

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at No. 3 Racecourse Lane, Northallerton on Tuesday, 26 November 2019 commencing at 11.00 am.

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 Councillors Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Annabel Wilkinson, Stanley Lumley and Andrew Paraskos.

Officers present: David Bowe, Justine Brooksbank, Stuart Carlton, Steve Evans, Gary Fielding, Richard Flinton, Barry Khan, Matt O'Neill, Lincoln Sargeant, Jonathan Spencer, Richard Webb, and Melanie Carr.

There was two representatives of the press in attendance.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

381. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

382. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Michael Harrison declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 section 3.0 Treasury Management activity update, as an employee of a Bank named in the report.

383. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved –

That on the grounds that they each involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) specified in column 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006, members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of:

- Agenda item 10 – Appendices (c) - (f)
- Agenda item 11, 5G Rural Connected Communities

384. Questions and Statements from members of the public

There were no public questions or statements.

385. Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report

Considered –

A Joint report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, bringing together key aspects of the County Council's performance on a quarterly basis.

County Councillor David Chance introduced the Quarter 2 performance report, confirming the Council continued to demonstrate good performance across all four of its ambitions. He provided a brief summary of the strengths and challenges in performance across the four ambitions and drew attention to the in-depth focus of the performance report on 'Every adult has a longer healthier and independent life'.

In particular County Councillor David Chance highlighted:

- The sustained growth of the prevent, reduce, and delay elements of the ASC pathway helping to mitigate the growing demand for traditional social care support packages;
- A 31% increase in the number of referrals into the Customer Contact Centre;
- A substantial increase in the number of Living Well referrals year on year in Q2;
- 46% of residential/nursing placements were above the approved rates;
- A decrease in the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions during the 2018/19 academic year;
- The increased workload associated with hidden disability Blue Badge applications;
- An increase in BES complaints, partly due to the UCI Road World Championships;
- The ongoing work to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030

County Councillor Michael Harrison reiterated the success of the ASC customer pathway and the 'front door arrangements in diverting the growing demand for traditional social care support packages. He also noted:

- Additional government funding was currently addressing the increase in demand, but there was no guarantee of that additional funding in the future.
- A key pressure facing ASC was the cost of securing care placements for older people at the council's approved rate – the Harrogate area having significantly higher costs than budgeted for;
- A significant rise in the number of admissions to permanent care placements for people aged 18-64;
- The challenging government target for reducing DTOC had been achieved in each of the last 4 quarters;
- The high percentage of people not requiring support at the end of their reablement period
- The quality of the care in residential/nursing homes in North Yorkshire remained above the national average;

Following a number of questions from Scrutiny members, Richard Webb, Corporate Director for Health & Adult Services confirmed:

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- The need to continue with prevention works, and maintain health and wellbeing at home for as long as possible.
- The ongoing work to ensure consistency across the pathway to improve the experience for people accessing social care support;
- a new transfers of care team was now in place and working with hospitals to achieve system wide improvements.
- the initiatives underway to deliver affordable and sustainable care to people in their own homes in rural areas;
- The ongoing work to sustain and develop local care markets to try and ensure the affordability and availability of local care provision – proposals to come to the Executive in 2020;
- Workforce pressures across the area, particularly in winter added to the challenges associated with ASC - NYCC often used its own staff to bridge the gap. The fact that there were a number of hospitals to work with across the area, added to the challenges.

County Councillor Michael Harrison suggested it was important not to make a judgement of the long term package of care required immediately on release from hospital, but rather to carry out a full assessment following reablement. Overall, he confirmed the long term sustainability of the sector would require additional funding going forward.

Growth

In consideration of the Council's 'Growth' ambition, Gary Fielding, Corporate Director for Strategic Resources drew members' attention to an error in the report relating to text on page 46 that had been duplicated from the Qtr1 performance report, and asked that Members' ignore the final sentence in paragraph one of the 'Modern Communication networks' section starting 'SFNY has secured....'.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley questioned the lessons learnt from the floods in July and the Council preparedness for the future. In response, David Bowe, Corporate Director for Business & Environmental Services confirmed a Section 19 report was underway, working with local Councillors, businesses, organisations and communities to understand the event and identify lessons learnt. He also highlighted the key importance of early access to appropriate funding to support those affected.

Members noted the performance update summary in regards to the other two council ambitions i.e. 'Best Start to Life' and 'Modern Council'.

Revenue Budget, Treasury Management & Capital Plan

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced each section of the report. In regard to the Revenue Budget he outlined the operational challenges that had resulted in the overspends, and confirmed that demand led services would be the ongoing challenge in future years and that work was ongoing to specifically address the issue with Business rates. Gary Fielding drew members' attention to the continued use of the corporate miscellaneous funds to underpin the overspends, a position that could not be maintained indefinitely.

In regard to Treasury Management County Councillor Gareth Dadd confirmed the projected external debt would fall by 22m this year. County Councillor Don Mackenzie queried interest rates on borrowing and the efforts being made to reduce the gap. It was confirmed that NYCC was in a better position than most LAs as many had chosen to borrow to invest, whereas NYCC had taken a balanced, cautious and carefully managed approach to investment using its cash reserves. The longer term pitfalls of consolidating borrowing based on short term lower interest rates was also highlighted.

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In regard to the Capital Plan, attention was drawn to the funds required in preparation for the go-live of NYCC's Highways Teckal.

In consideration of the proposed NYNet loan guarantee, County Councillor Gareth Dadd proposed that the delegation of authority recommended at 4.6.1 (b) be amended to include 'in consultation with the Executive Members for Access and the Executive Member for Finance, Assets and Special Projects'.

Resolved –

That the following be noted:

- a) The contents of the Performance Report
- b) The latest position for the County Council's 2019/20 Revenue Budget, as summarised in paragraph 2.1.2.
- c) The position on the GWB (paragraphs 2.4.1 to 2.4.3)
- d) The position on the 'Strategic Capacity – Unallocated' reserve (paragraphs 2.4.4 to 2.4.6)
- e) The position on the County Council's Treasury Management activities during the second quarter of 2019/20

In addition, that:

- f) Delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources to formally enter into a pool should the North and West Yorkshire Pool application be successful. (paragraphs 2.5.1 to 2.5.5)
- g) The report be referred to the Audit Committee for their consideration as part of the overall monitoring arrangements for Treasury Management;
- h) The revised Prudential Indicators for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A, be recommended to County Council for approval;
- i) The refreshed Capital Plan summarised at paragraph 4.2.3 be approved;
- j) The NYNet loan guarantee and delegation proposal (paragraph 4.2.24) be approved, subject to the amendment to the delegation proposal proposed by County Councillor Gareth Dadd above;
- k) The provisional draw down of funding of up to £2.0m in order to facilitate the ordering of specialist specific vehicles in relation to the NY Highways Ltd Teckal company (paragraph 4.2.25) be approved
- l) No action be taken at this stage to allocate any additional capital resources (paragraph 4.5.9).

386. North Yorkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director for Public Health detailing the results of the joint NYCC and YFT Public Consultation on the S75 agreement.

County Councillor Caroline Dickinson introduced the report highlighting the consultation undertaken on the proposed partnership agreement, the draft S75 principles and the associated implications as detailed within the report.

Lincoln Sargeant, Corporate Director Public Health confirmed that the future savings requirements outlined in the report were necessary and that a full procurement exercise was not required for the partnership agreement being recommended.

Resolved – That

The following be noted and supported:

- The results of the joint NYCC and YFT Public Consultation on the S75 agreement.
- The proposed service specification, performance and outcomes framework and the draft S75 principles.
- The proposed budget.

In addition, once YFT have confirmed their acceptance of the offer to the Corporate Directors of Strategic Resources and Health and Adult Services, that:

- the final decision be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Executive Members for those respective portfolios.

387. Participation in the Government's Global Resettlement Scheme -

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Director for Policy Partnerships & Communities, providing an overview of the government's recently announced global resettlement scheme.

County Councillor David Chance introduced the report highlighting the Government's ongoing commitment to the resettlement of refugees beyond the current schemes and its proposal for a new scheme with a wider catchment. He confirmed the current refugee resettlement scheme in North Yorkshire had on the whole gone smoothly and an increasing number of the adults were gaining employment or volunteering. Of the 50 families placed in North Yorkshire since 2016, only 7 had chosen to move out of the county, and their main reasons for leaving had either been to be nearer to family or to take-up guaranteed work opportunities.

It was noted that to date, Scarborough Borough Council and Richmondshire District Council had approved their participation in the new scheme and all the other district councils would be making a decision by no later than early February 2020.

In response to a question from County Councillor Gareth Dadd, it was confirmed that each district council would decide the number to be resettled in their district, regardless of the number of District Councils choosing to participate in the new scheme.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman suggested support was needed close to where the families were placed to ensure a smooth resettlement, and in response it was confirmed that the Refugee Council provided intensive integration support throughout the first 12 months of a family's arrival in the UK, with scaled down support thereafter up to year 5. Alongside this local volunteers and increasingly the existing families themselves would be able to assist with supporting new families. Members expressed their support for the scheme and subject to the caveats detailed in the report it was

Resolved – That:

- i) The government’s future refugee resettlement scheme from 2020/21 be noted.
- ii) Approve North Yorkshire County Council’s participation in the future refugee resettlement scheme from 2020/21 on an ongoing basis be approved, provided that:
 - It is in partnership with North Yorkshire district councils;
 - The funding is no lower than envisaged by the Home Office;
 - Arrangements are similar to the SRP and VCRS programmes;

 - Families are resettled on a phased basis across districts.

388. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) proposing a new Emergency Services representative for the North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

County Councillor Carl Les introduced the report which sought a change to the Emergency Services representative on the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Resolved –

That Rachel Pippin be nominated as the new Emergency Services representative on the North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

389. Forward Work Plan

Considered -

The Forward Plan for the period 13 November 2019 to 30 November 2020.

Resolved -

That the Forward Plan be noted.

Agenda items 10 & 11 were considered in private and the public have no right of access to this section of the Minutes.

390. Consideration of Potential Investment Opportunity -

Considered -

Report of the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources providing an overview of a proposed transaction by the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisations (YPO), and presenting the associated

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Business Case, risk profile and finance options for the Executive's consideration, along with some proposed amendments to YPO's governance arrangements.

Resolved –

That the recommendations in the report be approved, subject to an amendment to the delegate authority to include 'in consultation with Executive Member for Access and the Executive Member for Finance, Assets and Special Projects'.

391. 5G Rural Connected Communities

Considered -

Report of the Corporate Director for Business and Environmental Services briefing members on the progress of the Department of Culture Media & Sport's 5G Rural Connected Communities Programme.

Resolved –

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 pm.

MLC

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