

**North Yorkshire County Council**

20 July 2016

**Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

1. My statement for this full Council summarises the main topics considered at our Committee meeting on 20 June 2016.

**Interim Evaluation of Locality Budgets**

2. We heard that 356 projects and activities had been supported in total. The funding committed in year one was £349,996 (97.2% of total budget). The average recommendation was £931, the lowest £300 (the minimum allowed) and the maximum was £5,000 (the maximum allowed). Every County Councillor submitted at least one project and there was a very broad spread in the type of projects.
3. I firmly believe the beauty of the scheme was in its simplicity and how it gave us discretion to target support to specific local initiatives. The scheme has been a great success.
4. We would fully support plans being made in the Medium Term Financial Strategy when it is being formulated in February 2017 so that the scheme can be continued beyond March 2017. We will be working with the Executive to help develop the scheme going forward.

**Equality Objectives**

5. We contributed to the consultation on the proposed equality objectives for the County Council for the period 2016-2020.
6. In respect of the proposed Objective, *"Improve the wellbeing and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children and young people"*, we felt that there must be equity in the funding of schools and that funding should be focused on need. In respect of the proposed objective, *"Take opportunities where they arise and where it is proportionate to do so, to improve accessibility of public transport"* we suggested it should focus on the need take a proactive approach and actively generate opportunities working closely with partners and other stakeholders.
7. In terms of proposed objectives and the trade off with cost, resource commitment and complying with legislation we fully supported an approach which is proportionate.

## **LGA Peer Review**

8. We heard that the headline statement from the Peer Review was that “North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is a very good council – its services are highly regarded and the peer review team witnessed areas of excellence.”
9. Our attention was drawn to the original scope question which related to the Council’s preparedness for meeting the demands of the year 2020 and how the Review team were keen to explore what the future for North Yorkshire looked like *beyond* 2020 by asking the following questions:
  - What kind of Council are you going to be?
  - How are you going to be different?
  - How are you going to maintain excellent service delivery?
10. We had a very interesting and, I hope, useful debate on these questions.
11. We strongly felt that the Council’s successful work with Selby District Council should be broadened and extended – not necessarily just within North Yorkshire. We acknowledged that “better together” is not just about funding and reducing costs but rather it is also about bringing the County Council closer to local areas and increasing awareness locally of what it does.

**County Councillor Derek Bastiman**  
**Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
County Hall, Northallerton

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