

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at No. 3 Racecourse Lane, Northallerton on Tuesday, 17 December 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, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Apologies: County Councillor Don Mackenzie

Officers present: David Bowe, Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Gary Fielding, Richard Flinton, Daniel Harry, Barry Khan, Richard Webb, and Melanie Carr.

There was one representative of the press in attendance.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

400. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

401. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

402. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved –

The Chair confirmed that as Agenda item 10 had been withdrawn, there was no longer a reason to exclude the public and press from the meeting.

403. Questions and Statements from members of the public

There were no public questions or statements.

404. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution

Considered -

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), detailing proposed changes to the County Council's Constitution, in relation to:

- The Appendix to the Access to Information Procedure Rules, shown in Appendix 2
- The Officers' Delegation Scheme and the Executive Members' Delegation Scheme, as shown in Appendix 3
- The Decision Record Template, as shown in Appendix 4
- Other amendments listed in Appendix 1

County Councillor David Chance introduced the report explaining the proposed changes were a tidying up exercise, and as there were no suggested amendments put forward, it was

Resolved -

That the suggested changes to the Constitution set out in Appendices 1-4 be recommended to full Council for approval.

405. Parental Leave Policy for County Councillors

Considered – A report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager seeking Executive feedback on the comments made by the Member Working Group on the Constitution, the Member Workforce Planning Group and the Independent Remuneration Panel on a draft Parental Leave Policy for Councillors.

Barry Khan, Assistant chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) introduced the report detailing the background to the creation of the proposed policy, and the route by which the draft policy had been consulted on.

Members agreed any barriers that could preclude an individual from putting themselves forward as a Councillor should be removed where ever possible, and it was noted that the County Council had historically been very accommodating of individual members' needs in regards to compassionate leave etc.

Noting that Councillors had no legal right to parental leave, Members agreed it should not be considered in isolation and that it would be better to consider it in the context of all forms of pastoral care offered to Councillors.

In regard to the possible duplication of SRA payments, Members agreed that as Councillors serving of the Executive or chairing other Committees did so at the discretion of the Leader, the issue of the continuation of SRA payments during periods of compassionate or other types of leave should not be a policy decision. It was therefore

Resolved – That the Member Working Group on the Constitution and the Member Workforce Planning Group should reconsider the matter and clarify the proposal alongside the wider context of the pastoral care, illness or bereavement leave entitlements and other associated resources available to all members, to ensure that there are no barriers to standing or remaining as Councillors.

406. Schools Budget

Considered –

A report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People's Services seeking Executive approval for a number of recommendations relating to school funding for 2020-21.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan presented the report highlighting the good news associated with the school funding for 2020-21 detailed in the report i.e. the planned increase in primary level funding in 2021-22 as a result of the NFF and the potential transfer of funding from the schools block to the high needs budget. He also drew attention to his concerns that the transfer of funding had not addressed the scale and pace of the demand pressures in the High needs system and that as a result the level of overspend was not reducing. He therefore stressed the importance of continuing to lobby central government for a more equitable funding settlement.

Members acknowledged that schools were struggling with funding and it was confirmed that whilst the increase in demand in Special Needs was in part due to a better recognition of existing need and in part due to an increase in demand, there was also an element of the County Council catching up with other parts of the Country.

It was noted that the Schools Forum had agreed with the use of the Funding Formula, but had not agreed with the funding transfer. Member agreed the funding review by the Government would need to be robust and take account of the difficulties of delivering services in a rural area, and were pleased to note that Government had acknowledged that use of the DfE National Funding Formula was not meeting the needs of rural primary schools. They therefore agreed the County Council should continue to lobby for a change to the Formula and provide any necessary evidence in support.

Resolved – That:

- i. The Council to continue to use the principles of the DfE's National Funding Formula, including the various transitional arrangements, and a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +0.5% in the event of the disapplication request being approved. If the disapplication was not approved, the lowest MFG applicable to a 0% transfer (indicative +1.37% based on the modelling undertaken on 2019/20 data but subject to final calculation using 2020/21 data) be used as the basis for funding schools in 2020-21; and
- ii. Subject to approval being received by the Secretary of State, 0.5% of the Schools Block be used to support High Needs costs in 2020-21. In the event of the 0.5% transfer request being refused by the Secretary of State, that there be no transfer of the Schools Block to support High Needs costs in 2020-21, as agreed by the North Yorkshire Schools Forum; and
- iii. The Council to continue to push for a fairer and more equitable funding settlement for schools in North Yorkshire, and continue to lobby for a fairer settlement of High Needs resources.

407. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services). County Councillor Michael Harrison introduced the report which proposed a number of changes to the membership of the North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

Resolved –

That the nominated officers named in the report be appointed to North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

408. Forward Work Plan

Considered -

The Forward Plan for the period 2 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Resolved –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

409. Extra Care Housing in Bedale – Outcome of Procurement and Consideration of the Scheme Proposal

County Councillor Carl Les informed Members that the planning application associated with the proposed extra care housing scheme had been refused, and expressed disappointment that elderly residents in the Bedale area would therefore not have access to such a scheme for the foreseeable future. As a consequence of this he confirmed he had withdrawn the item from the agenda.

Resolved –

That the item be withdrawn from the agenda.

The meeting concluded at 11:35am

MLC