

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**25 July 2019**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD**

North & West Yorkshire Business Rates Pilot

The first meeting took place of the North & West Yorkshire Business Rates Pilot Joint Committee. The County Council is represented on this committee which oversees the pilot and makes allocations on how the top-slice (an estimated £7.9m across the pilot). Commitments have been made in a number of areas but further opportunities exist to bid for £4m across West and North Yorkshire to help to promote growth. This is in addition to an estimated £1.4m which will be secured for the County Council and the seven District Councils over and above what would have otherwise been the case. I hope these benefits of joint working will continue during the year as the Pilot is, at this stage, due to end on 31 March 2020.

Finance Outturn

Overall we ended 2018/19 on a positive note despite the challenges during the year. There was a net saving of £2.5m against operational budgets for year made up of a number of variances. Financial pressures in Health and Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services' continued whilst non-recurring savings in the Business and Environmental and Corporate Miscellaneous budgets offset the financial pressures in 2018/19, however these will not continue thereafter. Savings targets reflected in Directorate's 2018/19 budgets totalled £15.5m. Reserves remained healthy with the unallocated General Working Balance at £27.2m as at 31 March 2019. The unallocated Strategic Capacity Reserve as at 31 March 2019 was £39.8m.

GARETH DADD