezone
- Formal and informal learning
- Business support / advice sessions
- Family history
- Book bingo
- Work experience
- Supported employment

### Expectations

- Utilise national initiatives such as the summer reading challenge and Bookstart.
- Signpost and refer customers to access council services.
- Deliver a programme of events such as storytimes, author visits, book groups, and creative workshops.
- Offer formal and informal learning sessions.
- Provide and support access to e-books, e-audio and online reference resources.
- Host advice and information sessions.





# Health and wellbeing

**Why? The library is an accessible and trusted place where people can find information and connections in a friendly and welcoming environment – a gateway to other services.**

## Strategic direction

- Promote health literacy through access to information and by connecting people to other services.
- Develop a relevant collection of resources including self-help reading and other wellbeing materials.
- Provide space and activities for people to come together, socialise, learn and explore creative and cultural ideas.
- Provide opportunities for volunteering for people of all ages.
- Develop new partnerships and resources to support community needs.
- Promote the health benefits of reading.

## Case study

After attending an event at Ripon Library, with Laura Steven, author of 'Exact Opposite of Ok', girls from a local school were invited back to the library to take part in an activity looking at body image as part of Mental Health Awareness week. Following engaging and energised discussions covering body image, internet safety and how relationships are portrayed in the media, the group used library resources to produce digital art work exploring identity, self-esteem and what they liked about themselves and each other. The young people left with a renewed sense of confidence in their 'uniqueness'.



# Aim: To support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.

## Our ambitions

- To provide opportunities for people to socialise, create and learn together.
- To promote connectedness for people with space to engage and find information about services.
- For people to feel empowered and able to support themselves to live independently.
- To provide creative and social reading opportunities.
- To provide material and resources relevant to communities.
- To extend and develop the home library service.

## Activities

- Knit and natter groups
- NHS clinics
- Home library service
- “Dial-a-Ride” community transport bringing housebound users to the library
- Healthy living roadshows
- Advice drop-ins e.g. police, Age UK
- Coffee and conversation
- Happiness cafés
- Community gardens
- Deaf cafés
- Wellbeing bags
- Public health campaigns
- More than movies
- Community choirs

## Expectations

- Utilise local and national initiatives such as change4life and Living Well.
- Deliver a programme of activities such as Sporting Memories.
- Deliver groups such as knit and natter and happiness cafés.
- Provide a home library service.
- Healthy living roadshows/drop-ins such as health, Police etc.
- Aware of and responsive to conditions such as dementia and autism.



# Digital



**Why? Libraries help bridge the digital divide by providing services and information through technology.**

## Strategic direction

- Provide activities that support people to become more digitally confident.
- Support communities and vulnerable groups who find accessing council services difficult.
- Develop and promote access to virtual library services.
- Ensure that computer and e-resources are updated and re-evaluated to meet current demands.
- Offer opportunities for using technology in innovative and creative ways.
- Increase connectedness of individuals and communities.

## Case study

Harrogate library runs code clubs for primary and secondary school pupils and a third for adults. Using the library's digital kit everyone has the opportunity to develop their existing skills and learn new ones. Delivered by volunteers, learners get the opportunity to use a variety of programs and kit. The groups meet for a number of weeks allowing for new friendships to form; some move on to support new learners to cement and share their knowledge. One adult participant said they were "grateful for the chance to learn about something that I had little knowledge of before taking the course" and a parent of a primary aged child commented "It's lovely to see them helping each other and bouncing ideas around. I know other parents agree it is great to have a safe space for them to explore their love of tech".





## Aim: To provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.



### Our ambitions

- To be a leading e-library embracing digital technology with 95% transactions self-serve.
- To provide a quality internet presence through library websites and social media outlets.
- To foster digitally skilled people and communities.
- To support science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) learning to raise aspirations and broaden career prospects.
- To be at the forefront of advances in reading technology and electronic resources.

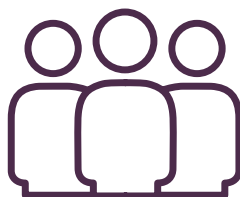
- Virtual reality
- Code-a-pillar
- Digital makeries
- Animation workshops
- Online learning
- STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths)
- Coding for all ages

### Expectations

- Provide access to digitally creative resources and activities such as code clubs and virtual reality.
- Support to use digital resources.
- Access to on-line learning.
- Deliver Science, Technology, Engineering (STEAM), Arts and Maths activities such as fun palaces and digital makeries.



# Communities



**Why? Libraries are safe, trusted and comfortable community spaces able to inspire, broaden horizons and celebrate diversity.**

## Strategic direction

- *Develop library collections, services and activities to reflect the needs and aspirations of our communities.*
- *Work in partnership with local people and organisations to encourage engagement with communities.*
- *Provide opportunities for volunteering and participation by all.*
- *Create a welcoming environment for everyone.*
- *Continuously update the local and family history collections in our main centres of population.*
- *Develop remote access to local history material through digitisation.*

## Case study

*Grassington Hub and community library in the heart of The Dales was set up to provide a wide range of support services to residents, businesses and visitors. The community library was awarded the title of Library of the Year 2019 for its outstanding performance over the last 12 months, in particular increasing visitor numbers. This was reflected in increased use of wider library services.*

*Carol Headley, a trustee of the hub, said: "A lot of our success is due to our committed volunteers and we are very proud of what they put into the organisation. Part of the reason we have grown is that we are doing far more than just offering traditional library services and that has brought a lot more people into the hub over the last couple of years. Once people realise what we have to offer they keep coming back."*



# Aim: To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.

## Our ambitions

- That libraries are the destination of choice for access to information, reading opportunities and creative cultural activities.
- For libraries to be the key place for other services to connect with communities and individuals to connect with other services.
- To build on cultural connections, helping to combat loneliness and isolation.
- For libraries to have a positive impact on an individual's sense of place; connecting language, cultures and generations.
- To celebrate North Yorkshire past and present.



## Activities

- Community events
- Volunteering
- Access to council services
- Local information
- Local history collections in main centres
- Local history groups
- Community reads
- Creative learning

## Expectations

- Provide opportunities for volunteering, participation and community engagement
- Ensure buildings are fit for purpose and used to their fullest extent
- Develop main local study collections to be accessible county wide
- Provide a venue for council communications, consultations and campaigns
- Provide a range of activities to bring individuals together



# Action plan 2020 – 21



## Literacy and learning

### Aim

Support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help people and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.

### Activities

- Increase active library membership by children
  - Deliver summer reading challenge
  - Introduce new book club for under 5s
  - Introduce '15 things to do in a library before you are 5'
- Achieve Arts Council England funding to develop capacity for creative opportunities within communities
- Review stock policy to ensure collections are relevant
- Increase learning opportunities in partnership working with Adult Learning and Skills Service and other partners within libraries.



## Health and wellbeing

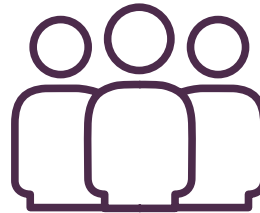
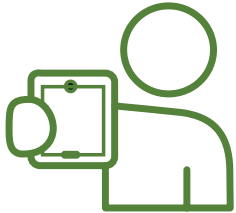
### Aim

Support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.

### Activities

- Increase use of 'Reading Well' collections
  - Prioritise mental health, working with partners to promote endorsed self-help reading
  - Promote new children's collection
- Increase awareness of services and support available
  - Continue to build awareness of reliable health information sources
  - Provide space for information, guidance and events
- Work with NYCC Living Well team and other partners to promote the home library service
- Provide ongoing volunteering opportunities.





## Digital

### Aim

Provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.

### Activities

- Review digital library offer to ensure relevance and value for money
- Recruit and train digital volunteers – develop new role description
- Target promotion to schools, colleges, businesses
- Extend IT Buddy scheme to home library service users
- Extend use of virtual reality and other digital resources
- Deliver science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) activities including increasing computing and coding clubs and similar.

## Communities

### Aim

To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.

### Activities

- Together with Stronger Communities team support the development of community libraries to extend services to meet local needs
- Provide ongoing training and support for all to ensure consistency of delivery and development, prioritising
  - Enquiry/reference work
  - Local studies
- Develop a programme of events to commemorate VE Day
- Refurbishment of Malton and Scarborough Libraries
- Investigate a suitable platform for digitisation of local studies material to ensure a consistent approach.





# Your library, your place 2020-2030

## Draft libraries strategy 2020-2030

### Contact us

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## Library Strategy Consultation Report

### Background and Methodology

The initial draft was developed in consultation with all library staff, community libraries and other stakeholders, over the summer of 2019. Library Managers attended team meetings and community library network meetings across the county, using local and national priorities to stimulate discussion around key expectations and ambitions for the service. These meetings informed a draft document which was then circulated for further comment and discussion at team meetings, community library network meetings and with community library management groups. Senior library managers attended meetings within HAS and CYPS directorates, as well as groups including North Yorkshire Forum of Older People and the Community Learning Partnership. Feedback from all of this informed the final draft to go out for public consultation.

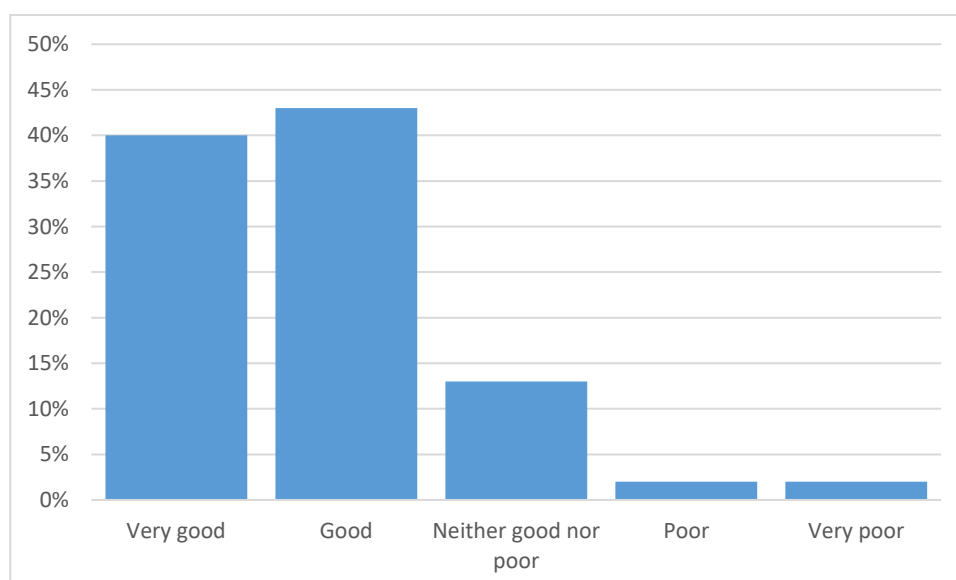
The revised draft was made available on the website and an online survey ran between 7 January and 2 February 2020. The online survey which was publicised via social media, the council website, press releases, North Yorkshire Now and the Johnson Press pages. An easy read survey was developed and made available.

282 responses were received from individuals, volunteers and organisations. This document details the unweighted results. The full response data can be found in Annex 1.

### 2.0 Summary of main findings

The vast majority of the respondents had a positive opinion of the strategy.

*Respondents were asked their overall opinion of the strategy.*



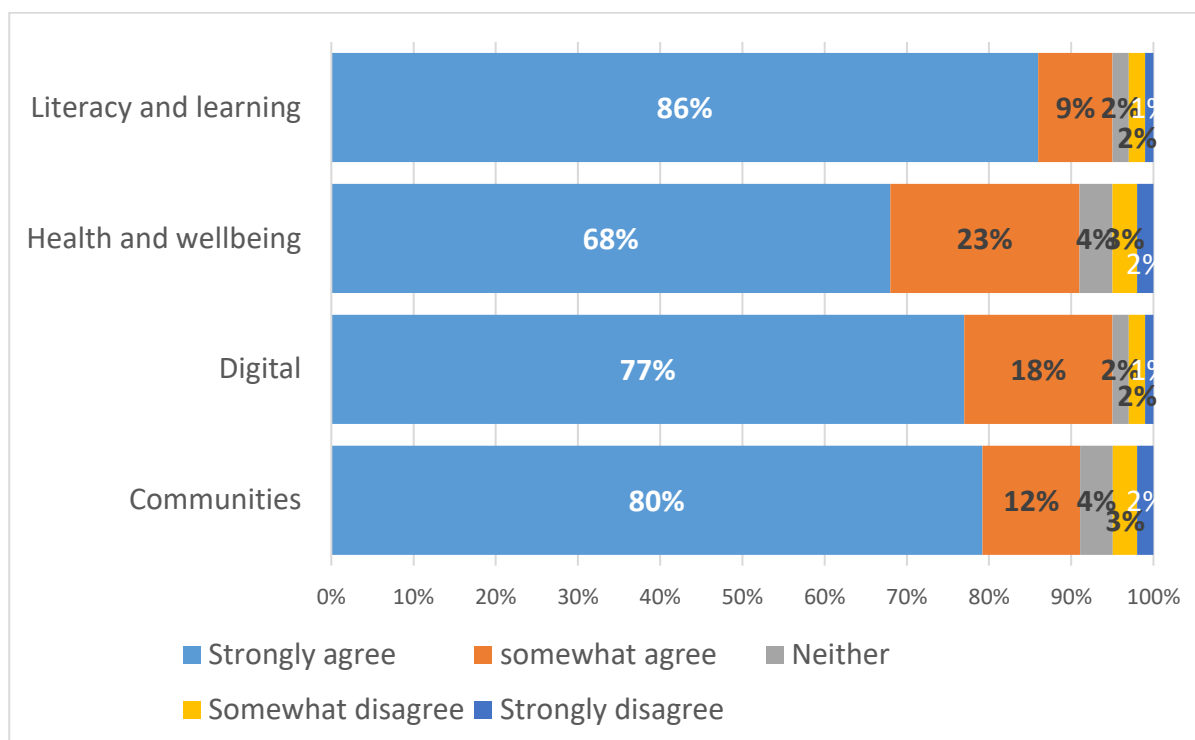
83% of those who replied felt that it was 'very good' or 'good'. Only 4% (10 people) felt it was 'poor' or 'very poor'.

The strategy sets out four objectives for the service:

- Literacy and learning: To support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help people and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.

- Health and wellbeing: Support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.
- Digital: Provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.
- Communities: To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with each of the objectives.



The majority of respondents agreed with all the objectives.

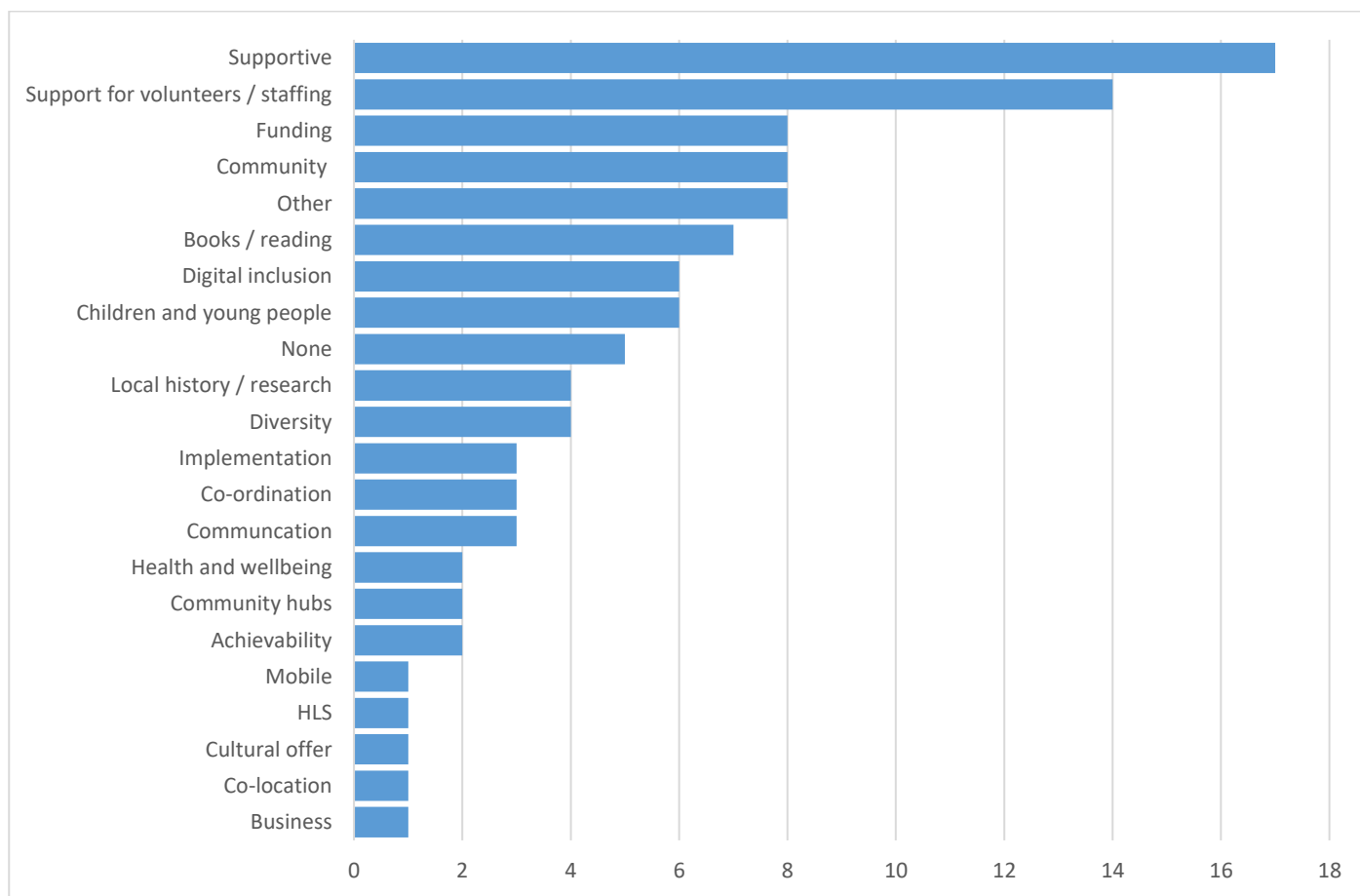
- 95% agreed (strongly or somewhat) with the objective: Literacy and learning
- 95% agreed (strongly or somewhat) with the objective: Digital
- 92% agreed (strongly or somewhat) with Communities
- 91% agreed (strongly or somewhat) with Health and wellbeing

Overall 18 people (6%) disagreed to some extent with one or more of the objectives. Those not agreeing were asked why they did not agree. The main reasons (12 comments) for disagreeing were around it not being suitable or the role of a library and the focus should be on reading and study. It should be noted that some of the comments were duplicated against each of the core objectives potentially indicating the number disagreeing is less than 18.

All the comments can be found in Annex 2.



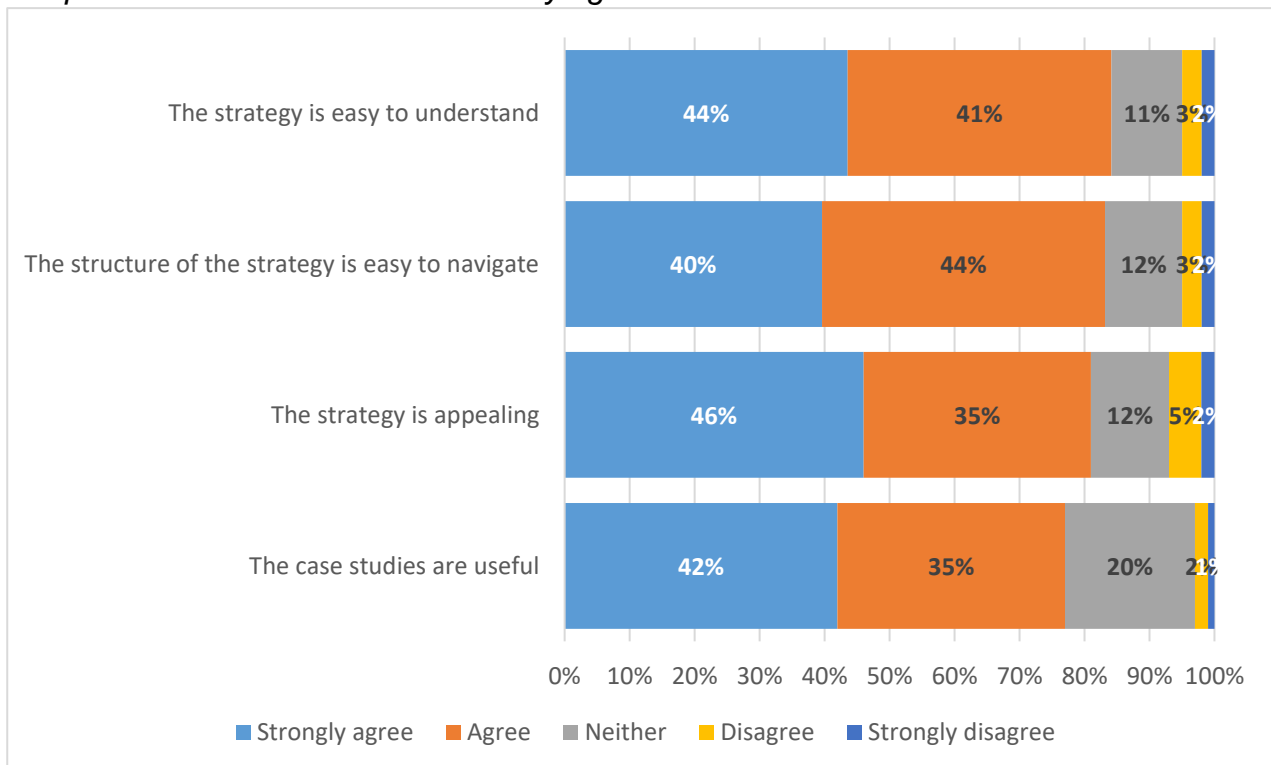
Respondents were asked if they had any comments on our vision and objectives



106 respondents provided a comment;

- 17 were supportive of the vision and objectives
- 13 highlighted the need to provide support for volunteers and/or the need for staff
- 8 highlighted that the strategy needs to be funded
- 8 highlighted that libraries are essential for communities

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with a number of statements.



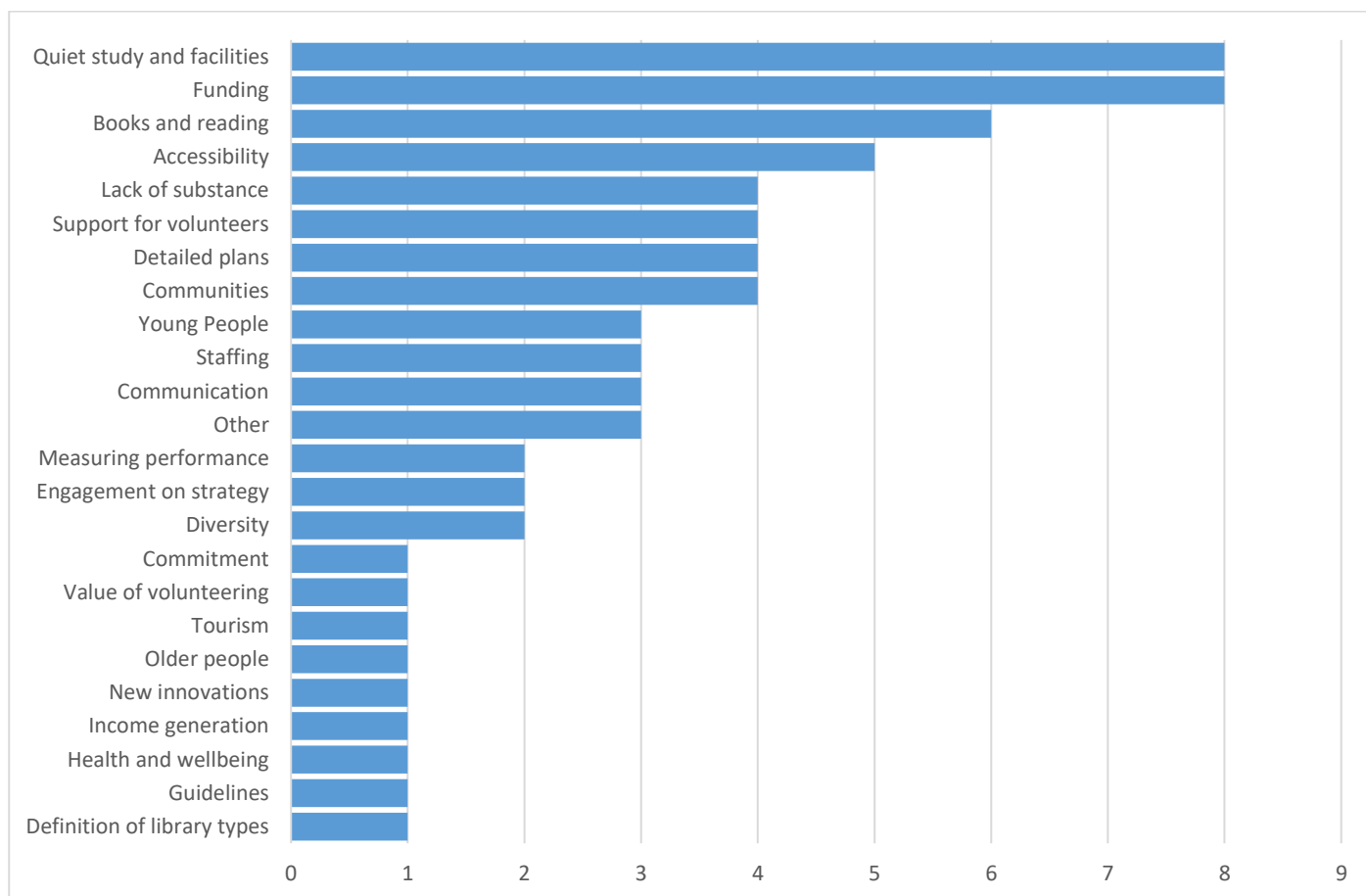
The majority of respondents agreed with all the statements on the structure and design of the strategy:

- 85% agreed (agree / strongly agree) the strategy is easy to understand,
- 84% agreed (agree / strongly agree) that the structure is easy to navigate,
- 81% (agree / strongly agree) that it is appealing,
- 77% that the case studies are useful.

Those disagreeing were asked why. There were comments about the wording (3 comments) and being shorter/more focused (3 comments). The largest number of comments (9) were about the strategy itself rather than the document.

All the comments can be found in Annex 2.

Respondents were asked if there is anything missing from the strategy.



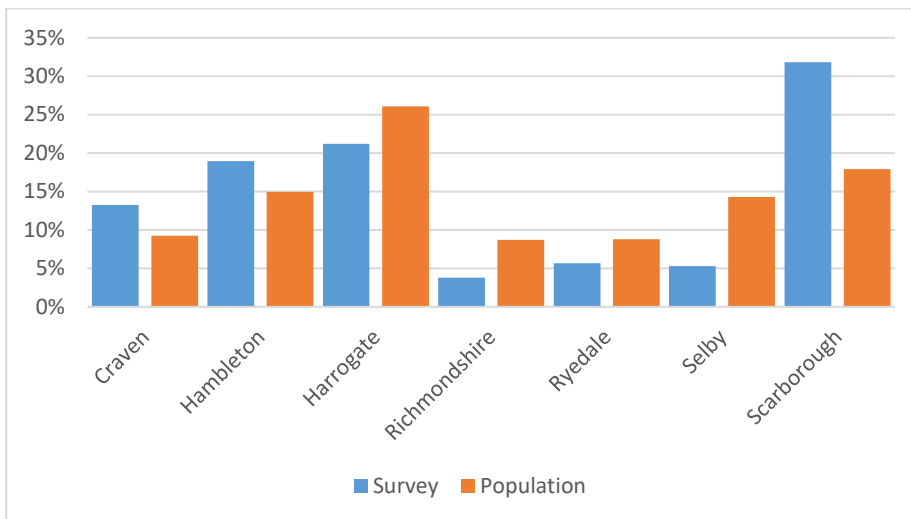
The vast majority of respondents did not provide a comment suggesting that they did not think anything was missing. Only 67 respondents (35%) provided a comment, the areas highlighted as being missing most often were facilities for quiet study and research particularly for local history (8 comments), funding (8), books and reading (6), support for volunteers (4) detailed plans (4) and substance (4).

Respondents were then asked if they had any other thoughts on the strategy. Only 8 people responded, 2 of whom mentioned funding and 2 of whom highlighted issues with research facilities.

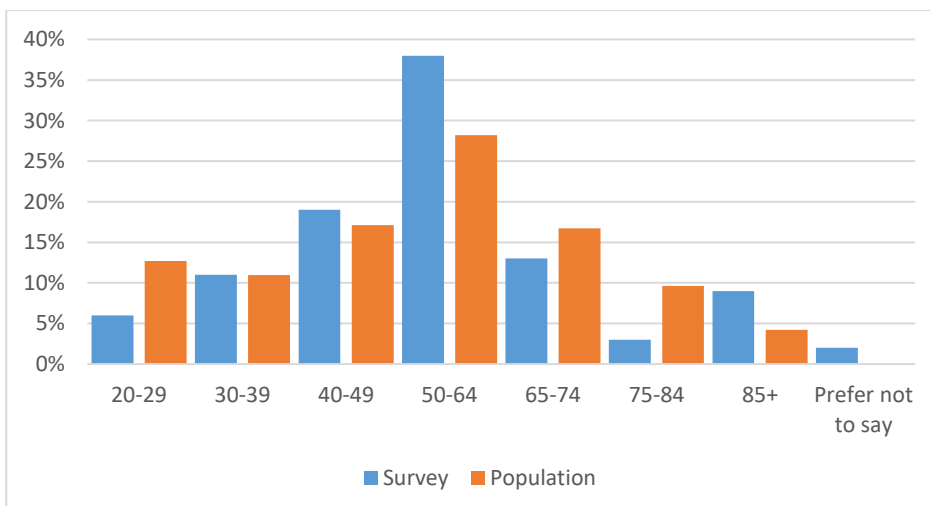
### Respondents

The vast majority of respondents (94%) completed the survey as an individual, 3% were completed by community libraries and 3% by other organisations.

Analysis of the 10 responses provided by the community libraries show a high level of support for the strategy. There was no disagreement with any of the 4 objectives and just one neutral response of neither agree or disagree. In terms of the statements on the design of the survey there was only 1 disagree response – this was for ‘The strategy is easy to understand’; there were two neutral responses one for the structure and another for the strategy being appealing. The comments from the community libraries tended to be supportive but highlighted the need for funding and support.



Respondents from across the county completed the survey. The highest proportion of respondents came from Scarborough (32%) followed by Harrogate (21%) and Hambleton (19%). Scarborough and Craven are over represented in comparison to the make-up of the County, Selby is poorly represented.



The majority of respondents were aged 50-64 (38%). This group is over represented in comparison to the population of North Yorkshire as is the 85 and over age group. The 20-29 and 75-84 age groups were under represented. We did not receive any responses from the 16-19 age group.

## Annex 1

## To what extent you agree or disagree with our objectives

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
Literacy and learning: To support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help people and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.	240 86%	26 9%	6 2%	4 2%	3 1%
Health and wellbeing: Support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.	191 68%	64 23%	11 4%	9 3%	4 2%
Digital: Provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.	214 77%	51 18%	5 2%	6 2%	2 1%
Communities: To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.	222 80%	36 12%	10 4%	7 3%	4 2%

## To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
The strategy is easy to understand	113 44%	113 41%	30 11%	7 3%	4 2%
The structure of the strategy is easy to navigate	110 40%	121 44%	32 12%	8 3%	4 2%
The strategy is appealing	125 46%	94 35%	33 12%	14 5%	6 2%
The case studies are useful	114 42%	96 35%	54 20%	6 2%	2 1%

## What is your overall opinion of the strategy?

Very good	111	40%
Good	119	43%
Neither good nor poor	35	13%
Poor	6	2%
Very poor	4	2%

## Are you responding on behalf of

Yourself	263	94%
A community library	10	3%
Another organisation or group	7	3%

**Are you a North Yorkshire County Library user?**

Yes	269	97%
No	9	3%

**Which district of North Yorkshire do you live in?**

Craven	35	13%
Hambleton	50	19%
Harrogate	56	21%
Richmondshire	10	4%
Ryedale	14	6%
Selby	14	5%
Scarborough	84	32%

**Which age category are you in?**

16-19	0	0%
20-29	16	6%
30-39	30	11%
40-49	50	19%
50-64	99	37%
65-74	37	14%
75-84	8	3%
85+	24	9%
Prefer not to say	5	2%

## Annex 2: Verbatim Comments – Website Survey

Comments as received, all obscenities have been removed. Comments may have been split when these refer to more than one topic.

### Comments

#### Q. If you disagreed with our objectives please explain why

***Literacy and learning: To support and develop literacy skills, reading, creativity and innovation to help people and businesses in North Yorkshire realise their potential.***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers.
- Can't see how libraries support business. Is it the place of libraries to develop literacy skills?
- See comment below about libraries being for members of the public not for businesses
- Reading engages the brain and stimulates thought. Restrict this and you remain trapped in the past.
- Plenty of support available
- How is this meeting the needs of minority groups?
- Why were libraries originally created - provision of literature to the masses who couldn't afford to purchase for themselves? A greater range of provision than realistically available or necessary for the self? SHARING information that is not needed by multiple individuals at the same time?  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library>: Public and institutional collections and services may be intended for use by people who choose not to—or cannot afford to—purchase an extensive collection themselves, who need material no individual can reasonably be expected to have, or who require professional assistance with their research. Much of this no longer applies, so the concept of a 'library' as readily understood is an anachronism.

***Health and wellbeing: Support the improvement of health and wellbeing in North Yorkshire.***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers.
- I would agree that the library service should enable people to be directed to appropriate departments or agencies to improve health and wellbeing but NOT provide direct support.
- A library is not a substitute for mental health professionals. Reading is, in itself, a good way to alleviate mental problems, but really only scratch the surface.
- We need to have clear information about your resources and books and groups to help us to live healthier and happier lives

- I don't think it's up to a library, it's somewhere that may help but everything is just getting over complicated.
- A library is not a health service.
- Libraries are not primarily for health and wellbeing. They are for reading and study
- Your 'vision' talks about "ideas, imagination and connections". Unfortunately, you are concerned with the first two and are side lining connections to our past. You hold vital records and are privileging 'health and wellbeing' above study.
- The atmosphere in Skipton library is far too noisy with too much going on and no apparent control. It is certainly not a place to go for quiet study
- You are concentrating resources on 'hard-to-reach groups' and are actually damaging the health and wellbeing of those whose pleasure and self-motivation comes from research and study.
- Do you mean become an outlet for council propaganda & social engineering?

***Digital: Provide people with the resources, infrastructure, skills and support to be digitally connected.***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers.
- Libraries should provide digital resources etc. that work. However, the research equipment in Skipton library does not work. There are no facilities for printing from the Craven Heralds held on disc – indeed viewing them on the only semi-working machine is virtually an impossibility. The new digital viewer is a white elephant - no one knows how to work it.
- We live in an increasingly isolated society and forcing people into digital connectivity over face to face contact is not addressing the issue. I believe this aim is to predominantly save money rather than improve the lives of people. Most people who want digital connectivity already have home access. Libraries should be enabling people to connect in person, not parking people in front of a computer.
- There needs to be better support and resources for people who are not used to using the internet, extending the time of using computers and making it clear the cost of anything you use or buy in the libraries, for example the use of audio books and paying for memory stick. Buildings need to be more accessible and information needs to be clear and easy to understand. Need to have quieter rooms for people who may have autism or people who want to work away from other people.
- How will the community run library provide resources and infrastructure?
- There is little reason for individuals not to have their own facilities, either self-provided or subsidised when \*real\* hardship or connectivity prevents them from doing so

***Communities: To become a focal point for communities to identify and support opportunities to work together.***



- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers.
- Libraries should be places where people can read and study.
- You only support 'opportunities to work together' in narrow ways. You are cutting off communities from their past in your headlong rush to be 'modern'.
- Activities like knit and natter should be held anywhere but in a library - church hall, village hall, community centre.
- A library is not a centre for social action.
- They are libraries. They are not outposts of social work or care in the community. The primary purpose of reading and studying has been downgraded far too much and has become peripheral.
- We need an organisation focused on reading, there are other places to get other resources and support, but only one place to support and facilitate reading - we need a library for books!
- Lots happening in NYCC libraries
- Opening hours will determine which parts of the community can access these opportunities.
- In Pickering Library, I am not sure they publicise the adult education offer from North Yorkshire (structured classes/courses with accreditation) regarding people who may wish to learn more about IT over an above what the IT buddies and volunteers can offer alongside putting the books away and main duties. I appreciate the libraries attempting to engage with young people after years of the Young People's Service being under funded and supported at probably every local authority.

**Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

***The strategy is easy to understand:***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are reneging on your statutory responsibilities.
- No detail to what is actually happening or going to happen.
- Read my previous comments. Each library follows their own planning. I feel there are no guidelines for everyone to have a say.
- it seems to have followed a tendency to use more complicated structures and vocabulary to make it sound better rather than just putting things in simple English
- No strategy is described - 'objectives' and 'strategies' are hopelessly confused in the draft!!!
- There are some sentences which are inaccurately structured. A document for public perusal should be consistently grammatically correct. Meaning should be precise and not veer towards being blurred.

- The easy read plan should be alongside the survey instead of a separate format.
- It's just a load of 'spin'
- It's difficult to understand the rationale behind it. Who has had this vision? What is their background and role in the community?

***The structure of the strategy is easy to navigate***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are renegeing on your statutory responsibilities.
- It's like you've tried to include everything you can think off instead of focusing on key aims
- The document is much too long. The vast majority of library visitors will give up on reading it. They are not professional Council officers or professional librarians. It should have been presented in summary form. The content might be interesting but you've missed a trick by very significantly overloading it.
- More use could be made of bullet points and short paragraphs.
- NO SINGLE PAGE DETAILING AND UNITING THE KEY VISION POINTS.
- It looks pretty but means little.
- Confusion comes from the different ideas that come from the various volunteers doing their best for their library
- As above.
- See below

***The strategy is appealing***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are renegeing on your statutory responsibilities.
- Far too bitty. Would much prefer a retrospective showing recent achievements, and an evaluation followed by a split along the lines of what you will continue to do then a summary of new directions to plug identified gaps, with projects and timescales, each tied back to the strategic direction it supports.
- Too much jargon, libraries are about people not business/consultant speak.
- I personally think there are too many pictures and this distracts from the overall intentions.
- Same comments as made above.
- People need a quiet atmosphere in which to read and study. This is important and is being lost.
- It only appeals to those who feel that some sections of the community matter far more than others. Many do not wish to engage with libraries, which is their choice and their right, but you are destroying the libraries' primary function in an effort to cater for those who are free to use them but choose not to.

- It makes me feel fed up because it's a lot of noise, all about nothing.
- It is partly written in generalisations that leave my central question unanswered
- We don't understand how to link the word appealing to your strategy
- Major points missing from the so called vision i.e. a place for study and research
- See my previous clarifications
- There is a danger it is trying to be all things to all people. There is mention of literacy but little talk of books. Is the goal to provide broad ranging library services or a community centre with a few books?
- It only appeals to those who believe that the core functions of libraries are no longer relevant. Not everything has to be diluted and dragged down market. Why not maintain standards and demonstrate that they are something to be aspired to?
- It's unrealistic.
- I feel that a Library should be one of the service spokes around a Community Hub not the other way round. For some people the Library 'brand' may put people off, the Grassington case study appears to be addressing that but why pick out the Library service - all our Community Hubs should offer all the spoke facilities/services to a greater or lesser extent - sign-posting, linking and collaborating with other Community Hubs where it is not feasible to offer the full service locally.

***The case studies are useful***

- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are renegeing on your statutory responsibilities.
- Whilst I'm sure some are benefiting, you're wholly failing to address why the vast majority of people aren't or can't access their library
- The case studies relied on the expertise of specific volunteers. They are not necessarily capable of being deployed across all libraries. There is a requirement for permanent and volunteer staff training to expand these. This requires funds.
- This is simply because I did not need these. They may have been useful to others.
- They need to be made easier to understand

**Q: Do you have comments on our vision and objectives?**

Achievability	I totally agree with your vision but I question your ability to deliver. In my experience the quality of service and opening hours has declined in my region which is a community with declining services overall.
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	<p>The digital statement requires high levels of financial investment, constant upgrades and high levels of expertise both within NYCC itself and more broadly amongst library staff and volunteers. How are those to be achieved? The aim may be worthwhile but I am unclear and not confident that the pathway and resources are clear and available. The other three objectives are more achievable within existing resources, knowledge and skills.</p>
Books / reading	<p>I believe that the traditional core activities of the library service should not be diluted by trying to be a 'jack of all trades' at the expense of being unable to focus on what it does best i.e. loan books.</p>
	<p>I think that the most important thing for the libraries to provide is access to print and digital books, fiction and non-fiction, new and classics.</p>
	<p>Please don't lose sight of the fundamental reason for the existence of libraries, i.e. books. The vision and objectives are excellent but do take the focus away from a library's primary goal (at least in my opinion) - granting access to a wide range of literature. Fact &amp; fiction. These days there are few books and getting chance to browse them is becoming increasingly difficult for in library theatre groups, tea mornings, kids running about. There's a danger of the library trying to become all things to all people and failing to deliver any. Is a library a repository for books or a community centre?</p>
	<p>Remember public libraries were established to allow the working man to have access to books. That still applies whether it is the working man or woman, young or old. There is a danger that this will get overlooked.</p>
	<p>There may be innovation but there also seems to be a lack of investment in books. Many libraries have had an increase in IT provision but a significant decrease in books.</p>
	<p>Keep the focus on reading (even if it is on line) because no one else is providing this focus</p>
	<p>Reading cafes are successful in providing welcoming space for all. Reading groups and reading group sets for loan can help build community and reach housebound. Thank you for your hard work!</p>
Businesses	<p>The focus of public libraries should be members of the public and not businesses unless business rates are given to libraries. Leave helping businesses to business improvement districts and other economic structures that exist such as local enterprise partnerships.</p>

Children and young people	<p>Rural schools &amp; children's access to library services. There has been a great deal of publicity recently that each school should have access to its own library. Until this time arrives the library should be taken to the school on a regular basis. I understand that it is now an Ofsted objective to encourage a joy of reading, particular in younger children. School library visits will assist this in meeting this objective.</p>
	<p>Only that younger children must be engaged as soon as possible, in order for them to get the reading habit.</p>
	<p>We need to encourage children and youth in reading. Maybe allowing younger teenagers to volunteer with parental support</p>
	<p>Story times, reading trials, book bags help children develop essential skills which will build stronger communities. ....</p>
	<p>My only reservation is that you must not take the place of parents. It is too easy for parents to pass responsibility on to schools etc. when they should be doing things themselves. My parents started me reading albeit with books from the library.</p>
	<p>I like the vision, particularly the literacy and learning and communities' objectives. I think in current times, it's hugely important to encourage young children to get into reading as soon as possible so that hopefully they continue that passion into adulthood. I work with young children and I have certainly seen a decrease in children being interested in reading, which is sad. So I'm a big advocate of getting young people into reading as early as possible. I read in the draft strategy that you are looking to create a reading challenge for under 5s which I think is a brilliant idea and will hopefully help to increase the numbers of children enjoying reading.</p>
Co-location	<p>Births and Deaths registry offices should be based in the library where appropriate e.g. Scarborough.</p>
Communication	<p>Please could local Library events be texted to people with library cards as I often only find out about events after they have happened. Library already texts about other things. Would really appreciate it as very limited access to e-mail, but plenty access to texts. I do love attending the local Library events which have all been first rate!</p>
	<p>There is a wonderful wish list and I want to hear more about what Pickering Library is offering for the VE celebration event. I don't feel the library makes the most use of the window space it has to publicise what is on offer and events. I don't feel libraries go out and engage with citizens but wait for them to come in. There are various notice boards around the town and businesses that welcome event publicity. I don't feel the library promote the e book service although that would cut foot fall and decrease incomes from fines. I am not sure what they have in to promote healthy life styles apart from a Slimmers World or similar private group. I know someone who is a volunteer and they weren't told about this consultation.</p>
	<p>Whilst they are good, community focused objectives, the vision lacks any detail as to HOW NYCC will tell the communities that these events are happening, in order to meet the needs/ objectives. There's no point putting events etc. on, unless the community is told about them.</p>

Community	Really vital for communities. The library is a safe, central place for people and we need to save our libraries. Use them or lose them. More publicity in towns, on buses, local radio and newspapers would help get the messages out.
	... Plus community projects help people come together to make communities
	Community needs more emphasis. Strategy needs to be unique to each library to reflect diverse communities. Health and wellbeing is rightly placed as it is vital for strong communities.
	It is vital that the library services continue to maintain their presence within the community in order to develop the literacy and learning to all from an early age through to the senior members of the population.
	The library in Pateley Bridge is a resource much used and needed by the Community
	The library is such an important part of each community. The delivery of its service supports social well-being
	People need the library, for some it is the friendly face in what could be a lonely day, or someone to help choose a book. The library is a vital need.
	Libraries need to be welcoming and accessible for all. Any charges must be kept as low as possible. People with the greatest needs often have least money and so as much as possible should be available for free.
Community hubs	I feel that a Library should be one of the service spokes around a Community Hub not the other way round. For some people the Library 'brand' may put people off, the Grassington case study appears to be addressing that but why pick out the Library service - all our Community Hubs should offer all the spoke facilities/services to a greater or lesser extent - sign-posting, linking and collaborating with other Community Hubs where it is not feasible to offer the full service locally.
	It is this re-purposing of the spaces formerly known as 'libraries' that should be pursued - but only if existing community space is not otherwise available. Example - many villages will have town / parish / community halls - why should there also be a separate building called a 'library' at additional infrastructure and maintenance cost ?
Co-ordination	Objectives need co-ordination across all libraries, ensure volunteer managed libraries gain learning from what others are doing; health and wellbeing needs co-ordinating with Director of Public Health, health and care providers and local CCGs - there should be one person at NYCC co-ordinating activity for each objective, so have a county-wide action plan
	Libraries need to be part of a multi-agency response to succeed with these objectives
	Libraries need to work with others, doctors, hospitals, education etc. to ensure people can live fulfilled, independent lives. People cannot become too dependent on libraries and expect them to undertake work that should be done by others for example, doctors.
Cultural offer	Wonder if there is more scope to become explicit about the role of libraries as a focal point for cultural activities. Art, drama, poetry

Digital inclusion	As long as people are not penalised, especially older people, for not wanting perhaps to be digitally connected.
	Digital inclusion needs to include cyber fraud awareness. There are many community locations which deserve support as well as libraries.
	I think the digital aim will be difficult to achieve because many volunteers are in the over 60 age group and don't have the skills at the level required to teach others
	more help needed for people who do not use technology
	Not sure about Digital aspect given that my local library has just lost one of its public computers. I would rather the base provision (i.e. public computers) was right before taxpayer's cash and volunteer-raised income is spent on things such as VR. On communities, there is a need to emphasise that libraries must work in partnership with other voluntary agencies in local areas.
	Re Digital - link up with the Digital Champions Network that has similar objectives and that is also being supported by Harrogate Borough and NCC
Diversity	You have not set Diversity targets to represent mixed cultures e.g. Scarborough. There is no age/gender/ethnicity/sexual identification statistics for library volunteers. There are no library economic career paths identified.
	Will there be any communication access for deaf people? BSL /English interpreter, lipspeaker, loop, etc.
	Not to concentrate on the very young and their parents. To include the Senior Citizens (NO OAP referral) seriously and with respect. As a library volunteer I feel the planning is arranged around the younger generation while the Seniors are not considered as an important part of the planning. People are people whatever age and should be given equal opportunities to use the libraries.
	This survey and any future survey needs to be in easy read and clear and easy to understand.
Funding	Community libraries are doing an incredible job. I hope they are given additional support from the council and not subjected to further funding cuts.
	I agree with all these objectives, but to achieve them North Yorkshire Council need to make more investment. The libraries are very dependent on volunteers, from cleaning to raising money even just to pay rent for the building and pay heating and lighting bills. Before any of the above can reach their potential, the council need to put in as much effort as the volunteers.
	Nothing at all wrong with the vision. Implementation another issue. Funding crucial, including not reducing staffing levels in libraries - one to one interaction important - and maybe a larger budget for book acquisition. This last a challenge I k ow.
	The objectives are fine but are they achievable with the finances and voluntary help available? In my experience voluntary help cannot be relied upon to be regular, thus leading to discontinuity in services offered.
	The strategy gives a clear indication of the vision of our community run library - The Globe at Stokesley - whose trustees give emphasis to the library being a community focal point. However, what is absent from the document is the resources that will be required to enable libraries to deliver the strategy.
	The things you mention in these objectives haven't been met over my lifetime. How do you expect these things to be achieved during times where budgets are tighter than ever?
	These are all very laudable, there is no commitment in this document to fund these initiatives.

	These laudable visions require adequate funding, without this it is merely political 'hot air'.
Health and wellbeing	<p>I would like to create social prescribing clinics from within Libraries, making use of the excellent resources you have, and putting people at ease in your welcoming environments.</p> <p>Wellbeing and social connection are the most important things for libraries to continue to meet the needs of communities</p>
Home Librar	I think home library services is an excellent service
Implementation	<p>All these have to be followed through with Professional guidance so that outcomes are sustainable.</p> <p>As a volunteer worker in my local library I fully support the 4 objectives. However the draft does not really give any ideas on how they could be achieved and indeed no strategy seems to exist either County wide or locally to meet the objectives?</p> <p>As they already do it I don't think an awful lot will change on the ground, it will probably just generate more paperwork</p>
Local history / research	<p>Skipton Library does not provide a comprehensive service. There is no professional expertise. There are no facilities whatsoever for quiet research. The so-called research technology does not work. My needs are certainly not met. The library used to be an enjoyable place to visit and to do research for my local history publications. The staff who had knowledge have all long since left. The noise from other activities in the so-called reference room is certainly not conducive to study. There should be provision and facilities for research with staff who have knowledge of the resources available and how they work. I do not go into the library any more as it does not meet my needs. The study/research/local history facility which a library should be providing is missing from the North Yorkshire plan</p> <p>Skipton library holds unique archives, some physical and some on microfilm. There is now only one working reader, which people book and travel to, but it does not seem to be connected to a printer. The digital reader has major problems. All research needs a quiet atmosphere. Libraries should stick to their core function and perhaps branch out with any surplus money. What should be 'extras' are now taking over and you are having serious effects on the mental health and enjoyment of life for a large but now-neglected group - who actually pay council tax but are seeing what they would like it used for being steadily removed.</p> <p>Your vision and objectives are skewed towards those you perceive as 'excluded'. Most of this is entirely by personal choice, and trying to drag everybody and anybody into libraries with narrowly-targeted projects is an exercise in box-ticking. You are actually excluding older council-tax payers who have a right to be able to access our rich archives in an atmosphere conducive to concentration.</p> <p>More needs to be made of bringing local history into libraries, recording memories.</p>
Mobile	I did not read anything in the Strategy regarding "Mobile Library Services". For those in outlying villages in North Yorkshire, including Care Homes, this service must continue. Lots of elderly people are not/do not want to be "E-Literate", and enjoy the touch/feel of a good book. I know councils now consider Mobile Libraries as "low hanging fruit" in their budget, but it is so much more than a library ,it connects into Health and Wellbeing through information dissemination.



None	n/a
	No
	No
	No, I think they are perfect.
	Not really got any views on libraries, I haven't used one for about 30 years

Other	I was aggrieved to note that my local library was promoting less use of plastics when it had just been refurbished with such,
	It's all rather "motherhood and apple pie".
	Our Library in Sherburn is endeavouring to meet all the above and is certainly moving well along this road. Pity about the lack of car parking spaces. This is certainly a problem for the disabled and for volunteers who need to park very close in order to deliver books, etc.
	I noticed a small directory of activities had been produced for Pickering Library No mention was made of the monthly singing session run by a local community venture (Musical Memories) that takes place there drawing in at least 25 older people every month. Given this group has been operating in the library for 2 YEARS with the full support of the volunteer committee chair and NYCC library staff and local Coop (donating refreshments) I would like to know why the omission occurred.??? This kind of collaborative working helps to improve the community and improve health and wellbeing - so would welcome an explanation and a reprint of said booklet!
	To me libraries are essential and should be an integral part of our lives!
	Have you considered having dog friendly areas where possible, maybe in coffee or garden areas?
	Libraries should be quiet and food and drink should not be allowed
Support for volunteers / staffing	These are hard to disagree with but do not deal with the issue that worries me
	A lot more work should be focused on the skills, training and appropriate recruitment of volunteers. Given you refuse to pay for librarians, which are highly skilled, you could at least recruit volunteers who have some capability to fill the gap. I've had numerous wrong orders for our book group, volunteers who can't work the IT system, rarely anyone available who can actually advise on appropriate reading or make recommendations. Many of the groups are not advertised so hard to access for new people and information on the websites is often wrong. As someone working with isolated people, I rang 8 libraries in October to ask for a list of groups available, times, cost and how to access. Only one library responded (Filey) with partial information and a promise to follow up with the rest (didn't happen). I went in person to one library (Malton) to ask about the reading group and once I explained my client had mental health issues, they were very reluctant to provide information and insisted she should make arrangements to go in and talk to one of the volunteers prior to going to the group to see if it was 'suitable' for her to attend. Whilst I'm sure plenty of money has been saved, libraries are now a shadow of their former selves and the only one in our area that seems to be manned by welcoming and somewhat knowledgeable people is Derwent Bridge.
	Excellent objectives but find it hard to believe that the Council will be able to achieve all these goals with volunteers as library staff.

	<p>I really miss our proper library, with space for plenty of books and paid librarians. Your draft plan has lots of 'spin' but little substance. Now the service is almost completely run by volunteers and the space we have is extremely limited. The volunteers work hard and, without them, we would have no service at all.</p>
	<p>I think we need to keep paid staff who can manage innovative projects and ideas rather than counting on the goodwill of people. Most volunteers are elderly, this isn't sustainable and we have a duty of care to provide library services to promote literacy and community in order to raise self-esteem and wellbeing.</p>
	<p>If the community is supported and the library isn't just dumped on volunteers who are ill-equipped and feel abolished to do the work.</p>
	<p>It all sounds excellent and just what is needed in the current climate but none of it will be achieved as in the previous library consultation NYCC replaced qualified experienced staff with volunteers.</p>
	<p>Key point here is 'skilled teams to support...'. No more cuts to staffing and ideally increased staffing support for volunteers. More specialised staff to deliver this vision given the 'proven' benefits of libraries?</p>
	<p>My library at Scalby (Scarborough) is excellently run by volunteers. Perhaps some of these "professionals" that you talk about in your outline would care to come to Scalby and lend a hand to relieve the burden of its everyday running (&amp; financial cost) for these amazing volunteers? Your article certainly implies a different picture!</p>
	<p>Need to keep LOCAL libraries open as much as possible and with as much professional support as possible. I love our volunteers, but I miss the paid library staff who had knowledge of books and could suggest books for a reluctant reader, or what type of book to move onto next. The volunteers just don't have this knowledge.</p>
	<p>Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are reneging on your statutory responsibilities.</p>
	<p>There are some really good ideas but I would hope that you have the staff to deliver them. A lot of the time when I come in the staff are pretty stretched thin so I don't like asking for help as they are already very busy.</p>
	<p>Volunteers may be very nice people but you do not always get the same service throughout the library service.</p>
	<p>Local resources mainly depend on their range of local volunteers and their skills and interests. Ours are very good at organising events and children's functions, but being mainly composed of retirees, may lack some of the digital expertise required for help in this area. Courses have been run by involving other agencies, but to expect and deliver a wide range of this type of activities perhaps County would have the relevant staff? Vision and objectives are all well and good, but the basic day to day manning of libraries, their upkeep and funding all make considerable demands on a limited number of devoted volunteers, and as the same cohort are likely to be running of specialist activities too, expectations should be realistic.</p>
	<p>Without volunteers our library in Filey would shut. No good spending money on refurbishments etc. if you don't invest in staff. Luckily our volunteers are dedicated.</p>
Supportive	excellent
	Feel it is going in the right direction
	Fully Support

I agree that libraries are in a unique position to make this vision tangible and meet these objectives; as they are a safe, neutral and non-stigmatising space at the heart of their communities.
I am a volunteer at my local Library in Skipton and I love the work I do, the people I meet and the many things I constantly learn. My Library is absolutely essential for future vision and objectives mentioned in the planned strategy.
I am currently a digital user of library services but I think maintaining our physical libraries is crucial. Loss of community is a real threat and anything that can be done to create/maintain a safe place for people to thrive has got to be a great thing.
I think libraries are essential to the well-being of the community. I hope you can achieve all your objectives and have personally been involved in running Well-Being courses in libraries through ALSS.
I think the strategy is rightly aspirational. There may be a danger in being unrealistic in in overachieving in areas like community and health and wellbeing. These are important but ,may conflict with the libraries role in improving literacy and digital skills by overstressing resources.
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN
Seem fairly ambitious - nothing wrong with that
Since having my baby I visit my local library at least once a week with him. It has become a part of our week and I genuinely look forward to visiting because it's such a welcoming and nurturing environment. I'm on first name terms with most of the staff/volunteers and use the books and groups! I feel it is a focal point in our community and often see groups of older people meeting there at the same time each week for coffee and chat which they have obviously developed themselves! The Knaresborough library is a real community asset and I don't know what I would do without it! Huge thank you to all the amazing people that work and volunteer there!
The people of North Yorkshire are very fortunate to have a County Council that is so committed to upholding the vital work that libraries can offer local communities
Very good
Wholeheartedly agree with the vision and objectives - quite challenging and wide-ranging.
Wonderful! Do it!
Your vision and objectives are bang on for the next 10 years

**Q: Is there anything missing from the strategy?**

Accessibility	.... Longer opening times, evening opening times. Make libraries accessible for all.
	Communication access for deaf people
	Discussion on opening hours. Accessibility of libraries e.g. Stairs, toilets
	I would like the local libraries to work together so at least 1 is open at any time of day. I live near Leyburn & their library is closed on a Thursday, Catterick is open 10-1 unassisted & 1pm onwards with volunteers & Bedale is open 3-6. I shouldn't have to travel any further to access services
	What are you doing to help the smaller communities to access books?
Books and	A focus on books and reading. Long document to read
	Books

	Books, books, books, books. Lots of fiction, preferably. That's what libraries should be for. OK, computers have a part to play but the core business should be reading for pleasure....
	if the service is funded on the basis of book 'issues' there does not seem to be a strategy for increasing these.
	Support for reading groups, will it continue and develop. ....
	The books, the numbers of books appear to be dropping as there are now fewer shelves in our library, that is the heart of the whole thing, give us more books.
Comm it ment	Commitment
Comm u nication	As an ex civil servant well used to drafting strategy I know people probably won't go through it in fine detail or comment particularly! Strategies are needed to serve a purpose administratively, but think messages for the public need to be as simple and concise as possible.
	Promote more children's story times throughout the district
	Your website should be made more accessible, for example, easier to read and understand
Comm u nities	As per my previous comments, I feel that a Library should be one of the service spokes around a Community Hub not the other way round.
	More emphasis on links with community groups. More provision out reaching into communities in partnership working with non-profit making organisations.
	See above- how NYCC will engage with all the communities??
	Work backwards from what a community needs rather than 'what do we do with our library' - pretend a library doesn't exist, put emotion to one side and ask what is required.
Defini tion	... What is the difference between core/hybrid/community libraries?...
Detailed plans	Detail
	Detailed plans
	Details of how to implement the strategy.
	Explanation of how NYCC will assist/ encourage community libraries to also work towards the strategy.
Diversit y	Diversity? Promotion of, meeting the needs of, etc.
	Realism. Thought for how minority groups will be included.
Engage ment	Perhaps seek a view from each library separately on some of the key issues? Case studies are interesting and useful to see what is going on across the county.
	I don't think it's accessible enough to people. I found this on the intranet, This needs to be made more available and more discussion and debate to generate interest.
F u	An explanation of where the necessary money to support it will come from

	<p>As a strategy it is totally uncostered with no apparent financial plan to back it up. How much of it is actually achievable? A strategy drawn up with no idea about funding is a poor strategy.</p> <p>Funding is not quantified</p> <p>I would like to see more detail on investment in library book stock and buildings.....</p> <p>Identification of resources that will be available for community libraries to deliver the strategy at local level.</p> <p>Implementation? Funding?</p> <p>Long term commitment to proper funding.</p> <p>The Council has a deficit budget so where is the funding coming from? Independent grant providers do not usually support local government facilities.</p>
Guid e	General guidelines
Health &	I'd like to see something in health and wellbeing about sporting opportunities, or mental games like chess; in addition, work with public health to develop more walking trails and promote through libraries; work with local health and care groups
Income	.....Opportunities to generate income by bringing cafés or retail units into libraries.
Lack of substance	<p>Needs to be one!</p> <p>All very political in its use of language. It all sounds plausible but as we know from politics hardly means anything.</p> <p>It's a bit wishy washy. I've read it through twice, and still can't remember the four main aspirations.</p> <p>It's all words and no substance. NYCC will not deliver.</p>
Measuring performer	<p>Facts and figures specific to each aim? Some qualitative feedback from participants/users?</p> <p>WHO AND HOW THESE AIMS ARE GOING TO BE MONITORED AND MEASURES.</p>
Innova tions	.... What are the key new innovations for the next 10 years?
None	<p>No (x6)</p> <p>Not that I can think of</p> <p>Not that I could see, I thought it was well written, aesthetic and told the reader everything they need to know.</p> <p>See previous comments.(x2)</p> <p>Not that I can detect</p> <p>The planned strategy is great and I cannot see anything missing.</p>

Older people	I'd like to have seen more of a focus on the elderly. They are probably the ones who need the community most and the ones who struggle with the digital aspect and being able to be physically present in the library
Other	Respect for the interests of a large portion of those whose council tax pays for all this diversity and dumbing-down. Your new target group will not respect you for chasing them in apparent desperation to get them through the doors, which were always open to them, and everyone else despairs.
	Only available on line _____?
	Any unknowns are unknown at this stage
Quiet study and facilities	Access unacceptable conditions to vital and unique archives.
	...I welcome the digitisation of local studies materials - this should involve the County Record Office and local history societies....
	We need some kind of 'platform' where local documents, research etc. that is kept in the library and is not copyright protected can be digitised by willing volunteers and uploaded so it becomes available not just for local users but for anyone in the world who is interested.
	A quiet room for study.
	I wish there was some focus on at least part of a library being kept quiet. In Harrogate it would be difficult to keep the ground floor quiet because of the reception but more effort could be made on the first floor. Grumpy old man that I am I get annoyed by children being allowed to run about.
	Quiet study - for many people (old and young) the library is the only place they can find a quiet place to read/study; Skipton library sorely lacks such a space as the number of "activities" increases. A corner of the Ref Library could surely be partitioned off for study cubicles?
	STUDY, RESEARCH FACILITIES THAT WORK AND COMPETENT LIBRARIANS
Staffing	I want to know what priority, if any, is being given to ensuring that all your libraries have qualified librarians available in the future. My worry is that young graduates will stop applying to be librarians and that courses will close down for that reason (it may be that this is happening already)
	Proper libraries
	Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are renegeing on your statutory responsibilities.
Support for volunteers	More focus and funding for training and upskilling volunteers, ensuring fair and equitable access and that volunteers are actually capable of the roles given.
	Specific help for volunteers to enable them to help others
	Also upskilling of volunteers now fewer staff
	Would like to see a more in depth strategy where it shows impact results, professional staff input and how they support volunteers. To offer this you need to have many experienced, knowledgeable Library staff to help volunteers deliver this.

Tourism	A role in tourism
Value of volunteer	To make it clear to the public that North Yorkshire investment is minimal and how much funding is achieved with hard work from volunteers.
Young People	Activities and resources to ensure that teenage readers transition to become confident, discerning adult readers who read both for pleasure and in order to extract accurate information about the world around them.
	Asides from a young-person quote - there was no real emphasis or plans to engage teenagers and young adults into the library. It would have been great to see some mention of Young people engagement in this strategy, particularly as the library has so much potential to offer them.
	The development of strategies to encourage young adults and middle aged adults to use libraries. This maybe having to work against changed cultural trends. I wonder if many in this age group see libraries as relevant beyond benefit for younger children. The digitally excluded older age group needs.

**Q: Have you any other thoughts on the strategy?**

- Lack of investment
- Public Libraries are a statutory service and need proper funding and most importantly paid/trained library workers. By offloading them to volunteers, charities, parish/town councils etc. you are reneging on your statutory responsibilities.
- Yes. Each local library will have different ways of trying to achieve the objectives. Perhaps the individual libraries need to be asked formally what would be its plan to meet the objectives if the draft is adopted?
- It is driven by political correctness rather than the reality that older people (along with children) have always been heavier library users. In Skipton there were two microfilm readers, always well-used and booked. You got rid of one but the expensive and much-trumpeted digital reader rarely seems to work, so you are down to one. Skipton library holds single copies of resources like the Craven Herald archive and people travel to use it on the one available machine - which no longer seems connected to a printer. Students and researchers are very poorly served, in favour of trendy 'inclusivity' initiatives, and the complete absence in a sizeable town of one room where quiet study and concentration is possible. Promises were made about access to archives and these have been broken, at least in spirit, and in practise in the case of the film readers. NYCC should be ashamed of how difficult it has made access to OUR past.
- Skipton library holds unique archives and resources for study, which should be available for consultation in a quiet atmosphere. Many are hard to read

and require concentration. The microfilm reader is the only source of our local newspaper archive, and people need to book and often travel to use it. This has been made very difficult by the acceptance of eating, drinking and conversation in the one room of the town where study was possible, plus regular community groups also using the space. We were promised at a meeting of Full Council that these precious resources and facilities for studying them would be safeguarded as the system changed, but this promise has been broken. We have already lost the Petyt library. NYCC has many premises and should not have the right to deprive us of the one room in which we used to be able to work. This does not only affect researchers; there used to be schoolchildren who would come and work in peace, presumably because they had nowhere else. They too have lost this precious haven. Perhaps the first floor room should be divided so that there is one place left where quiet can be assured. Other libraries manage it, but they do not have the unique resources which are held by Skipton library. Working in peace is not an outdated concept. Not everything can be made 'vibrant' and 'inclusive' if it means destroying something so valuable.

- Bring back libraries.
- Doesn't feel like a genuine attempt to deliver a modern, useful service but a justification of the funding cuts. Fail to see any evidence of significant and meaningful consultation with the wider community (especially those who never use libraries) on how they could be improved, more accessible and of value to the community. Those that are poorly used (e.g. more than books, Eastfield) need to ask questions about why the local community makes no use of a potentially valuable resource.
- No, resistance is obviously futile. We are written off as dinosaurs.

### **Other comments received outside of the questionnaire**

Email comment:

The Strategy is an impressive and well-illustrated document but it is far far too long. Most people will lose the will to live by the time they've reached half-way. It's as if there was a determination to include everything for fear of missing something out. A briefer strategy, in my view, would be more usable and more of a "live" document. I'm sure that you would want this to be a "living" treatise in the sense that it could be easily assimilated and understood and owned. At the moment I feel that it is too dense, too lengthy, and will be put to one side and not used.

The biggest risk to the NYCC Library Service surrounds volunteers. At the moment the 31 Community Libraries seem to be doing well as far as volunteers are concerned. What will the position be in 2023 and beyond? Whilst the Strategy, quite rightly, pays tribute to the input made by 2,000 volunteers across North Yorkshire it is silent on the question of the recruitment, training, retention, and appreciation of the necessary volunteers who will be the "front line", over time. The Strategy will fail



without appropriate volunteer input. So there should be some narrative on this question.

A third point concerns the Library being "at the heart of the community". I've been thinking about this. In some places the local library will, quite rightly, be at the heart of the community and will be recognised as such. But certainly not everywhere. There will be variation from place to place. For example, in Settle we have a Business Hub as well as a lively and flourishing Age UK organisation. It would be wrong for our Library to duplicate the activities of both Business Hub and of Age UK but entirely right that our Library should complement and partner these other organisations. Going back to the Strategy perhaps there could be more recognition that there will be variations in each local situation and that libraries should work to develop their co-operation with other local organisations.

So my comments are that the Strategy should encompass the above. Also reduce the length radically, cut out many of the lovely pictures as "padding" and unnecessary, and particularly make the document more easily digestible thinking all the time about the end users.

Email received:

Thank you for your email regarding the consultation on the library strategy. We discussed the proposal at our meeting this morning and felt it gave a clear message of all the things that we ourselves hope to achieve. We liked the presentation and are looking forward to viewing the final version!

Social media comment:

I don't think it is sustainable to rely on volunteers to run a public service. The volunteers themselves are amazing, but eventually that resource will run out as people retire older, and families running on two full time jobs have no time to give.

<b>Initial Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form</b>			
<b>This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.</b>			
<b>Directorate</b>	Central Services		
<b>Service area</b>	Libraries		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Revision of library service strategy		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Chrys Mellor		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Revision of current service strategy		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	Existing strategy does not reflect current service delivery model (which was introduced after extensive public consultation) or current use made of public libraries.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.	No		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</b>			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
<b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
<b>NYCC additional characteristics</b>			
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	

<p><b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.</p>	<p>We have no evidence that the impact should be greater on areas where there are known inequalities/probable impacts.</p>			
<p><b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics?</b> Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be a significant effect on how our partners operate. All partners have been involved in the development of the Strategy.</p>			
<p><b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b></p>	<p>EIA not relevant or proportionate:</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Continue to full EIA:</p>	
<p><b>Reason for decision</b></p>	<p>No potential for discrimination or adverse impact has been identified.  The revised library strategy has been developed to reflect the current service delivery model (which was introduced after extensive public consultation and full equality impact assessment).  The service will continue to collect data on usage etc, to undertake the nationally validated Public Library User Surveys, and to gather customer feedback through comments books etc. Together this allows the service provision and customer views to be continuously monitored to ensure that people with protected characteristics are not put at a significant disadvantage.</p>			
<p><b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b></p>	<p>Neil Irving  Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships and Communities</p>			
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p>6 April 2020</p>			

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****22 July 2020****Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20****1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of the County Council the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20 is provided at Appendix 1, on behalf of the Chair of Scrutiny Board, Councillor Derek Bastiman, and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry.
- 2.2 The report highlights key activity by the council's Overview and Scrutiny function over the period from May 2019 to the beginning of April 2020 in its role of holding the Executive to account and ensuring that value is added to the Council's ongoing work to improve outcomes for customers and communities.
- 2.3 As the period covered by the report runs to the end of the 2019/20 financial year and as this coincides with the beginning of the phase of national restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this report does not review overview and scrutiny work undertaken at the council following the start of the 'lockdown' period or in response to Covid-19 issues. These will instead be captured in the annual report for 2020/21 and within the county council statements by the Chairs of the five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**3.0 Recommendation to Council**

The County Council is invited to:

- 3.1 note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20; and
- 3.2 consider whether there are any issues arising from the Annual Report which need to be factored into the work programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2020/21.

Daniel Harry  
Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DP – July 2020

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

A review of the work of overview and scrutiny in 2019/20 and looking ahead to work that will be done in 2020/21

**Cllr Derek Bastiman, Chairman of the NYCC Scrutiny Board and Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**



2019/20

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20

## Foreword by County Councillor Derek Bastiman Chair of Scrutiny Board



As Chair of the Scrutiny Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2019/20 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

I was privileged to take on this role a year ago now and be able to take a greater role in championing scrutiny at the council. At a time of ever-changing demands and increasing financial pressures, scrutiny is vital in holding decision-makers to account; in contributing to policy development and in ensuring that the County Council continues to work hard to improve outcomes for its residents.

This report highlights the varied portfolio of work undertaken through scrutiny over the past year in achieving these aims, as well as an outline of the work that will be done over the next 12 months.

Reflecting back over the past year, it is clear to me that Members of the overview and scrutiny committees and officers supporting them have worked hard to create a culture where transparency, involvement and accountability are welcomed and where challenge is seen as a vital and positive part of improving outcomes.

In an Executive-based council system, scrutiny provides an imperative check and balance and enables the voices of all councillors to be heard; particularly important in this period of change and uncertainty.

Scrutiny has not rested on its laurels and we have continued to find ways to shape scrutiny practice for the benefit of the communities we serve. For example, there has been useful cross-collaboration between the Young People's Committee and Care and Independence Committee on the transition of young people from children's social care to adult social care. I have also been pleased to lead on a piece of work recently to reflect with colleagues on current overview and scrutiny practice, which will hopefully help to ensure continued improvement across the function.

This report covers the 2019/20 financial year. It would be odd, however, if I did not make mention of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact that this has had upon our committee meetings and overview and scrutiny in 2020. As of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, all committee meetings were postponed as the lockdown commenced and all public gatherings stopped. Since then the council has been establishing a programme of informal and formal meetings through Skype. I now look forward to the first live broadcast meeting of the overview and scrutiny committees in the autumn.

I would like to finish by thanking all those Members, co-opted committee members, officers and partners who have contributed to overview and scrutiny over the past 12 months.

I commend this report to the council.

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## **Purpose of the report**

This Annual Report highlights key activity by the council's Overview and Scrutiny function over the period from May 2019 to the beginning of April 2020 in its role of holding the Executive to account and ensuring that value is added to the council's ongoing work to improve outcomes for customers and communities.

As the period covered by the report runs to the end of the 2019/20 financial year and as this coincides with the beginning of the phase of national restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this report does not review overview and scrutiny work undertaken at the council following the start of the 'lockdown' period or in response to Covid-19 issues. These will be appropriately captured in the annual report for 2020/21 and the county council statements by the Chairs of the five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

In terms of the format of this report, the Chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has provided reflections on the wide variety of work that has been carried out this year and how they expect their programme of work to develop in the year ahead. In addition, this report highlights work commissioned by the committees, such as more in-depth reviews, to help inform policy development and decision-making at the council.

The structure of scrutiny at the council is complemented by a range of other bodies and groups, such as the Area Constituency Committees, and oversight is provided by a Scrutiny Board. This report provides an illustration of the role and contribution these have made over the last year.

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

The Local Government Act 2000 first introduced the requirement for every local authority to include provision for at least one overview and scrutiny committee.

The overview and scrutiny function is a key element of the County Council's governance arrangements and decision making process.

Although not a decision-making body, overview and scrutiny is at its most effective when it grasps the potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Council and partner bodies affecting the County.

## **What does it aim to do?**

Scrutiny aims to contribute to the Council's corporate outcomes in many ways, including:

- Enabling Councillors to become directly involved in the development of: policy and strategy; consultation and public engagement planning; and the performance management of the Council.
- Keeping Councillors and the public informed of key issues, priorities and initiatives.
- Enabling direct engagement with the people of North Yorkshire.



- Acting as a critical friend and providing Executive Members and senior officers with a non-partisan forum in which to test out ideas, approaches and gain feedback and suggestions.
- Providing a structure, through the call-in process, for scrutinising specific decisions of the Executive.
- Scrutinising issues of public concern beyond the remit of the Council.

## **How is overview and scrutiny structured at the County Council?**

The work of the executive is monitored by various overview and scrutiny committees, which can check recent decisions, advise on policy development and review service performance. They can also call the executive to account where it is felt that their decisions have not been as effective as they should be. There are four overview and scrutiny committees and an additional scrutiny of health committee. Their remits are broadly as follows:

### **Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- the needs of vulnerable adults, older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector.

### **Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- Our corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality and diversity, performance management, communications and access to services; and
- Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety (the designated crime and disorder committee).

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

- Transport and communications infrastructure of all kinds, however owned or provided, and how the transport needs of the community are met;
- Support to business and helping people develop their skills, including lifelong learning; and
- Sustainable development, climate change strategy, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and enhancement and cultural issues.

### **Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- the interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support.

### **Scrutiny of Health Committee**

- To review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the county, including ambulance trusts and the policies of the strategic health authority;
- To act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring that the needs of the local people are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services; and
- To focus on action to achieve health improvement; to examine health care in the context of the wider determinants of health; to examine how health services address the needs of local communities; especially to address health

inequalities; to ensure that local health and health related issues are being tackled jointly and in a co-ordinated way across agencies.

Each Committee has provided, below, an overview of some of the key issues reviewed and scrutinised over 12-month period to April 2020.

## **Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee County Councillor Janet Jefferson**



It has been another busy year for the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee; providing constructive challenge and support on a range of important issues facing provision of services to children and young people in North Yorkshire.

One such service area facing multiple challenges and pressures is the council's service for children and young people with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. The Committee gave focus to looking at how well the council is providing a service which is appropriately tailored to meet individual and family circumstances. We probed the service on how the criteria for support provision are applied and while this can be complex, we were reassured that a fair and consistent level of support is being provided where needed.

Together with the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee Members, we reviewed whether the **transition of young people from children's social care** to adult social care was a seamless experience. We welcomed the development of a new pathway which builds on the strengths of both directorates, enabling greater focus on identifying and planning earlier for young people moving into adulthood.

An issue which has come into the spotlight more nationally and locally in the last year is that of **Elective Home Education (EHE)**. Numbers of children in EHE are increasing nationally and North Yorkshire is following this wider trend. The Committee had concerns around the rationale behind this increase, but based on the information provided were reassured that in the main this is about an active parent/carer choice rather than one which parents/carers feel compelled to take. The Committee felt that the directorate has a good understanding of the issues associated with EHE, is making appropriate efforts to identify "off-rolling" from school rolls, and procedures and practices are effectively observed.

We were pleased to be able to support the directorate's proposals for the **Medical Education Service**, which works to ensure children with long-term illnesses are supported to continue to receive a good education. We should see an increased range of options available, including digital solutions, to provide a more flexible and family-centred approach and which enables pupils to maintain involvement with their school.

In reviewing school and education improvement across the year, the Committee has also sought opportunity to scrutinise the issue of **school deficits**. The number of school deficits has decreased but the amount of deficit for schools has increased. We particularly were concerned to look at impact on small schools in the county, which are

reducing in number and have higher deficits. We were encouraged by the progress being made and support available to schools but this is something the Committee will return to.

Finally, the Committee was pleased to engage with the new Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Professor Maggie Atkinson, to get a better understanding of how effectively **new multi-agency regulations for safeguarding** are protecting children and young people locally. We were encouraged by Maggie's assessment that there is strong partnership leadership and commitment from partners and that the new regulations have afforded greater clarity and accountability to agencies. We hope to continue our constructive dialogue with the LSCB Chair going forward into 2020/21.

Looking ahead to the next year, key areas of focus for the Committee will include:

- Picking up broader strategic issues around SEND and reviewing the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25;
- Reviewing the progress and effectiveness of the Opportunity Area in Scarborough;
- A project looking at links between schools and the level of engagement by schools (including academies) with the communities they serve;
- An overview of our arrangements on adoption including work planned by the directorate on key policies and procedures; and
- An account of the work over the last 12-18 months undertaken by the Looked After Children's Members Group.

## **Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee** **County Councillor Karin Sedgwick**



I am privileged to have taken on the Chairmanship of the Care and Independence Committee this year, at a time when providing effective support for older people and vulnerable adults in our communities is becoming ever more critical.

**Mental health** has, rightly, continued to take focus nationally and locally this year as an area which has long experienced considerable pressures. We were very encouraged to hear of the new social care mental health offer for working age adults. There will be a clearer pathway from referral into the service, triage and prevention. A restructured mental health service with a clear hierarchy, transparent lines of accountability and, significantly, an integrated care workforce team, strengthens this approach. We expect to see a reduction in the number of people requiring specialist mental health services as a result and better tailoring of support when treating someone with particular needs or a particular condition.

We are keen that all older and vulnerable residents are supported to exercise choice and control over the support they receive. One way in which the council looks to enable this is through provision of **Direct Payments**. Unfortunately, there is a disappointing lack of take-up of Direct Payments across the county. The Committee

found good reasons for this in respect of social care market conditions and lack of confidence by individuals to be an employer to a personal assistant. Overall, the Committee felt reassured from the evidence presented that while progress in this area is slow, this is not for want of appropriate efforts being made by the council in terms of promotion, resources and enhancing staff awareness around Direct Payments. It is an issue we will review again next year.

The Committee reviewed the **Learning Disabilities and All Age Autism Strategy**. On the basis of what we heard, we believe that the directorate's actions are consistent with the aims of the strategy that people with a learning disability should have the opportunity to live as long and healthy lives as possible.

The **Living Well** service is a genuine success story for the council and the Committee were pleased to see this borne out in a recent evaluation report. Among a range of indicators pointing to the project's success, one in particular stands out: it delivers improved wellbeing worth £3.84 per every £1 spent. This really illustrated for the Committee how creative and innovative the council has been in deploying public health grant money to further public health and social care objectives.

We also welcomed the recent partnership arrangement set up with Nottingham Rehab Services (NRS) for **assistive technology** to enable people to live independently for longer. Initial results from the new arrangement seem to demonstrate that more people are being supported with a far wider range of equipment, and the contract provider is able to stay much more up-to-date with new and emerging technology.

Of course, there is no room for complacency as regards budget pressures and the need for the council to have measures in place to deal with the overspends to the care and support and mental health budgets. We have continued to address this at Committee and feel that the council has a good understanding of the underlying issues and some sound actions proposed to tackle these. We are keen to keep under review the council's role in market shaping and intervention and its role as a care provider.

Looking ahead this next year, the Committee expects to review a number of issues including:

- Suicide prevention;
- The learning disabilities transformation agenda; ensuring people with the most complex disabilities are enabled to live in communities with the right level of specialist support;
- Services that the council commissions on the prevention agenda.

## Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee County Cllr Stanley Lumley



The Committee has taken forward a varied programme of work this year on some important issues, including progressing detailed reviews via task groups on key areas of concern.

The first of these was the Committee's **20mph speed limit policy task group**, which was created to look at the council's current policy regarding the introduction of 20mph speed limits; reviewing this against the DfT guidance and research on 20mph speed limits. The review completed in December 2019 and the final report included recommendations to the Executive to help refine the council's policy on the introduction of 20mph speed limits. Further details of the outcomes of the review can be found below at 'In-depth Reviews' (page 13).

The Committee is also leading on a piece of work relating to reducing the unnecessary use of **single-use plastics** in the county. A Task Group has been formed and has met to consider its parameters and avenues for further research. The group will meet over the coming months, to:

- Consider good practice already adopted within the council and identify areas where single-use could be further reduced;
- Examine the LEP's work on the circular economy and good practice in businesses;
- Meet with businesses demonstrating good practice; and
- Meet with campaign groups on single-use plastic.

Following this, a review will be undertaken and a report brought back to Committee.

The Committee also took an update from Highways England on the **strategic roads in our county**, looking mainly at the A64. Concern was expressed by the Committee about the decision to downgrade road improvements to the A64, particularly as this assessment had involved Highways England taking tourist traffic out of the equation. The Committee probed Highways England on other areas where there was felt to be a general lack of clarity and transparency about assessments and decisions made. We welcomed that a letter was sent to the Prime Minister signed by the County Council and the A64 Growth Partnership regarding our concerns at the decision to downgrade A64 road improvements.

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 route has to be diverted no matter what and we called for the County Council to step in to fund the whole costs if this transpired to be the only option.

Flooding has continued to ravage parts of Yorkshire and elsewhere nationally over recent months and flood mitigation is ever more important. Further to a Motion submitted to the County Council which called for utility companies to be required to

make a mandatory contribution towards **flood and coastal protection schemes**, the Committee agreed to recommend to the council that I write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to call for this to be made mandatory. The Committee also recommended to the council that County Councillor Derek Bastiman be authorised in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA SIG) Coastal Issues to contact (in consultation with the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council), other relevant agencies to call for utility companies to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution where flood defence schemes will protect their infrastructure.

Over the next year, the Committee intends to look at a number of issues, including:

- Single use plastics – the outcomes of the task group review;
- Outcomes of the council’s climate change scrutiny joint sub-committee and the specific strands of work to be picked up by this Committee;
- A review of the Ringway highway maintenance contract.

## **Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee County Councillor Derek Bastiman**



The Committee has continued this year to review and scrutinise a range of key issues for the council, including the council’s management of its assets, its library strategy and partnership working, to name a few.

In relation to the latter, we have continued our constructive engagement with the **North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership**, and welcomed an update on the good practice underway following the development of the Community Safety Hubs; in particular in Scarborough, which is held up as an exemplar in North Yorkshire. The Committee also received an update on the partnership’s work on its first Domestic Homicide Review and were pleased to note the productive relationships at work between agencies and practitioners across North Yorkshire and beyond its boundaries.

The Committee has kept a regular watching brief on **adult reoffending rates** in North Yorkshire since 2017, following changes nationally to the delivery of probation services. In our final report, produced last summer, we had identified a lack of appropriate and timely access to education and training; a recognised barrier to reducing re-offending rates. We were therefore pleased to note that the Ministry of Justice was aiming to drive down re-offending through a wider education and employment strategy. We recommended to the Executive that they write to the National Probation Service to seek assurance that the provision of fast and efficient access to appropriate education will be addressed through the design of the model. We will continue to monitor the work of the National Probation Service going forward.

It is critical that the council has adequate arrangements and controls in place to satisfy itself that it can maintain a secure financial position with its companies and assets. It was on this basis that the Committee provided some constructive challenge in relation to the performance of the **Brierley Group**. While the group reported a profit of £1.6m

within its annual update, the Committee was concerned that this could quickly become a loss-making position if the governance arrangements were not adequate; particularly as the component companies had variable financial positions. The Committee sought reassurance and consequently, I attended a number of meetings of the Shareholder Committee. I was able to report back positively on my findings and an open invitation has been extended to all members of the Committee to attend future Shareholder Committee meetings. We will of course continue to review the performance of the Brierley Group.

In addition, the Committee reviewed progress against the County Council's **alternative investment framework**. The Committee was reassured that appropriate assessments are being made of the risks and rewards across the council's portfolio. We particularly welcomed the council pursuing an opportunity to invest in a solar farm as this aligns with the council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and we will continue to seek updates on this.

It was encouraging to hear that many **community libraries** are looking to extend their services, and that the delivery model in place is considered nationally to be very innovative. However, the Committee learned of a number of sustainability concerns for these libraries, which included issues around short-term leases and rents. With that in mind, when considering possible future topics for review, the Committee agreed to look at NYCC property / land holdings, with a focus on identifying opportunities for improving best value e.g. through sharing premises with District Councils, and partner/voluntary organisations etc, and considering rent/lease related issues experienced by community libraries.

Looking ahead to the next year, the Committee will continue to keep under review the issues outlined in this update and, in addition, will review a number of other areas including:

- Operation of the parish portal and Parish Council engagement
- Implementation of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan
- Progress made in achieving the County Council's Equality and Diversity objectives"

## **Scrutiny of Health Committee County Councillor John Ennis**



This was my first year as Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee. As such, I would like to thank my predecessor, County Councillor Jim Clark, for all of the work that he did over the past 9 years to champion local health scrutiny.

The work of the committee over the past 12 months has been demanding, as changes to health services in the county have been numerous, complex and demanded a significant understanding of medical processes and how specialist services are delivered.

This has been a challenging year for the NHS locally, regionally and nationally as it has faced significant financial pressures and work force shortages. These pressures have led to system wide changes to the way in which health services are delivered, changes that have had a particular impact upon the population of North Yorkshire.

Shortages in specialist roles, such as consultant anaesthetists, have made it very difficult for urgent and critical care services to be safely sustained at the **Friarage Hospital in Northallerton**. The committee had been kept informed of the problems faced by the South Tees NHS Foundation Trust over a two-year period. This culminated in a formal public consultation on proposed changes to urgent and critical care services in September 2019. The options proposed were: 1) a 24 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses; or 2) a 16 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses. It is anticipated that the model adopted will be that of 24 hours, 7 days a week.

A combination of financial pressures and shortages in specialist roles have also driven a review of how hospital and community health services are being delivered on the east coast, particularly at **Scarborough Hospital**. The committee has seen a number of changes to services over the year, with a number of specialist interventions, such as Urology, being moved to York or Hull. The consultation with the committee is ongoing and we have been re-assured in public that there will always be a need for an Accident and Emergency department at Scarborough hospital.

**Mental Health service provision** for the population of North Yorkshire is undergoing a significant change as resources are moved from in-patient services to enhanced community services. Over the past 12 months, this has seen the closure of in-patient beds for mental health at the Friarage Hospital and Harrogate Hospital and the end of the development of a new in-patient unit in Harrogate. Instead, in-patient care for the North Yorkshire population will be provided in York and Middlesbrough. The committee has supported the drive to enhance community mental health provision and to keep people living independently in the community but further scrutiny is needed to ensure that the community provision is able to cope with the level of complex need that would otherwise have been met in the in-patient setting.

The committee has been engaged by health commissioners and providers in these proposed changes to services at the earliest opportunity. The committee has observed a growing centralisation of NHS services. Whilst it is aware of the clinical and workforce issues which drive this, it has emphasised repeatedly the importance of good access to services, particularly for communities in rural and very rural parts of the County.

Over the next year, the Committee intends to look at a number of issues, including:

- The Integrated Care Systems that are leading the development of health services across the region
- The Primary Care Networks that were introduced under NHS Long Term Plan and which typically serve a population of 30,000 to 50,000
- The development of integrated health and social care services, focussing on the work of the Harrogate and Rural Alliance
- The East Coast Review and changes to services being delivered at Scarborough and Whitby hospitals



- The development of enhanced community mental health services and the reduction in in-patient beds
- The performance of the Urgent Treatment Centre model at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton and what this then means for the future delivery of urgent and emergency care to the population of the county as a whole.

The programme of work that the committee put in place for 2020/21 is extensive and varied and will now need to be reviewed to take into account the impact of the Coronavirus upon the commissioning and delivery of NHS and social care services.

\*\*\*\*\*

The work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2020/21 will be reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Scrutiny Board will co-ordinate the scrutiny of how the response of the council and partners to the pandemic has changed the way that we work and also assess whether there are any lessons that can be learned for the future.

### **Overview and scrutiny functions are also supported through the following bodies:**

- Scrutiny Board – this is made up of the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees and enables co-ordination across all five thematic overview and scrutiny committees.
- Police, Fire and Crime Panel - which scrutinises the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. There is also a Complaints Sub-Committee which meets on an ad-hoc basis. The County Council is the host authority for the Panel and the Panel is supported by the County Council's scrutiny team, along with officers providing guidance from Legal, Communications and Finance.
- Looked After Children's Members Group – this is not a formal committee but acts as an informal advisory group to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Children's and Young Peoples Services. The group performs a role consistent with statutory guidance for local authorities to promote the health and well-being of looked-after children.

### **North Yorkshire Scrutiny Officers' Network**

This group is an informal information-sharing group for overview and scrutiny officer leads across the county. Over the last year, the network has considered issues such as local authorities' planning for Brexit, environmental sustainability and new government guidance on local authority overview and scrutiny.

### **Call-In**

There has been one Call-In at the County Council this year. This was around the decision relating to the contribution rate for post-16 home to school transport for the 2019/20 academic year, which had been set at £600 following a decision by the Executive in May 2019. The Transport, Economy and Environment Committee reviewed the Call-In at their meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Having reviewed representations from the signatories to the Notice and from the Executive Member

concerned, the Committee concluded that it would not refer the decision back to the Corporate Director or to full council to be re-considered.

## **In-depth reviews**

Extended pieces of overview and scrutiny can be undertaken, where a more in-depth analysis of the issues is required. Over the past 12 months, a number of these have been undertaken. Examples include:

### **Health and Social Care Integration: Joint Scrutiny Evaluating the success of Integration**

The aim of this group, started in 2018/19, has been to:

- Understand what services are being delivered, what is planned, and what the impact of these services has or will be upon patient/service user outcomes.
- Establish whether the potential benefits are being realised in the integrated services currently delivered.
- Assess whether the current approaches to integrated health and social care services being developed, trailed and implemented are the most appropriate.

This has proven to be a complex and demanding area of work, involving the issuing of a comprehensive call for evidence and pursuing various subsequent lines of enquiries with partners. The findings of the group are to be reviewed in light of the integrated work that has been undertaken by health and social care as part of the emergency response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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

This task group was developed through the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at the council's current policy regarding the introduction of 20mph speed limits. The group reviewed current policy against DfT guidance and research on 20mph speed limits. The group consulted with a range of partners, including North Yorkshire Police, 95 Alive, and the '20's Plenty' campaign group, as well as researching other local authorities who have rolled out 20mph schemes more widely. The review completed in December 2019. A number of key findings and recommendations were made to the Executive to help refine the council's policy on the introduction of 20mph speed limits. These included the following:

- It is unrealistic for there to be 20mph speed limits existing in all settlements in the county where there are vulnerable road users. In enforcement terms, speed limits should reflect the nature of the road and in essence be 'self-explaining'. The costs of introducing 20mph schemes are also an unknown but findings from other local authorities show that larger schemes generally having higher implementation costs and a range of ancillary costs have to be taken into account.
- The current policy of the county council 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.
- For 20mph limits to be adhered to there needs to be a partnership approach involving a wide number of organisations including planning departments.

- The economic impact has to be taken into account with regards to extending journey times by a wide area introduction of 20mph speed limits.
- Most collisions are in relation to roads with a 50mph or 60mph speed limit as this is where most collisions are so this is where most targeting is required.
- Ongoing improvements in car technology are seeing the introduction of enhanced driver safety driver aids such as automatic braking and speed limiters.
- When considering planning applications for new housing or commercial development, North Yorkshire County Council, in its capacity as the lead Highways Authority and as statutory consultee to the planning process, makes recommendations to local planning authorities based on written national policy indicating the appropriate best practice and guidelines for the implementation of measures, to design out speed as part of the condition of approval and also to put in place infrastructure to create safe walking and cycling routes.

### **Single-Use Plastics**

The Transport, Economy and Environment Committee has been leading on a piece of work relating to reducing the unnecessary use of single-use plastics in the county. A Task Group has been formed and has met to consider its parameters and avenues for further research. The group will have three meetings over the coming months, to:

- Consider good practice already adopted within the council and identify areas where single-use could be further reduced;
- Examine the LEP's work on the circular economy and good practice in businesses;
- Meet with businesses demonstrating good practice; and
- Meet with campaign groups on single-use plastic.

Following this, a review will be undertaken and a report brought back to Committee.

### **Other Approaches**

#### **Work with Area Constituency Committees –**

The council's six Area Constituency Committees have continued to work closely with the overview and scrutiny committees and particularly with the Scrutiny of Health Committee. Constituency committee members have taken a strong interest in changes to NHS services and have been able to offer a local, grass roots view of what this will mean to local residents and communities. This has enriched the work that has been done by the Scrutiny of Health Committee and enabled a more informed and effective scrutiny of proposed changes.

#### **Government guidance on overview and scrutiny**

In January 2017, the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee launched an inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government. The Committee considered whether overview and scrutiny arrangements are working effectively.

Recommendations were made and in response (March 2018) the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government stated that new guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government would be published. The guidance was published in May 2019 and is available via the following link -

The guidance reiterates the key role that overview and scrutiny has to play in holding decision-makers to account. It identifies four key areas in which increased awareness and understanding is needed: the purpose of scrutiny; what effective scrutiny looks like; how to conduct it; and the benefits that it brings.

The guidance has a number of policies and practices that it highlights that would support the establishment and development of effective scrutiny, including:

- Establish an organisational culture whereby overview and scrutiny is valued, supported and independent. This can involve developing an Executive-Scrutiny Protocol.
- Enable scrutiny to access information in a timely manner, particularly data about the management of the local authority, performance and risk
- Ensure that work planning is undertaken that is co-ordinated across committees, draws upon a broad range of data, information and analysis and which clearly states what the benefit is from scrutinising a topic.

Local authorities are left to determine what scrutiny arrangements best suit their local needs. Councils will have to 'have regard to' the guidance in the way that they work and the decisions they make. Following on from the publication of the government guidance, a review of overview and scrutiny practice at the council has been undertaken through its Scrutiny Board (see below).

### **Review of overview and scrutiny practice at the council**

The review drew on the government guidance, issues raised through the Member Working Group on the Constitution in relation to overview and scrutiny and a self-assessment tool developed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. This work identified possible areas with scope for further improvement and development and an improvement plan has been formulated around these. This includes:

- Refresher training for all overview and scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs on overview and scrutiny practice and chairmanship skills, along with similar training for all overview and scrutiny Members on overview and scrutiny practice;
- Awareness-raising sessions at a Senior Management Forum meeting on overview and scrutiny practice, as part of a larger piece of work around good governance and decision-making;
- Scrutiny Board to hold joint work programme co-ordination meetings with the meeting of the Area Constituency Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

### **Joint Scrutiny**

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny arrangement that were put in place were intended to enable effective scrutiny of proposed changes to health systems over a regional and sub-regional footprint that were being led by the 3 Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) that covered the county. Over the course of 2019/20, there have been changes to the configuration of the ICSs and, as a result, Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are being reviewed.

### **Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee**

In December 2009 the County Council issued a Statement of Intent to play its part in contributing to the national target of an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with at least a 34% reduction by 2018-22. In 2019, the Leader of the Council tasked Executive Members and Scrutiny Members with examining what more the County Council could do to further its objectives and to ensure that organisationally the County Council is doing all it can to contribute to cutting emissions. As such, a sub-committee was formed comprising Members of the council's 5 overview and scrutiny committees. The remit of the sub-committee was to:

- review existing work by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from its own activities and service provision;
- identify possible actions that could be taken to further reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from the Council's own activities and service provision; and
- refer the findings and resulting recommendation(s) from this scrutiny review to the Executive.

Further to two meetings of the Sub-Committee and some additional officer research commissioner by them, the council is in the process of developing its carbon reduction plan and embedding use of a climate change assessment tool which will ensure that climate impacts are fully considered within council decision making. The Sub-Committee have looked at 'quick win' and longer term projects for the council. Some proposals, such as a campus boiler replacement programme, will be taken forward; others will need to be fully costed and assessed. Further work to realise the council's objective for 2030 will be taken forward through each of the scrutiny committees.

### **Notice of Motion**

In 2019/20 three Notices of Motion were reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny. These were:

- Allocation of 20% of the net profit of Brierley Homes to a fund specifically to support the provision of social housing;
- Utility companies to make a mandatory contribution towards flood and coastal protection schemes.
- The production of a carbon reduction plan for the county.

### **How to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny**

Further information on Overview and Scrutiny is available on the North Yorkshire County Council website - <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23665/Scrutiny>

Or contact the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry  
E: [daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) or T: 01609 533531.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Committee papers are available from the North Yorkshire County Council website as follows - <http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/>

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2020

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

**Financial impact of Covid-19**

Many Members will have attended the Members' Seminar on 1 July 2020 where an update was provided on the financial impacts of Covid-19 to the County Council. To remind Members, the estimated gross financial impact for the current financial year is £73m that reduces to just under £39m after government funding is included. Many uncertainties remain in estimating future years but it is extremely likely that there will be legacy costs which last well into the next 3 years and initial estimates suggest that we may have a £126m hit on the council's finances over that period. It will not be possible to bridge this by use of reserves alone so we are going to have to await developments from the governments' Spending Review and, in parallel, we will need to prepare plans for how we respond to different scenarios with varying degrees of funding shortfall.

Since the Members' Seminar we have received welcome news that a further £500m of funding is to be provided to councils for spending pressures on Covid 19. In addition, the government announced that there would be a sales, fees and charges income scheme to reimburse councils for 75% of loss sales, fees and charges after a 5% threshold is met entirely by the council. At this stage we have not received the allocation for the funding and we await specific guidance on how the sales, fees and charges scheme will work so it is not possible to estimate the benefit to the County Council yet. Similarly we have been told that council tax shortfalls will be able to be recovered over a 3 year period rather than a single year and government is looking at what co-payments it is prepared to make to councils as part of the Spending Review which we expect to be announced by November of this year.

Covid 19 is an exceptional international pandemic and has brought unprecedented financial pressures. I hope that the government will be able to find additional funding to support councils such as ourselves but we do need to recognise that all councils should be expected to make some form of contribution from their own resources. I am pleased to report that the County Council, as a result of sound financial management, is well placed to make some contribution but I fear other councils may be less well equipped to do so.

**Workforce**

Our workforce has undergone huge change since the start of the Covid crisis. Our staff have responded brilliantly, being flexible in their working arrangements and patterns, working additional hours, moving to new and different roles and duties, working weekends and bank holidays, and generally responding as needed to address the crisis and keep communities safe. There are too many examples and changes to refer to but the main ones are as follows:

1. Over 2000 staff, particularly in HAS, moved almost overnight to different working patterns to cover 24/7 and weekends, undertaking changed roles and new duties. These staff have been assisted by many others from different services who took on frontline and support roles, particularly to respond to support for the wider care home sector.
2. Nearly 300 staff moved from their usual roles into different ones, in particular to support the Customer Services Centre and community hubs and teams.
3. Many staff volunteered unpaid to support the community response over weekends and bank holidays.
4. Nearly 1,500 staff are categorised as vulnerable, mainly due to a medical condition, but they have wherever possible continued to work from home, often undertaking different duties and roles.

5. Our staff have inevitably been affected by Covid with some 2,000 needing to self-isolate most weeks for various reasons, again with the vast majority continuing to work from home during isolation.
6. On an average day nearly 3,500 staff are working from home and our staff responded well to what was a sudden and huge change in their working environment, often having to juggle care responsibilities and with many practical difficulties. Working in an isolated way away from the support of colleagues and no longer being part of a physical team will have been really difficult for a many of them.

As a good employer we have worked hard to support staff during this difficult period. Managers have kept in regular contact to check on their team members' wellbeing, there has been easy access to support resources via a separate section of the intranet, we set up a dedicated staff helpline for any Covid related problems not just work related and there's a 24/7 support helpline for general and specific support such as counselling. Staff working from home are now being risk assessed in a more thorough way to ensure their homeworking environment is safe and to identify any equipment or support they need to continue working from home for some time to come.

The safety of our staff has been paramount, with risk assessments undertaken for all staff and a particular focus on those who are vulnerable due to health, ethnicity, age or pregnancy. PPE, whilst initially difficult to source due to an lack of availability from our usual supply chain and the national shortage, has always been provided to staff who need it, with the need to procure and distribute to thousands of staff in many workplaces across the county on an almost daily basis requiring a huge effort. Average weekly use is in excess of 300,000 items and the supply chain is now well established and stock levels are good.

So I'd like to pay tribute to our workforce in these difficult times, they've risen to every challenge and as a council we should be rightly proud of them.

### **Making Buildings Safe and adapting to new ways of working**

Staff working arrangements have been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government's guidance has been, and remains, that those staff who are able to do so should work at home. Many staff do continue to work from home and are utilising the technology that has been implemented during recent years as a means of remaining connected with managers and colleagues in order to fulfil their roles.

For a number of staff, however, access to one or more of the Council's office locations is essential to enable them to fulfil their role. In order to facilitate their requirements key office locations remain open across the County. Work has been undertaken at each of these locations to ensure that offices comply with the Government's 'Covid-19 Secure Office' guidelines. These guidelines place significant restrictions upon the capacity and use of offices in order to ensure that social distancing and hygiene requirements can be fulfilled. These restrictions are expected to remain in place for some time yet.

In addition to the office spaces that have remained open work has also been undertaken to ensure that appropriate safeguards have been put into place within those buildings utilised by services that have either remained operational or which are now re-opening following the partial easing of the lockdown restrictions. This includes, for example, the County Council's libraries.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted upon construction works that are being undertaken by the County Council and some works that had been proposed to be undertaken during the course of this year have been delayed. I am pleased to advise that the works being undertaken in the Brierley Building at County Hall re-commenced on 26 May following a suspension of some 40 working days. The works, which will result in the re-modelling and refurbishment of large areas of the building to support modern working, are expected to be completed later this year. We will be reviewing the use of County Hall and all our office buildings in light of our Covid-19 experiences with a view that we can further reduce the council's property footprint.

### **Procurement – supporting the local supply chain**

COVID-19 has already had a significant impact on businesses of all sizes. In response, a number of actions have been undertaken to support “at risk” elements of the Councils supply chain. Early in the crisis, the Council agreed to pay all its small and medium size enterprises immediately to help improve cash flow and ensure businesses did not collapse. This support for the smaller businesses that supply the Council, who are usually paid within 30 days, demonstrated how important they are to our service delivery and the economic vitality of the county and country. This support will be reviewed in August, and is likely to continue until the end of the calendar year.

In addition, the Council set up a Supply Chain Resilience Board to cover the COVID-19 crisis period. This board enables the Council to take a proportionate approach and triage suppliers that most need financial support, to secure and stabilise key Council supply chains. This will help the Council ensure service continuity during and after the current COVID-19 crisis. Overall, the Council has taken immediate and appropriate steps to support its supply chains, and our work in this area has been nationally recognised.

GARETH DADD



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

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

Although NYCC, along with other local authorities and groups such as f40, were successful in lobbying for additional funding for High Needs for 2020-21, the local authority continues to experience significant cost pressures arising from a rise in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan since 2014. The local authority has continued to underpin the additional costs in High Needs and SEN Transport within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and we will continue to lobby for a fairer funding settlement for North Yorkshire.

The Directorate has developed plans to meet the savings target in 2020-21 and we expect to be able to deliver most of these despite the potential impact of Covid-19. Financial pressures are regularly reviewed and a formal assessment of spending scenarios due to Covid-19 will form part of the Quarter 1 Finance and Performance update.

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**

North Yorkshire's Children & Families Services continues to perform strongly. Our re-referral rate over the course of Quarter 4 matched the full-year figure of 16.3%, down from a low 17.8% in 2018/19 and almost every Children & Families assessment is completed within the statutory deadline of 45 days (99.1% in Quarter 4). We are continuing to see the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan reduce, down to 327 at the end of Quarter 4. Quarter 4 has seen a significant increase in the proportion of repeat Child Protection Plan and work is underway to better understand this.

Over the course of the lockdown, performance has remained strong and stable across the service, although we have seen an increase in the number of Children in Care, largely due to family networks who would ordinarily support the child being unable to do so, leading to the child being brought into care.

**North Yorkshire Partners in Practice & Strengthening Families, Protecting Children Programmes**

The Partners in Practice programme has received extension funding for a further 12 months from the Department of Education for 2020/21. The funding continues in two parts; Sector improvement work and understanding excellence, which focuses on innovative practice with children and their families in North Yorkshire. The Sector improvement work sees North Yorkshire continue to support a range of Local Authorities across the country with intensive work being undertaken with Hull and Middlesbrough until the Autumn 2020. The understanding excellence arm of the project will build on existing work to progress the Single view of the child IT project; development of the restorative academy; extensive specialist training for staff in

family finding and systemic practice; alongside further development work with leaving care, fostering and youth justice.

Extensive funding was also secured to deliver the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme. The objective of this programme is to improve social work practice and decision making so that the best outcomes are achieved for every child. By taking this approach there should be a reduction of demand at the critical end of the child welfare system and reduced spend on children's social care. The NWD practice model is being adapted and adopted in many other LAs and is supported by an NYCC 'central delivery team'. It is a sector leader, thinking differently about residential and edge of care services, keeping young people close, improving outcomes and improving life-long opportunities. Significant funding over five years will deliver NWD to an additional six LAs.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET SANDERSON

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

## STATEMENT OF EDUCATION &amp; SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**Covid-19 – impact on schools and early years**

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to North Yorkshire's education community including schools, Multi Academy Trusts and early years and childcare settings for their response to the Covid-19 situation. Working with the Local Authority schools and settings have had to overcome many challenges including staffing, creation of 'bubbles', social distancing, welfare of pupils, on-line learning and a constantly changing direction of travel. Most schools have been open for vulnerable children and children of key workers throughout lockdown and, working with the LA, hub arrangements for weekend and school holiday periods were established for these groups. Vulnerable children have remained a priority for all schools throughout this period.

The wider reopening of schools on 1 June, initially limiting class sizes to a maximum of 15 pupils and working in 'bubbles', meant that some schools, because of their physical nature and available staffing, found the position challenging but all have done their best to ensure that as many all eligible pupils as possible are in attendance. At the time of writing my statement some 17,798 pupils (21%) are attending North Yorkshire schools.

We are now working with schools to plan for the full reopening of schools in September and we continue to support headteachers, staff and governors to prepare for the new academic year. Many challenges will need to be addressed including budgetary issues due to Covid 19 spend, the educational achievement gap, capacity and space in school, children's welfare and adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of the children. There are also concerns about the need for young people to catch up specifically in the year groups where there are exams approaching in 2021.

I would also like to praise the many private, voluntary and independent early education and childcare providers who continued to make provision available for as many children as possible under the government guidelines and to do their best for children and families in difficult circumstances. There are concerns about the impact of Covid-19 on the financial sustainability of many providers and we will continue to work with the sector to ensure our providers are still financially viable in the longer term.

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

The Strategic Plan has been updated to include phase 2. The updated plan was published in June 2020 and can be found here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/send-specialist-support-and-inclusion>. The updated plan covers:

- Reviewing and developing early years provision for children with SEND
- Commissioning additional targeted mainstream provision to fulfil the aims in the plan
- Continuing to work with the DfE and the appointed trust to develop the special free school in Selby
- Exploring how we can develop provision for children and young people with Autism, and with social, emotional and mental health needs
- Developing a capital programme to support the Strategic plan
- Developing joint working and joint commissioning.

Work has also continued to deliver actions in the plan and the following points give an update:

- The introduction of the new alternative provision model via the PRS is on schedule to be implemented in September 2020.
- Development of the new targeted provision model in mainstream schools is continuing with the focus on the first 9 provisions.
- Phase one of the capital work for Mowbray school (Ripon) will be complete by the end of July and funding has been secured for work in phases 2 and 3.
- The new locality SEND hubs are due to be implemented from September 2020, as is the new medical education service.

There have been very positive developments in respect of the parent/carer forum for North Yorkshire. The forum relaunched and rebranded in June 2020 with a new name – Parent Carer Voice North Yorkshire. The new website is at <https://www.parentcarervoicenuk.org/>. Significant progress has been made in partnership working and co-production between the Council, Parent Carer Voice and health colleagues.

### **School funding**

The local authority has continued with the implementation of the national funding formula and, in 2020-21, every primary and secondary school will have received a minimum £3,750 per pupil and £5,000 per pupil respectively. However, we continue to be concerned about the financial sustainability of small, rural secondary schools in particular and we continue to lobby for recognition of sparsity and rurality to ensure schools in North Yorkshire are funded appropriately. The financial pressures in High Needs and SEND are well documented and we are also concerned about the financial pressure facing some of our special schools. We continue to work proactively with local authority maintained schools to support and challenge them to take action to avoid deficit wherever possible.

The local authority has provided advice and guidance to schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to monitor additional expenditure, claim back eligible costs from central government and to furlough staff, where appropriate. Some additional financial support has also been provided to those Early Years providers who remained open during the 'lockdown' period for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. The local authority was, and remains, grateful for their contribution and we continue to work closely with the sector to ensure the local authority remains able to provide help and support, where appropriate.

### **Schools Capital**

The Schools Capital Programme for 2020/21 was approved by Executive on 9 June 2020.

The pandemic has affected the delivery of capital projects to varying degrees dependant on individual circumstances. Due to the practical difficulties presented some projects scheduled for this summer will now take place next year following agreement with the affected schools. However, construction and maintenance will be possible on many school sites in this coming period. Examples of some of our more significant schemes where, despite initial delay, contractors have now been able to commence site works are as follows:

- Hambleton CE Primary School – expansion scheme
- Killinghall CE Primary School – expansion scheme
- Middle Deepdale, Scarborough – new build for relocation and expansion of Overdale CP School

- Sherburn Hungate CP School – expansion scheme

In late June the Government announced that substantial additional investment is to be made in school buildings. A rebuilding programme will start in 2020-21 with the first 50 projects, supported by over £1 billion in funding. It is not clear at this stage whether local authorities will have a role in any bidding or selection process for these projects. In addition £560m is to be allocated for repairs and upgrades to schools and the County Council can expect to receive a share of that based on the usual formulaic distribution based on the condition of our school estate. Further details are expected to be announced as part of the Spending Review.

### **School organisation changes**

The following school organisation decisions were taken by Executive or individual Executive Member on 9 June 2020:

- To approve the closure of Clapham CE VC Primary School on 31 August 2020.
- To approve publication of statutory notices on removal, alterations and establishment of Special Need provisions in Mainstream Schools from 1 September 2020. The representation period is live until 17 July. The Executive will further consider the matter in August 2020.
- To formally confirm the establishment of satellite specialist sixth form provision for Springhead School on the former Graham Lower School site in Scarborough and to confirm an increase in capacity.

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

The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme is a £6million scheme funded by the Department for Education and focussed on improving social mobility in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. The programme was able to continue during the COVID 19 outbreak, recruiting more than 20 new teachers to posts using virtual interviewing and gifting hundreds of books to families across Scarborough district in partnership with the National Literacy Trust. The DfE has confirmed additional funding will be provided to the programme to continue until August 2021. This funding will be used to boost projects that show a promising impact in improving outcomes in the early years, improve speech, language and communication skills for children in primary school and support engagement for learning in secondary schools. The programme will also consider whether funding is needed to respond to education and social mobility issues arising from the COVID 19 and the impact it has had on student learning.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

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

Our annual highways repair programme is well underway. The County Council is investing record sums in ensuring our roads and paths continue to be well-maintained and safe. The much-reduced volumes of traffic on our highways and footways have meant that work is being carried out efficiently, with little disruption to the travelling public.

Our newly formed Teckal company, NY Highways Ltd, has recently appointed its first managing director: Ross Bullerwell will take up his post on 9 September. Ross is currently Managing Director of Rennicks (UK) Ltd, a company which develops innovative traffic signage. He brings to our company many years of experience in highways contracting.

We have recently agreed a short extension to our contract with Ringway until 1 June 2021, at which date NY Highways will become operational. The extra two months will allow us to keep existing arrangements for the full winter season. I take this opportunity to express our thanks to Ringway managers and staff who have been very supportive to us throughout the continuing process of transferring our highways contract to the new company.

We still await a response from the Department for Transport following the submission of our full business case for funding the re-alignment of the A59 trans-Pennine route at Kex Gill. Tenderers have been shortlisted, and tender documents are ready to issue. We remain hopeful of positive news in the very near future.

In the meantime, severe flooding of the River Aire in Selby district in February forced the closure of the A19 between Chapel Haddlesey and Eggborough. Storm Dennis led to the overtopping of the road's embankment, which was submerged for several days and, when water levels receded, more than 1km of the structure was found to have been badly scoured. The road has remained closed until now. The BES Director, in consultation with his Executive Members took the decision last month to award the contract to repair the road at a cost estimated at £6.5m. Work will start next month and take at least six months to complete.

**Upgrades for A1(M) Junction 47 and Harrogate Rail Line**

Both of these improvement schemes were given the go-ahead at the end of April, with firm costs of £7.77m and £9.85m respectively. Much of the funding for the schemes has been provided by the YNYER LEP, with the balance coming from the County Council's on-street parking surpluses, and, in the case of J47, from a developer's contribution of £1m.

The highway scheme involves the installation of traffic signals, road widening, and additional improvements at the T-junction where the A168 joins the A59. Work is expected to start shortly and be concluded by early autumn 2021.

The rail scheme involves track and signalling upgrades near Cattal. We are working with Network Rail to ensure that this work proceeds swiftly to make up for timing slippages due to Covid-19 restrictions. Once completed, this project will make it possible to run two trains between Harrogate and York every hour in each direction, double the current frequency.

These additional train movements have given rise to a formal objection to the plans by LNER who believes that the capacity of the East Coast Main Line north of York will be overloaded. Network Rail and the County Council remain confident that this matter can be resolved.

Both of these transport schemes are much needed in view of the rapid commercial and residential growth planned along the A59 corridor between Knaresborough and York.

### **Social Distancing and Active Travel**

Our highways area offices have been busy responding to each stage of the Covid-19 pandemic by ensuring that pedestrians in town centres have sufficient footpath space for social distancing, and to support retailers and other traders in town centres to keep their customers safe as businesses re-open and the economy comes back to life. County Council officers continue to work closely with partners, including district councils, business organisations and the police throughout this process. Details of measures taken can be found here: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/socialdistancing](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/socialdistancing)

The County Council has been allocated up to £1.3m from the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund, to be used to encourage travellers to avoid public transport and to walk or cycle. As members will understand, this funding is limited and will not go far when distributed over the whole county.

### **February storms**

Last winter was the wettest on record. The combined effects of three named storms and prolonged heavy rainfall in February led to severe floods in many locations across North Yorkshire, especially in Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, and Selby districts. The most serious effects were experienced near Selby around the Lower Aire.

I pay tribute to all our partners involved in the multi-agency response, which was outstanding. As lead local flood authority, the County Council has commenced a formal investigation into the flooding events under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

### **Broadband and mobile telephony**

As much of the country stayed at home these last few months, so our reliance upon video conferencing and digital communications has never been greater. North Yorkshire's digital infrastructure has proved to be very robust, and NYnet's networks have performed extremely well. I am also able to report excellent progress with the following projects:

- Phase 3 of our Superfast North Yorkshire is well past half-way with about 8,000 connections made out of a contract total of 14,239, most by means of full-fibre
- SFNY has set aside £11.5m for Phase 4, the contract for which has attracted very good responses from interested providers
- The County Council's Local Full Fibre Networks project, valued at £15.1m, has made remarkable progress whilst roads and footpaths have been free of traffic. About 100km of gigabit fibre ducting has already been installed in towns throughout the county.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 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****Community support during coronavirus pandemic**

Members will be aware that as part of the county's response to the pandemic 23 Community Support Organisations or CSOs have been established to ensure that every resident of North Yorkshire has somewhere to turn to if they need help and support with things like food shopping, prescription deliveries, hot meals or a friendly chat with someone. The CSOs and their dedicated teams of volunteers have been working tirelessly to deliver essential services to thousands of residents and have been the backbone of the county's response to ensure no one is left to cope on their own.

Over the past three months the CSOs have delivered:

- Over 10,000 bags of shopping
- 7,635 hot meals
- 7,286 prescriptions
- 1,681 food parcels
- Nearly 1,000 bags of activity and craft materials

In addition, they have also been calling people every week to check on their general health and well-being as well as carrying out other activities to support people during the lockdown.

- 6,758 welfare calls and 6,278 befriending calls have been made
- Over 3,000 calls providing advice and guidance
- Over 600 pets have been cared for, and
- 425 transport trips have been carried out to take people to urgent medical appointments.

The CSOs have over 3,000 volunteers registered with them and half of those have been volunteering every week clocking up an average of 3,498 hours every week – a total of 49,891 volunteering hours since the lockdown started.

But that is only part of the story. In addition to the CSOs there are also many small groups of volunteers giving support to their neighbours and their local communities. Many voluntary and community groups have come up with inventive ways to help people whether that is by setting up community kitchens or fridges to ensure everyone can access affordable food, providing virtual social activities or friendship groups, ensuring people's pets are cared for if they go in to hospital or are unable to leave the house or using their sewing skills to help make much needed personal, protective equipment.

The level of help offered by our communities to our communities as part of our 'Team North Yorkshire' approach has been essential, valued and humbling. We thank everyone for their individual and collective efforts.

Our support will continue over the next few months. Over 25,000 people in the county are identified as 'shielded' and have been self-isolating since the start of the lockdown in March. As measures are to be eased on 1 August for this higher risk group, we are ensuring that



support will still be there for those people who decide to continue to self-isolate and will continue to work with our District and NHS colleagues along with other partners to co-ordinate this support.

Our CSOs will continue to operate until at least the end of September both supporting people who continue to self-isolate and also helping people to re-integrate and regain their independence by organising safe outdoor meet ups and providing advice and guidance.

Our community support arrangements will also play a role in our Local Outbreak Plan and arrangements around Test and Trace activities in order to ensure that short term support continues to be available for anyone required to self-isolate either as a result of being contacted by Test and Trace teams or if any local outbreak measures are instigated.

### **Community Grants**

Our Stronger Communities Inspire grants have been on hold during the pandemic and replaced with Covid-19 Small Community Grants. Awards of up to £500 are available to grass roots groups who are providing activities for people during the pandemic. To date, 95 awards have been made (total value of £42,452) for items such as equipment for food delivery schemes, laptops and zoom licences, craft and activity packs and supplies of personal protective equipment for volunteers.

### **Legal and Democratic Services**

In response to the Government announcement on 23 March 2020 regarding restrictions on public gatherings and social distancing, the Council postponed all formal, public meetings of the committees. In April, the Government issued new Regulations which then enabled remote/virtual meetings to be held that are legally binding. Since then, Democratic Services and Scrutiny have been working with Technology and Change to establish a system of live broadcasting to the Council's YouTube site of committee meetings using Skype and OBS software. To date, three live broadcast meetings have been held. Live broadcasts of the Executive, Planning and Regulatory Functions, Pension Fund Committee and Audit are planned over the summer. Work is underway to look at how all of the Council's committee meetings will be held through to the County Council elections in May 2021. This is likely to involve a large number of remote and live broadcast meetings.

Informal meetings of the Council's six Area Constituency Committees have been held regularly from early April 2020 using Skype. The Area Constituency Committees have now agreed to move to four weekly meeting, during the pandemic. The intention of these meetings was to provide councillors with an opportunity to meet, share experiences, raise local issues of concern and be briefed on key issues. The vast majority of councillors have engaged in these meetings and have readily adopted new technology and working practices.

As with most of the Council's committee meetings, the meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees were postponed and are not due to restart until early Autumn, at which point they will be live broadcast, public meetings. In the interim, Democratic Services and Scrutiny have been supporting the committees with regular email updates and briefings. The Chairs of the five committees have also been briefed by Executive Members and Directors at key points during the pandemic to ensure that scrutiny has been kept informed of significant changes to policy and practice. Scrutiny Board will be co-ordinating a review of the local response to the pandemic and what this means for the Council going forward.

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team has also helped support other areas of work during the pandemic, including: the Locality Budgets programme; the school admissions appeals team; the Resilience Forum Silver Group meetings; and the Outbreak Management Advisory Board.

### **Refugee Resettlement**

A number of the refugees resettled in North Yorkshire have been volunteering during the COVID pandemic, ranging from delivering groceries to sewing protective clothing for hospital staff and for a care home. A volunteer has also been involved in translating vital public health messages into Arabic for Healthwatch. Those volunteering have spoken of feeling an added sense of purpose again by being able to give back to their local community. As one of the volunteers has said: "I feel it allows me to do something positive during this difficult time for us all, for the community which welcomed me and my family when we first arrived to the UK."

Most of the families resettled in North Yorkshire seemed to have coped with the lockdown, aided by the fact that their refugee experiences have meant that they have experienced worse situations. Early on in the lockdown however it was recognised that frequent contact needed to be maintained with the families so that they did not become more isolated, and also so that they could continue to progress with their understanding of the English language and general integration. Consequently, video conferencing technology is being used to deliver multiple English language sessions for the adults each week. The learning sessions have been shorter than the face to face classes were, but it has allowed the adults to continue to progress with their understanding of the English language. Separate sessions are held with the women and men to allow both parents in each family to continue with their learning whilst the other parent is looking after the children. Education support has been provided to the children through the County Council's English as an Additional Language Team. This has included serving as an initial point of contact for all the refugee families' concerns and enquiries regarding their children's education; support with accessing online learning provided by schools; provision of one to one pupil support and tuition; and liaising between students, schools and colleges to ensure that students attending college, or due to start college have selected suitable courses for the forthcoming academic year and completed necessary applications. The EAL team has also organised, advised and provided ongoing support to volunteers to provide one to one home learning support for pupils.

About 20% of the working age adults had secured employment before the pandemic but it remains to be seen how the pandemic may have affected these jobs. In anticipation of the jobs market being more difficult to get into, those adults not in employment are being offered video conferencing sessions to provide employment-related advice and support, including advice on CV writing and interview techniques.

Globally there has been a temporary hold on refugees being resettled to other countries, necessitated by disruptions and restrictions to international air travel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This delayed the departures of some 10,000 refugees to resettlement countries many of whom were caught up in worsening situations. During this time work continued behind the scenes by the UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) and other relevant international organisations to ensure that when flights resumed refugees could once again be resettled. Recently the UNHCR has announced the resumption of resettlement departures for refugees. Although many travel restrictions still remain in place, as these begin to lift in many resettlement countries more refugee departures can be anticipated. While there is no news at present regarding the UK, once flights can resume North Yorkshire will be taking part in the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme, with five families (25 persons) expected to arrive at some point this year or early next year. The families do not have complex health needs and were chosen in part to ensure minimum strain on the NHS at this point in time. Quarantine measures will be put in place during the first two weeks of their arrival in the UK, if still required by then.

## **County Councillor Locality Budgets**

The sixth year of the scheme started on 03 April 2020 and the last date for the receipt of recommendations will be 31 January 2021. The start date was earlier than normal to enable County Councillors to respond to needs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and because there were no elections in May 2020.

This year County Councillors are particularly encouraged to focus on projects or activities that respond to local needs and community initiatives arising from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of climate change, and/or that promote the Council's Stronger Communities programme.

Because of the exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic the Chairman of the County Council has given a blanket call in exemption to enable the Executive Member for Stronger Communities to make decisions swiftly and with immediate effect, thereby allowing County Councillors to react quickly to changing circumstances and to respond promptly to local needs arising from the impact of the Covid19 pandemic.

35.50% of Locality Budget Grants made to date are directly related to supporting organisations assisting communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **NYLAF Covid-19 Support Grant Scheme**

North Yorkshire County Council has set up the Covid-19 Support Grant Scheme to help individuals and families who are most in need or most at risk, to access food, utility, and other household essentials to support them through a 14-day period of self-isolation because of Covid-19.

Community support organisations are coordinating volunteers who go to supermarkets to do shopping on their behalf. The local community support organisation will confirm that people are eligible and complete the application with people. If an application is successful, a volunteer from the local community support organisation will make contact to find out what food and other household essentials are needed, go to the local supermarket and drop the shopping on the doorstep.

During the period from late March to mid-June the scheme made 644 awards to 430 households, totalling £61,055.

DAVID CHANCE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

## STATEMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

I would like to begin my statement by paying tribute to the whole team in Health & Adult Services for their hard work throughout this incredibly challenging time. I would like to thank each and every one of them for the professionalism, flexibility and compassion they have shown. At the same time, I want to remember those who have lost their lives, and those that are grieving.

Whilst the pandemic has touched all areas of the Council, it is clear that the impact on Health & Adult Services has been considerable as a result of our efforts to keep people safe and well. This has included:

- Organising around command centres and communities
- Temporarily redeploying 1800 colleagues across a 7 day working pattern
- Supporting the NHS on timely and safe hospital discharges
- Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions
- Implementing a rapid health needs assessment
- Providing a free social care service for those residents on the Covid pathway, funded by the NHS
- Supporting care homes with training, staffing support, personal protective equipment (PPE) and priority access to healthcare professionals as part of a care home resilience plan
- Paying a care home fee uplift and expanding a hardship fund for providers
- Distributing North Yorkshire's share of the government's £600m infection control fund to nursing homes, residential homes and home care providers, alongside helping those residents who purchase their own care with direct payments to access PPE

The comprehensive model of community support, based on the success of our Stronger Communities model, has been vital. We made the necessary arrangements to enact Care Act easements, but it is worth noting that we did not have to make use of these arrangements.

Together, we have been able to build upon strong networks and programmes for workplace and community wellbeing, employee support, physical activity and mental health support. We have made great strides in our joint working with primary care, GP and community care and other groups, and in particular we must build on the considerable progress we have made on using digital and remote ways of delivering services.

It is worth remembering that although the national lockdown is easing, we are still firmly in the midst of this pandemic, whilst also needing to plan for the future. Outbreaks will continue, and there may be the need to implement local lockdowns. Wholesale testing of staff and care home residents will be needed in the long term, and we need to be able to plan for winter pressures. We also need to be mindful that some of our own colleagues and other colleagues in the wider sector are exhausted – and we must ensure that people get a break so that they can sustain our services in the medium to long term.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

July 2020

**STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION & SUPPORTED HOUSING  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON****Covid-19**

Since Covid-19 emerged in Wuhan, China last December it has dominated everyday life. Currently, we have very low levels of new cases and deaths across the county, following a peak in cases in early May. There have been 2,504 cases and 520 deaths recorded to date. The rate of cases in North Yorkshire is similar to England. This is the situation as we emerge from a national lockdown into a new phase of managing the pandemic.

Each public health authority has been tasked with producing a Covid-19 outbreak control plan to describe how we will prevent, identify and manage outbreaks in high-risk settings such as care homes, schools and some work places. The plan also outlines how we will support the Test and Trace service to allow people who have contracted the virus and their contacts to self-isolate so they do not transmit the virus to others. Our plan was published at the end of June 2020.

North Yorkshire County Council received a grant of £2,022,850 to provide support towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of Covid-19.

An important feature of local outbreak plans is a newly established member led group which has political ownership for public facing engagement and communication for the outbreak response. Our Outbreak Management Advisory Board has been set-up in accordance with government guidance and the Board has now met twice.

The group will meet every 3 weeks initially, with the ability to come together sooner, if required. The Outbreak Management Advisory Board will act as an advisory committee with a critical role being to ensure relevant representation and a joined up response to Covid-19. If there are any local outbreaks this Board will play a crucial role in managing communications within and across our communities. Any issues requiring escalation for political consideration will be escalated to the Outbreak Management Advisory Board and the criteria which would trigger the need to escalate a situation to the Board is in development.

We are managing a small number of outbreaks across the county, none of which currently have any repercussions in our communities outside of the settings involved.

**Public health commissioned services**

The pandemic has affected all public health services as it has for other health and social care services. We have seen a number of innovations in service delivery and many of these will continue as a legacy of the pandemic.

Several services developed digital offers that allowed some face to face functions to continue remotely. This has ensured that people have continued to access vital services for sexual health, drug and alcohol, smoking cessation, weight management as well as aspects of the Healthy Child Programme. Others like the NHS Health Checks programme were suspended and work is underway to restart the full range of public health services incorporating new models of delivery.

We have prioritised planning for recovery, in parallel with outbreak management and developing Test and Trace. The public health team are linking into each of the recovery themes the council has identified (Community Impact/ Engagement, Economic, Environment, Humanitarian and Infrastructure) and are working closely with other partners including NHS, Local Enterprise

Partnership and District and Borough councils. Some of the guiding principles include a focus on reducing health inequalities and embedding new ways of working such as greater use of digital service delivery that have been effective to maintain these going forward.

### **Promoting health and wellbeing during the pandemic**

#### **Stop Smoking Support – #QuitForCovid**

Smoking remains the biggest cause of preventable deaths in England, with one in two smokers dying from a smoking-related disease. Current evidence indicates that smoking increases the risks of developing life threatening complications from Covid-19, alongside the already-known risks of smoking – weakened immune systems, heart disease, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stroke and cancer.

A national campaign, #QuitforCovid was launched in April to highlight the benefits of quitting including:

1. Reducing the likelihood of complications from Covid-19.
2. To protect the health of others
3. To reduce the burden on the NHS

A range of communication activity has taken place to promote the messages of the campaign alongside promotion of the local specialist stop smoking service Living Well Smokefree, including print media, social media and radio interviews and coverage. A second phase of campaign is due to launch in mid-July.

#### **Mental health**

The potential impact of Covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing is well documented therefore promoting and maintaining good mental health is an important part of the public health response.

In our public health leadership role as a council, we have brought together partners and key stakeholders every two weeks. These successful meetings have provided an opportunity to monitor and review trends in mental health and work across the mental health system with partners. Partners including North Yorkshire Police, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and voluntary sector have met with council teams - Public Health, Living Well, Stronger Communities and Children and Young People's Service.

The national website Every Mind Matters has been refreshed to include Covid-19 specific content and we have proactively promoted this self-help website amongst partners and the general public. More targeted work has also taken place to improve mental health of specific workforces such as health and social care. Mental health information is included in information packs being developed as part of our workforce response.

Within the council a significant amount of work has taken place to review the mental health offer for vulnerable staff. This is wide ranging from easily accessible information to more structured training and learning and peer support groups. We participate in the Local Government Association funded behaviour insights work with the National Behavioural Insight team to use behaviour change techniques to encourage positive change including mental health self-care.

We continue to work with Public Health England (PHE) who are rolling out a number of learning webinars on mental health including mental health and older people, mental health and young people and bereavement.

## **Suicide Prevention**

We have been working closely with PHE and regional colleagues to review the impact of Covid-19 on suicides including data on all suspected cases for North Yorkshire. We have been proactively promoting messages to support mental health and self-care and working with Stronger Communities and North Yorkshire Sport to provide activity resources including; colouring activities, mental health information, exercise activities to people isolating to support them to stay mentally and physically active.

## **Physical activity**

Covid-19 has had a profound effect on our lives, with social distancing and restrictions on movement resulting in a complete overhaul of the way many people get active.

With the implementation of guidance in England limiting people to one outdoor activity a day and only with members of their own household, during the initial phase of the lock down, the majority of sport and exercise became impossible overnight. The national Sport England website has been continually updated to provide information and advice to individuals and families to stay as physically active as possible. Within the council we have ensured all up to date information on current guidance has been available, links and access to reputable national and local support and advice. A physical activity offer has been included into the Council's Universal Plus service, enabling individuals and families to receive direct support from local specialists.

Working with North Yorkshire Sport, we have been able to co-ordinate the communications and promotion of campaigns, such as Sport England's 'Join the Movement', 'We Are Undefeatable' campaigns, and the Mental Health Foundation's 'Move more for mental health'.

The School Zone Project action plan has recently been reviewed in light of the impact of Covid-19. We have recently brought back together the partners that are significant in the planning and delivery of the School Zone Project in this project. Despite the challenges that schools and businesses have faced during the pandemic, the adaptability and commitment from all involved is very evident. Discussions are being held to plan for the use of outdoor areas for active classrooms, sport and physical activity through the summer holidays to ensure key workers can still go to work, delivery of virtual physical activity programmes in schools, continued planning and discussions to implement park and stride schemes.

The Council has been allocated £133,000, half of the possible maximum available, to finance the continuation of the social distancing measures it has been putting in place in the county's towns to support reopening businesses and to help the public to stay safe in town centres. The authority is already planning its bid for the second phase, when the larger sum of approximately £1.1m will be available, and is pushing ahead with proposals for multi-million pound bids through other channels to support walking and cycling. There are many teams within the Council contributing to this bidding process to ensure the walking and cycling infrastructure planning enables sustainable travel for the longer term.

The Discoveries on Your Doorstep project has adapted and responded to the Covid-19 crisis. The Project's original focus on "Fun, Free & Fascinating" things to do has been further developed and aligned to health/guidance messages of covid-19; schools are being supported to consider how active travel can enable safe return to school; there has been an opportunity to promote messages that support people's reconnection with nature and climate change; and the project has the ability to reduce loneliness in elderly and high risk with online contact and shared resources.

As facilitators of the Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives Strategy Steering Group, Public Health and North Yorkshire Sport have co-ordinated a review of the multi-agency 2020 action plan and with the support of the Steering Group members, refined the priorities as a response to Covid-19. Staying local, active travel and sustaining positive physical activity behaviours are prominent within the review.

## **Alcohol**

Throughout the last few months we have used the Wake Up North Yorkshire alcohol campaign to reinforce messages on safer alcohol limits and the importance of staying healthy within the context of Covid-19.

A social distancing tab has been added to the website, containing up to date messages and advice in line with the latest announcements and advice: <http://wakeupnorthyorks.co.uk/social-distancing/>.

We have used social media ads to promote messages, with the result of over 6 million impressions and 42,000 clicks (Google Ads) and 92,000 impressions and reach of over 26,000 (Facebook). Ads have included links to NY Horizons' services, to reassure people that the service is still being delivered, and a press release went out the week beginning 18th May 2020 focusing on helping residents rethink their drink during lockdown.

We did a survey about Covid-19 and alcohol consumption to give us some local insight on North Yorkshire during lockdown. This is now closed and over 350 people replied and we are in the process of looking at the results which will help to inform the next stage of the Wake Up North Yorkshire campaign and help people who may be drinking more alcohol than usual to re-think their drink.

## **Screening and Immunisation programmes**

Screening and Immunisations programmes are commissioned by NHS England/Improvement from a variety of providers and are overseen and monitored by Public Health England. The pandemic has had varied impacts on these programmes. Ante-natal and newborn screening has continued but most other national screening programmes have been paused and planning is underway to restart them. School closures have affected delivery of school based immunisation programmes like HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination.

As with other NHS services, the planning to restore screening and immunisation programmes is being prioritised based on risk. Some of the challenges include the adjustments that need to be made to ensure social distancing and that there is adequate staff capacity with appropriating training and personal protective equipment (PPE).

We are working with our NHS partners and PHE to encourage people to come forward for screening and to catch up on missed vaccinations when the programme resumes in full. It is especially important that we get high coverage for seasonal flu jabs so we can reduce the impact of flu on winter pressures to our health and social care system this year.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON**



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 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**

Farming, Food &amp; Health

**Covid-19 Recovery Phase – Support to Businesses**

The Farming, Food & Health team have continued to provide support to North Yorkshire businesses throughout the Covid-19 crisis by providing regulatory business advice.

As part of this support, officers are also working with the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver a series of webinars to help North Yorkshire businesses maintain and develop their operations during these difficult times. The first webinar that was delivered discussed digital solutions for restaurants and cafés who wish to provide ‘takeaway’ food with Trading Standards staff providing information on allergens and how to ensure safe operations are adopted. This webinar was well received by the participating businesses.

Further webinar events that are planned will cover a range of topics as part of the support offer to North Yorkshire businesses.

**Planning Services**

Work toward the adoption of our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan with the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority continues albeit in somewhat more limited form over recent months due to COVID-19. Upon the work being finalised on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications and the completion of accompanying statutory assessments, a public consultation will take place shortly thereafter with the anticipation of adoption before the end of this year.

Insofar as our processing of planning applications, the performance of the County Council, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, has remained buoyant during these unprecedented times of COVID-19 and has seen the latest published percentages consistently and comfortably above 87.5% for the last 4 quarters; well above the national threshold of 60% (below which authorities can potentially be placed in special measures).

**Growth and Heritage Services**

Staff have been working with local business during the pandemic and providing on-going research and intelligence on the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy and national trends. They have also updated Covid-19 related business and economic support and advice on the NYCC website and set up North Yorkshire Buy Local website for residents of North Yorkshire to be able to access goods and services locally during Covid-19 restrictions. Staff are now representing NYCC on the development of a coordinated regional Strategic Economic Recovery plan working with the LEP and other Local Authorities.

**Economic Development**

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has been focused on the economic and business response to the Covid-19 crisis working in partnership across all Local Authorities.

The activity has been focused around four priorities:

1. Helping businesses get support quickly and easily

2. Making as much available online as possible
3. Gathering intelligence and feeding into government
4. Developing an Economic Recovery Plan to bridge the gap between the impact of Covid-19 and the Local Industrial Strategy ambitions developed pre Covid.

In addition the LEP submitted a bid to the £900m national accelerated infrastructure funding detailed by the Prime Minister on 30 June.

### **Waste Management**

Members will be aware that all Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) closed as part of the national lockdown in March, with sites reopening on a phased return from 6 May. All sites are now open again with social distancing measures in place and a traffic management system is being used to manage queues, where necessary. The mobile HWRC services resumed on 18 June.

Allerton waste Recovery Park has continued to operate as normal throughout the lockdown except that the visitor centre has been temporarily unavailable. We have agreed with the operator that this was a reasonable response and have granted relief from performance obligations relating to the visitor centre since its closure on 16<sup>h</sup> March. We are now working with Amey to secure the reopening of the visitor centre with appropriate social distancing measures in place, with additional online material being produced to help fill the gap.

### **Countryside Access**

During the early stages of the Coronavirus lockdown the Council received a high number of requests from landowners and farmers for the County Council to close public rights of way because of the risk of transmitting the disease. Conversely there were high numbers of complaints from members of the public about landowners illegally closing public rights of way by installing barriers or erecting signage to discourage and prevent use.

Government guidance throughout has made it clear that public rights of way should remain open, as a way to help encourage exercise and maintain physical and mental wellbeing. Advice is that the risk of the coronavirus being passed on to others from people using public rights of way and other paths and trails is considered to be very low as long as people follow the Government's instructions to maintain sensible social distancing. We advised customers and landowners of the government guidance and the service has logged all reported issues of closures and obstructions. As we move into the recovery phase, our staff and countryside volunteers have restarted site visits and are investigating reports of obstructed paths, taking action to remove signage or obstructions if the landowner has not done so already.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**STATEMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE****Library and Information Service****Libraries are back!**

Members will be pleased to hear that North Yorkshire residents will again be able to pick up books by their favourite authors as libraries began a phased reopening from Monday, 6 July. To begin with, visits will be by appointment only. From 6 July, customers will be able to take advantage of a free Select and Collect service. They will be able to call or email their local library to request the kind of books they like. A member of the library team will hand-pick a selection that meets the customer's request, then contact the customer to arrange a convenient time for them to collect the books from the library entrance. As usual, books can be borrowed for up to three weeks.

Customers can also use a new "library takeaway" service, which offers specially selected book bundles to borrow. There will be a menu to choose from each week with something for all ages. Details will be on local library Facebook pages. People will be able to return books, but for now library buildings will not be open for any other services. Books will be quarantined when they are returned.

From Monday, 13 July, libraries managed by North Yorkshire County Council at Scarborough, Harrogate, Malton, Whitby, Pickering, Filey and Skipton are providing limited access to public computers. Ripon, Selby, Northallerton, Knaresborough and Richmond will follow suit on 20 July. Some community libraries are also providing access so customers should check locally. Unfortunately, due to the need for social distancing, the library teams will not be able to offer computer support.

Also restarting from 13 July is the Home Library Service. Before lockdown, the library service was delivering books to more than 1,600 people across the county. All customers have been contacted to make sure they still want to receive the service and volunteers are gearing up to start getting books out to them again

The aim will then be to open further services over the following weeks, starting with bookable access to libraries' public computers, followed by a return to browsing with social distancing in place. Only when restrictions are eased sufficiently will libraries reopen their public toilets, desks and tables for public use and café areas.

All details will be on the County Council's website and press releases will be issued as the situation changes. A staggering 65,000 emails were sent to users informing them of the changes on re-opening.

**Libraries under Lockdown**

In line with government guidance our libraries closed on 23 March 2020. However, our staff and volunteers were determined that the service would be maintained and did so magnificently. The buildings might be closed but over 2,000 new members have been signed up to use the digital resources. Over the last three months over 80,500 e-books and e-audio books have been borrowed and 125,723 newspapers and magazines, compared to the same period last year a 125% for e-books and a 500% increase for newspapers etc.

Libraries also proved up to the task of maintaining contact with their customers – innovative live storytimes, craft activities, memory cafes, author talks and even several ‘escape from the library’ session. National events were also celebrated in virtual style including VE day, Pyjamarama, Mental Health week to name a few. Ripon library worked with Gateshead to launch an LGBTQ writing competition and a Black Lives Matter book collection was launched. The launch of the Then and Now local history project was transferred to social media which increased awareness of this amazing project with refugees in Skipton. Facebook followers more than doubled, with a total reach of over 741,500, over 71,700 watched videos posted by the service.

### **Library Strategy 2020 – 30**

As members will have noted the Library Strategy 2020 – 30 is presented to Council for approval.

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.

The last three months have seen just how important our libraries are with many becoming hubs for the local organisation of volunteers supporting their communities during the pandemic. 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 especially as we start on recovery.

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.

*Your Library, your place* went to public consultation 7 January – 24 February 2020 with the document published on the council website with an on-line questionnaire. 282 responses were received from individuals, volunteers and organisations. The draft strategy was well received and the four objectives are supported. All the community libraries responding were supportive. The vast majority of the respondents had a positive opinion of the strategy with 83% of those who replied feeling that it was ‘very good’ or ‘good’. Only 4% (10 people) felt it was ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’. The majority of respondents agreed with all the objectives, with 95% agreeing (strongly or somewhat) with the objectives: Literacy and learning and Digital; 92% with Communities and 91% with Health and wellbeing.

### **Coroners**

Coroners have continued to work throughout the lockdown and have now resumed holding simpler inquests. It is, however, likely to be some time before more complex jury inquests can be resumed safely.

### **Registrars**

Registrars have also been working throughout lockdown, principally registering the many deaths that have occurred during the last few months. These have been carried out over the telephone. In line with government guidance, the team that supplies copy certificates has also been open to internet orders.

Birth registrations resumed from 3<sup>rd</sup> June and all North Yorkshire offices are open for these appointments. There is a backlog of birth registrations and it is estimated this will be early August before it is cleared. In the meantime, as an emergency measure, alternative arrangements meant that parents have been able to access child benefit without the need to register the birth.

Citizenship services for those seeking UK nationality have resumed.

Weddings and civil partnerships resumed from the 4<sup>th</sup> July but with many restrictions. These particularly affects the number of persons in the ceremony (maximum 30), the need to maintain social distancing in the venue which in practice further limits the numbers who can attend and the reception afterwards cannot be held for 30 people. This has disappointed many couples who are continuing to postpone their ceremony until the restrictions are more relaxed.

There are a few services still not open, mainly changes to a birth registration, but this should be resumed in August

## **Archives**

The Record Office has been working hard during lockdown to improve its digital offer and digital access to the archives. Staff have added almost 10,000 item level descriptions of documents to the online catalogue, which saw a rise in visits between April and June of 35%.

Pop-up archives, which were due to be held at Whitby, Knaresborough, Malton and Richmond during Local History month in May, were moved online via the Record Office's new blog. Illustrated articles, covering subjects ranging from the medieval cartulary for Whitby Abbey, to architectural plans of Malton, to 19<sup>th</sup> century schooling in Knaresborough, shone a light on different aspects of the towns' histories and were viewed over 1700 times. The blog will continue to promote and open up access to the huge range of collections held by the Record Office and to provide a new way for people to engage with the heritage of the county.

Many volunteers have continued their work for the Record Office from home whilst the public service is closed and have begun a new project to transcribe over 300 of the county's tithe apportionments. These documents were drawn up in the 1840s to assess the tithe payable in cash to the parish church. They include what was often the earliest complete map of a parish, and give detailed information about land owners and occupiers, field names and land use, providing a snapshot of a parish or township at that time and a basis for further research. The project is the first step towards making the information more accessible online and to giving local historians much improved access to this amazing resource. The team of 25 volunteers have already transcribed 40 apportionments and the website is under development.

The Record Office's Lottery funded Resilient Records project has also been able to continue its work digitally through lockdown. Working in partnership with Dementia Forward, six digital reminiscence sessions have been delivered to an early onset dementia group based near Harrogate, who have begun meeting online. The sessions aimed to stimulate engagement, connection and enjoyment by encouraging the sharing of conversation and memories inspired by images and documents from the archives. Feedback from the participants following the sessions was very positive and the model will be used to deliver further sessions around the county.

The date for re-opening the County Record Office is uncertain, but hopefully in July, and it will only re open when assurance can be given to visitors that they are in a safe environment. There will be strict limits on how many visitors may attend and there will be amended hours of opening.

### **Customer Update**

During the Covid lockdown the Customer Service Centre:

- Made 20,000 outbound calls to vulnerable customers,
- Taken 7000 inbound calls from customers needing information and advice or support.
- Referred 2000 customers to support for accessing food, 1000 for prescriptions, 300 for wellbeing services like befriending, 100 customers with financial difficulties, 500 customers for smoke alarms.
- We have also helped customers to get access to tradesman for essential maintenance, access books from library services and connect with other community organisations offering everything from on-line crafting sessions to dog walking services.
- Over the phone we supported over 1000 customers to registrar on-line for their national food parcels.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****22 July 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.

The meetings of the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees have been postponed since the national lockdown, in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, was announced on 23 March 2020. This decision was taken as all public gatherings were banned and it was not possible to start up live broadcast meetings for all committees at such short notice. Another consideration was that of not wanting to create an additional burden for officers and partners, who were involved in the response to the pandemic, by holding formal meetings that would have demanded updates, briefings and papers.

Instead, the committees have kept running with regular email updates, some briefings and general information. All of the overview and scrutiny committees are now getting ready for the resumption of formal scrutiny work in the early autumn and their first live broadcast meetings. As ever, there is a balance to be struck between enabling officers to get on and do their job, particularly in a time of national crisis, whilst also ensuring that there is good governance in place and transparent and accountable decision-making.

There have been two meetings of Scrutiny Board since my last statement to Council.

The first was on 20 April 2020. At that Skype meeting the management of overview and scrutiny during the lockdown was discussed. The conclusion was much as indicated previously. That is that there was a need to continue to support the committees and keep them informed of significant changes to policy or practice, whilst being aware of not creating any additional burdens for officers of the Council and other organisations.

The second meeting was held by Skype on 26 June 2020. At that meeting members began to outline what approach could be taken to the re-introduction of the overview and scrutiny committee meetings in early autumn and what would be done in the build up to then. A theme throughout the discussions was that of how to support committee members to fully participate in remote meetings and to ensure that the standard of scrutiny remained high. It was recognised that a different skill set was required of those people chairing and/or participating in a remote meeting, particular for larger meetings of more than seven or eight people.

Members of Scrutiny Board are due to attend the Executive Q4 and Q1 Performance Management meeting on 28 July 2020, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN  
Chairman of Scrutiny Board  
30 June 2020

**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

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 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. One of the powers that the committee has is, in specific circumstances, to refer contested proposals for change to the Secretary of State for Health.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee last met in public on 13 March 2020. Ten days after that meeting, we were in lockdown and all public gatherings banned. Whilst the full committee has not met in public, there have been regular updates to the members regarding the work of local commissioners and providers and also briefings to the Chairman from Executive Members, the Director of HAS and senior NHS leaders on key issues. There has also been follow up on the recovery plan that the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT put in place following the CQC inspection of the Trust in September to November 2019, where a rating of 'requires improvement was given'. There is an appetite amongst the committee to meet again and so over the summer months we will build up our scrutiny activity to the point where we meet, formally and in public in the early autumn with a live broadcast meeting.

At the meeting of the committee on 13 March 2020, the following matters relating to the NHS locally were scrutinised.

**Coronavirus pandemic**

We received an update on the actions being taken by the NHS locally to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. In mid-March, the focus of the Government was upon the 'delay' phase of the response. The key message was that anyone with influenza like symptoms should self-isolate for 7 days. All non-urgent hospital procedures were being delayed and elective surgery was being reviewed. At that point, the scale of the pandemic and the realities of the national response were not apparent. The point was made that there was a need to ensure that the response to the pandemic was proportionate and that it did not cause more health problems than it prevented. This is something that the committee will look into as part of an overall review of the local response to the pandemic that is likely to involve all of the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees, to a greater or lesser extent.

Across all areas of overview and scrutiny, the decision was taken to adopt a light-touch approach and not to unnecessarily burden NHS and Council staff with requests for reports, briefings and updates. The concern was that this would divert them from the work that they needed to do to tackle the pandemic.

**The Friarage Hospital, Northallerton**

The committee has tracked the development and implementation of an Urgent Treatment Centre at the Friarage Hospital for the past 2 years. This has been a detailed and extensive piece of scrutiny work. The new model was adopted on 27 March 2019 and has now been in place for 15 months. A 12-week consultation commenced on 13 September 2019, with a pause for the General Election. The intention had been to review the outcome of the consultation at the committee meeting that was scheduled for 24 April 2020 and then to review the decision of the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) Governing Body at the meeting that was scheduled for 19 June 2020. This was not possible due to the lockdown and the decision

made at the outset to take a light-touch approach to scrutiny during the pandemic and not to place an unnecessary burden on colleagues in the NHS. Instead, the decision made by the CCG Governing Body and the rationale for it, along with the view of the Clinical Senate for Yorkshire and Humber, was shared with the committee and members given a chance to respond with any queries or concerns that they may have had. In summary, the view was that the changes were necessary to ensure patient safety and the long term sustainability of services at the Friarage Hospital.

A verbal update on the performance of the Urgent Treatment Centre will be provided at an informal briefing session that is being held for committee members on 16 July 2020. The performance of the Urgent Treatment Centre and patient outcomes will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

### **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 key areas of work being looked at through the review are Emergency and Acute Medicine, Stroke, Urology and Paediatrics/Obstetrics. This is developing into a significant piece of scrutiny work for the committee. The review of stroke services has generated significant concern locally. The review being undertaken by the NHS locally is complex as Scarborough Hospital does not stand alone but is part of an interconnected health system, where its relationship with hospitals in York, Whitby, Beverley and Middlesbrough needs to be taken into account.

The East Coast Review was paused during the pandemic and we anticipate that the work will start again in the next weeks.

A verbal update will be provided at the informal briefing session that is being held for committee members on 16 July 2020.

### **Whitby Hospital**

An update was provided on the refurbishment and redevelopment of the existing Whitby Hospital site. At that point in time, the work was due to start on 23 March 2020. Clearly, the national lockdown has since caused delays. The committee will have oversight of the work being done to develop the Whitby Hospital site and services, as the hospital continues to play a key role in the health and social care system on the east coast.

### **Future meetings of the committee**

The aim is for the committee to meet formally and in public in the early autumn with a live broadcast meeting. Ahead of this, the work programme will be reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant and current in view of the changes that have been brought about by the pandemic and the response of organisations to it.

On a final point, I would like to take this opportunity to praise the NHS's response locally to the pandemic, which has been non-bureaucratic, innovative and collaborative. We are fortunate to have such dedicated public servants.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN ENNIS  
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee  
30 June 2020

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

## YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Firstly, can I thank my Vice Chairman, Cllr Gill Quinn for chairing our last meeting late February.

**Small Schools**

Members noted the number of small schools, especially those in rural areas, which were finding it difficult to manage the financial pressures. To better understand this, and the role the authority plays, members examined recent cases of local authority maintained schools which had proceeded to full closure. Some themes stood out:

- a) Low pupil numbers - A drop in numbers increases concern around the financial sustainability of the school and its ability to provide good quality education.
- b) Breadth of curriculum - Small school with declining numbers on roll limits the range of personal and academic challenges.
- c) Adverse Financial position - Pupil numbers determine a school's budget. A number of schools had an in-year deficit position. "The local authority's ability to support schools experiencing financial difficulties is now limited and small schools became vulnerable following the introduction of a national funding formula which is largely driven by pupil numbers".
- d) Leadership – problems recruiting leadership teaching staff.

Members were pleased that the directorate had set out the position clearly and appropriately. In the light of information given and the evidence in front of them, members concluded that the directorate had demonstrated a clear understanding of the issues, founded on robust information and data, with procedures and practices being well thought through and carried out effectively.

**Teacher recruitment**

Recruitment within a wide range of sectors can be challenging for North Yorkshire; as areas such as the Coast and the North Yorkshire Moors have challenges around mobility i.e. people coming to the areas to retire and skilled graduates moving to bigger cities for tailored opportunities and lifestyles. This has a knock on effect: with house prices around the picturesque villages being above average housing is out of the price range for graduates and young people preventing them access to the property ladder.

This, together with small schools providing limited career development opportunities due to their size, and the prospect of long challenging commutes to change roles, increases longevity of teachers in role. Whilst retention is positive in terms of consistency it limits growth, progression, skill development and can slow the adoption of modern methods whilst limiting opportunities for newly qualified teachers.

With long service and experience comes higher pay under teaching terms and conditions, in school budgets this inevitably means fewer staff. When a vacancy occurs the challenge is

therefore greater, and the gap has significant impact. The challenges identified above are reflected in the limited diversity of teachers in LA schools across North Yorkshire.

These challenges are most acute in the North Yorkshire Coastal Area. In response, a workforce planning and teacher recruitment solution has been implemented resulting in over 125 education professionals being appointed to coastal schools, and the financial benefits of saving advertising spend (estimated £21k) and avoid of requiring supply teachers (estimated £560k per term).

In addition to the specialist recruitment support the Opportunity Area has funded relocation and recruitment incentives package to attract teachers and their families to the area which reimburses for stamp duty, estate agency fees and moving costs for example. The committee was pleased to learn of this initiative through which we have welcomed 27 education professionals to the coast

Overall the committee believed the response given demonstrated that the directorate has a good understating of the challenge and is doing what it can to help.

### **Special educational needs and disability (SEND)**

We had planned at our June meeting to review progress on the SEND Strategic Plan. This meeting was, of course, cancelled. So I was grateful for the opportunity for group spokespersons to be briefed virtually and informally on the progress against the SEND strategy. We were all pleased and impressed at how much has been achieved across the whole scope of the strategy.

Also in relation to SEND, the Executive has recently considered proposals for Special Educational Needs in the form of Targeted Provision at Mainstream Schools and to formally remove Special Educational Needs Provisions from former Enhanced Mainstream Schools. I know members will be keen to review the results of the consultation process on these important proposals.

I understand that formal scrutiny may not return until the Autumn. In the meantime, it is important we keep as connected as we can. That's why I am keen to build on the success of this first informal meeting by holding further member-led briefings, bringing in more of the committee membership as we go. There is much for members to discuss informally. In doing so I will be mindful of the pressures staff are under in these difficult times

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET JEFFERSON**

9 July 2020

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

## CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Social prescribing**

Social prescribing, sometimes referred to as community referral, is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services such as volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, environmental initiatives, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and a range of sports.

We heard from representatives of Community First North Yorkshire about how social prescribing seeks to address people's needs in a holistic way. It also aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health.

Introduced last summer, initial funding for schemes has been centred on primary care networks, involving a link worker or navigator who works with people to access local sources of support. Commissioning support through Living Well has ensured targeted support and avoided duplication.

**Market Intervention: Supported Living**

Different to Supported Housing/Accommodation and Residential or Nursing Care Homes, Supported Living is usually a shared house or cluster of properties (e.g. apartments), where the person has a tenancy and there is also a significant, flexible, presence from a care provider (which may be shared between tenants).

We were pleased to learn that the council is developing a new 'Supported Living Model'. Some of the key benefits of this work will be:

- Better outcomes for vulnerable people (both in terms of care and housing).
- More housing options for people with disabilities.
- Savings in terms of care costs and housing costs to the public purse by housing people in the accommodation which is most appropriate for them.
- A housing stock fit to meet the future needs of people.
- Freeing up housing stock for other uses.
- More influence over the market to meet need, rather than commercial targets.
- A wider range of housing options will be built as need.

When we return to this topic later in the year, I am sure we will see increased demand for new Supported Living properties and a decrease in some of the existing stock.

**Progress on Extra care development**

Extra care provision has been one of North Yorkshire's major success stories. Progress within the county continues to impress at local, regional and national level.

Since 2015/16 the Extra Care programme has generated cashable savings of £1.59m with an additional £1m savings in progress linked to other schemes. In addition, non-cashable benefits include reductions in care need due to the environment and ethos of Extra Care and reductions in admissions and delayed transfers where Step up/ Step down units are available.

By 2023, the ambition to see Extra Care in all key towns will have been met, the programme will have delivered 33 schemes and approximately 2000 units of high quality, purpose built accommodation with support.

Before we moved into lockdown, the plan was to hold a themed meeting/workshop to understand better how future need is changing and how we propose to address new challenges and changing demand. Committee members will, I'm sure, want to return to this when it is right to do so.

### **Keeping up to date and connected since Lockdown**

Since that move into lockdown, one formal committee meeting, in June, has been cancelled. Ordinarily however, a good deal of planning and development occurs between meeting dates with the group spokespersons - consulting officers informally, speaking to partner organisations, developing topics for scrutiny, and so on. To maintain this way of working during the current crisis, I have met informally and virtually with the group spokespersons - usually involving portfolio holders and occasionally officers (being mindful to avoid any additional workload).

These "conversations" (rather than scrutiny as we would recognise it) have looked at the impact of the new operating model, including how the directorate is supporting vulnerable people during the Covid 19 crisis; how we are supporting all care homes and residential nursing care establishments; suspension of all day places for social distancing reasons; how directorate staff are being supported; and adjustments to pathways of care - especially on mental health.

### **Suicide Prevention, Mental Health and Community Leadership**

In April, I followed up the committee's workshop on Suicide Prevention and Audit by seeking the views of Scrutiny Board colleagues about how we, as community leaders, might help constituents with mental health issues who seek our support. For those of us who have expressed an interest in more intensive training, before the current crisis arrangements were to be made via our in-house team for a two-day course, leading to a qualification as a Mental Health First Aider. The aim is to give:

- An in-depth understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect wellbeing.
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues.
- Confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress.
- Enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening.
- Knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to further support - whether that's self-help resources, through their employer, the NHS, or a mix.

I hope that we can look at this option again when it is appropriate.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR KARIN SEDGWICK**

9 July 2020

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

22 July 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 March 2020. The subsequent meeting that was scheduled for early June was cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown, but work is underway in preparation for our next formal meeting in September 2020 which will be held remotely.

At our March meeting the Committee received a presentation from North Yorkshire's Police Fire & Crime Commissioner which provided an overview of the work undertaken since the transition of governance of North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, and also presented the Commissioner's 'One Year On' report detailing progress against her Local Business Case. Overall it was a positive update and the Committee passed on its thanks for the significant contribution of the Fire Service during the time of the Floods, as part of the Fire & Rescue role. We did however express our concern at the poor long term budget situation for the Fire Service, in sharp contrast to that of North Yorkshire Police.

At the same meeting, we received an update on the resettlement of people in North Yorkshire under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme. Approximately 200 new refugees are to be resettled across North Yorkshire between 2020 and 2024, and we were therefore pleased to note that the County would continue to receive support from the Refugee Council throughout that time, alongside receiving similar levels of funding. We sought confirmation that careful consideration would be given to the country and cultural background of the refugees to be settled under the new Scheme, recognising it was a deciding factor in how successful each resettlement would be.

We also received an update on the County Council's changing workforce, a detailed progress update on the implementation of the Workforce Plan and an overview of some key priorities for the year ahead. Noting the many ways in which the organisation was engaging with its workforce and providing opportunities for learning and development, the Committee were pleased to discover that some online learning resources would be made available to Members and we suggested that training be provided on Mental Health issues and on dealing with people with Dementia. As it was confirmed that the number of apprenticeships being offered by the County Council had not been affected by the introduction of the apprenticeship levy scheme, the Committee also suggested that opportunities associated with Autism Plus be explored.

In regard to the County Council's Corporate Risk Register, we considered the new risks, deleted risks and those risks that had significantly changed. We noted the higher ranking now given to Information Governance Risk and the many links between the Directorate Risk Registers and the Corporate Risk Register.

In regard to the County Council's motor and liability insurance claims, we noted that all Council owned vehicles now had dashcams fitted which was proving a helpful factor in keeping the number of commercial motor fleet claims relatively steady. We also noted the varying levels of public liability across Directorates, in particular the decreasing number of those claims for BES.



However, we did suggest that the cost of defending pothole claims could be better spent carrying out repairs, thereby reducing the possibility of claims.

Finally, the Committee was updated on the creation of an online tool for members. A prototype has been developed and at the time of our meeting work was underway to consider GDPR implications and legal compliance. A number of the Committee agreed to participate in some internal testing over the summer, with the intention of rolling out the new online tool before the end of the calendar year. This has been delayed due to the lockdown but members are keen to progress this as soon as possible.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN