

North Yorkshire County Council Meeting Wednesday, 20 July 2016 at 10.30am

Leader`s Statement

New Member

I am delighted to welcome Caroline Dickinson to the seat representing Northallerton and with her experience I am sure she will represent all of the residents of Northallerton very well.

Brexit

Following the Referendum decision we are living in very changing times. I am conscious that in writing this statement to meet our publishing deadline, it may well be out of date by the Council meeting.

We may have a new Leader of the Opposition in Westminster, or we may not.

We know that we will have a new Prime Minister by the autumn, but it may be sooner. Whoever that is and whenever, they may have new priorities and policies.

One certainty is that negotiations will have to start to exit the EU, whilst arriving at the best trade deal we can achieve.

There may be a new top team, and will they continue on the present course? I am anxious to make sure that they continue to get the value of local government, they get the importance of "The North", they continue to offer the devolution of powers from Whitehall, and they recognise the challenge of delivering services in rural and sparse populations.

Already the present Chancellor has recast his long-term economic plan to reflect any uncertainty that exists. Gareth will report in his statement on the financial preparations we are making to meet that potential uncertainty in the economy.

Specifically for NYCC, presently we benefit from EU funding into the County, notably in our case for completing our broadband roll-out. This funding needs to be sustained. Our supply chains depend on EU derived labour to provide resources for social health care.

Health Provision

At the last Council meeting Cllr Blackie raised the issue of a review of health care provision north of our boundary. I am pleased to report that following a meeting I have had with the Leader of Darlington Borough Council, we have agreed to set up a joint Scrutiny of Health Committee to consider this review. We will also be making strong representations to the review about the potential impact on our residents in Richmondshire and north Hambleton.

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Local Enterprise Partnership

At the AGM of the LEP on Friday 8th July, looking at the annual report I was struck by how successful our LEP is, especially compared to others. Business and LA`s do work together well in North Yorkshire (and the other parts of the LEP geography, but this meeting today is about North Yorkshire), especially through the LEP. I am very pleased to represent this Council on the LEP board and I have arranged for the annual report to be circulated to all Members. The focus of the LEP now is on helping business prepare for the challenges and opportunities that will emerge in such a period of change.

County Council Carl Les
12 July 2016