

County Council Meeting

Wednesday 24 July 2019

Leader`s statement

Climate change

I am pleased that Scrutiny Chairs have responded positively to my invitation to start work on this most important subject. I have asked 3 Executive members to participate, David Chance, Patrick Mulligan and Greg White, and I understand that the first joint meeting is after this Council meeting today. We must set ambitious yet realistic goals for our organisation to work towards the national target of zero carbon by 2050, and it is my intention to report progress at each Quarterly Outturn meeting of the Executive, and each Council meeting.

We will share discussions with other councils through the County Council Network, our own Districts and Boroughs, and also City of York.

Conservative leadership election

As this will also provide the next Prime Minister it is of interest to all of us. Individually and collectively through the CCN and LGA I have tried to establish the candidates` position on various subjects that affect us. It is encouraging that both have replied positively about the role of local government, and indicated that more investment must be made in areas we have been championing for some time, namely Adult Social Care, schools funding, and SEND, together with commitments made to improve the A 64. At the time of writing this we can only wait to see who is elected, and then what early steps they take to deal with matters other than Brexit, which has consumed so much of government time in recent months.

It will be interesting to see what Ministerial appointments are made. For the most of the last administration, all North Yorkshire MPs had government positions and I would record my thanks to all of them for ensuring our concerns were raised with Ministers and officials, but especially Julian Smith as Chief Whip and Rishi Sunak as Local Government Minister.

District Council elections

Together with the Chief Executive I have been meeting with all existing and new Leaders of District and Borough Councils, and City of York, to establish shared and other priorities. I hope we will continue with a positive engagement for the benefit of the residents we serve, and in most cases share.

Office moves

This is the last time we will meet in this Council Chamber for some months. I am grateful to Hambleton District Council for allowing us to use their Council Chamber for the next meeting, once again pro bono. Following that meeting I will review the arrangements with Group Leaders, and any feedback you want to give us would be useful.

Members' and some officers' working arrangements will be transferred to the Courthouse building , and 1 Racecourse Lane. Whilst there will be some disruption caused by this I hope we can accept these interim arrangements for the short time they will be necessary.

There has been a suggestion made to me that the July meeting could be moved to mid September, and again I will discuss this with Group Leaders before opening it up to wider discussion.

Carl Les

July 10th, 2019