

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Executive

28 January 2020

### Area Constituency Committee Feedback

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

To bring to the attention of the Executive key issues considered at the following recent Area Constituency Committee meetings:

- Selby & Ainsty Area Constituency Committee – 6 January 2020
- Harrogate & Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee – 9 January 2020
- Thirsk & Malton Area Constituency Committee – 10 January 2020
- Skipton & Ripon Area Constituency Committee – 13 January 2020
- Scarborough & Whitby Area Constituency Committee – 15 January 2020

#### 2.0 Selby & Ainsty Area Constituency Committee on 6 January 2020

##### 2.1 Council Budget discussion

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director Strategic Resources, presented a report on the Council Budget and financial position to the committee. There were no recommendations from the committee to the Executive, however, there was a detailed discussion with the following issues raised:-

- The need to reduce the cost of transporting children around the area to the various education providers.
- Increasing support to residential care providers.
- An increase in charges and a lack of providers created an incentive for the Council to play a greater role in the direct provision of residential care.
- The continued financial difficulties faced by the majority of Local Authority maintained schools, coupled with concerns in relation to the additional funding made available by Central Government to academy schools.
- The utilisation of technology to reduce the budget.
- The use of unspent locality budgets.

##### 2.2 Cycle Paths and Cycling

The Team Leader for Transport Planning, Andrew Bainbridge presented a report highlighting issues around the provision of cycle paths in the area, the promotion of cycling and the development and use of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)

The following issues were raised during discussion of the report:-

- The need to improve infrastructure, overall, to create more space for cyclists on existing roads.
- The provision of appropriate signage to identify routes for walkers and cyclists.
- Safe storage for cycles and cycling equipment was required at the end of routes
- Identify cycling routes in the major towns through the utilisation of experienced planning teams.
- Take account of the views of those that cycle for pleasure and fitness.

- Ensure that cycling lanes are as safe as possible and, preferably, separated from driving routes. A separate cycling route network would be advantageous but it was recognised that this would be extremely expensive.

### 2.3 Non-Crime Data - Development of Key Lines of Enquiry

Discussion of the report highlighted some specific lines of enquiry relating to crime and non-crime incidents that could be followed up by North Yorkshire Police. These included:

- Establishing how much Police time was devoted to social and welfare issues, and determining a more appropriate method of dealing with these issues.
- Determining the best use of PCSOs
- Considering the large number of issues caused by a relatively small number of people through inappropriate housing allocation.
- Examining the issues created by 'County Lines'.
- Determining how fly tipping should be addressed.
- Reconsidering the policy of no fixed speed cameras and the potential impact that could have.

### 3.0 **Harrogate & Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee on 9 January 2019**

#### 3.1 County Council Budget 2020/21

The County Council's Budget for 2020/21 was considered by the Committee. The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources undertook to take back issues raised by Members, which included Members' concern that the amount of accommodation for homeless young people might be reduced because having such accommodation affected such people for the rest of their lives.

#### 3.2 FibreNation Rollout in Harrogate

The Committee noted that FibreNation (a wholly-owned subsidiary of TalkTalk plc) was creating a full fibre network in the Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon area. Between 50% and 60% of the new network to be provided by accessing ducting and poles of the existing copper network. The remainder to involve some form of construction work e.g. cutting swatches in pavements or lifting paving stones. The works started in January 2020 will take about 2½ years.

Members described FibreNation and NYnet's Superfast Broadband project as "all good news", suggesting that it would make North Yorkshire one of the best IT and digitally connected Counties in the country. They also highlighted the County Council's concern about the quality of utility companies' reinstatement works and the integrity of its highways and footpaths, and were reassured to hear that there has been regular communication between FibreNation and the Area 6 Highways Office.

### 4.0 **Thirsk & Malton Area Constituency Committee on 10 January 2020**

#### 4.1 Health Service Update for the Friarage Hospital

Members received a presentation from Simon Cox, the Director of Acute Commissioning for North Yorkshire CCGs, which provided an overview of the ongoing consultation on the temporary revised service model for Emergency Care Services introduced in March 2019. Adrian Clements, Medical Director at South Tees NHS Foundation Trust was also in attendance to provide a detailed overview of the changes to services resulting from the temporary revised service model, which he confirmed had proven to be safe and robust with no patient safety issues recorded since its introduction

The Committee were pleased with the approach to workforce training and noted the re-establishment of nursing training in Scarborough (approximately 30 a year), and the introduction of a number of European GPs across the region. They agreed the public

needed reassuring that the Friarage was here to stay and suggested that a positive marketing campaign would help in that regard, and that improvements in the interface with social care should be prioritised.

Whilst it was confirmed there were no major changes planned for Malton Hospital, the Committee will be receiving a detail overview of its delivery model at a future meeting.

### 4.2 Annual Budget Discussion

The Committee received a presentation from the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources on NYCC's latest financial position, and the ongoing savings requirement and plan.

Members acknowledged the unrelenting demand led pressures in Adult Social Care and Children's Services, in particular the specific issues affecting the Thirsk & Malton constituency area e.g. the number of schools currently in financial difficulties across the area (17%) and the expected increase by March 2022 (64%), and the difficulties for rural schools that prevented them from academising. They agreed federation was the right route for those schools but acknowledged the associated issues.

In regard to HAS, they acknowledged it was a low paid sector which made recruitment and retention more difficult, which again the rural environment did not help. They agreed that for the benefit of patients, the market needed addressing through closer working with the Health Sector and improved processes.

### 4.3 Digital Strategy Update

The Committee received an overview of the new joint Digital Strategy for North Yorkshire developed by NYCC with District Councils, the Health & Wellbeing Board and other partners, and Third Sector organisations.

Members were pleased to note that digital by default did not mean digital only and that by increasing digital opportunities it would free up time to better support those who had neither the means or the capability to access services and support online. In particular, they noted the benefits that could be achieved through improved data and analytics e.g. the transfer of data between Health Services, Social Care Providers and GPs etc, and the opportunities for:

- responding to the changing demands of residents e.g. digital appointments and the introduction of supplementary digital support for befriending Services etc;
- Developing the workforce and uplifting volunteer skills etc
- Improving Community awareness
- Upskilling the capabilities of the existing business base across the area

## 5.0 **Skipton & Ripon Area Constituency Committee on 13 January 2020**

### 5.1 Rural Crime

A presentation was given by Sgt Stuart Grainger of North Yorkshire Police which gave an overview of the types of crime being committed in rural areas of the county, particular risk factors, and what can be done to prevent crimes being committed. The presentation highlighted the impact that wildlife crime can have. Wildlife crime in North Yorkshire includes: poisoning of birds of prey; badger baiting; hare coursing; and poaching of deer. The committee undertook, in their role as community leaders, to raise awareness of wildlife crime, the signs to look for and how to report it. They also undertook to pass on information to the farms in their area of the work that the Police do to prevent crime and target hardening.

### 5.2 Castleberg Hospital, Giggleswick

A presentation was given by Lynne Scruton of the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group on the progress that had been made with the refurbishment and re-opening of the community hospital. The hospital was temporarily closed on 13 April 2017 due to significant problems with the building structure. A public consultation was held over the period September to December 2017 and the decision was taken to re-open the hospital in May 2018. Work then commenced on the site and it was formally re-opened on 26 November 2019. The Council's Scrutiny of Health committee had delegated scrutiny of this issue to the Area Constituency Committee. The committee were pleased to see a key community asset returned to use and we keen to see what lessons could be applied to other, similar health and social care settings and facilities in more rural parts of the county.

### 5.3 Council Budget discussion

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director Strategic Resources, presented a report on the Council Budget and financial position to the committee. Whilst there were no recommendations from the committee to the Executive, there was an in-depth discussion on the following: the potential impact of an increase in the minimum wage upon social care work and the local economy as a whole; the financial pressures being faced by secondary schools; and the issues relating to the compliance with Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations.

## 6.0 **Scarborough & Whitby Area Constituency Committee on 15 January 2020**

### 6.1 Yorkshire Water Presentation

Members received a presentation from Yorkshire Water's Head of Corporate Affairs on the Company's environmental performance following the Environment Agency's last Assessment in 2018 which showed a drop in its performance rating.

The committee received an overview of the Company's response i.e. entering into a formal escalation for pollution, and the measures taken to mitigate and improve performance e.g.

- Improving their ability to predict and proactively prevent pollution incidents through the installation of monitors in high risk pollution locations;
- Improving the maintenance of pumping stations
- Improving its marketing and communications to raise awareness of the impact of blockages caused by unsuitable materials entering the sewer network;

Whilst Members noted the additional £50m spent on improvement measures, they raised a number of concerns around Yorkshire Water's unfulfilled commitment to improve the quality of bathing water, the effect of new builds on the sewer network, and the lack of Yorkshire Water input on planning applications.

### 6.2 Life Expectancy Update

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Public Health on life expectancy across the constituency area and a breakdown of life expectancy data by wards across the constituency area, in line with areas of deprivation.

Members noted the variations and the widening gap between Scarborough life expectancy rates and those in both North Yorkshire and England, and expressed concern that local people were not benefitting from gains in health and wellbeing to the same extent as those elsewhere.

They acknowledged the positive work ongoing across the constituency area to tackle the four health behaviours, that if intervened on, could significantly improve life expectancy i.e. smoking, obesity, excess alcohol and sedentary behaviours. They agreed that relying on education was not sufficient to dissuade people from engaging in those behaviours and that

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it would require some structural changes like the banning of smoking in public buildings to achieve and maintain a sustained reduction.

They were also pleased to note the work ongoing with Scarborough Borough Council to lead on a strategic approach to tackling the range of factors affecting life expectancy across the area.

### 6.3 Trading Standards Update

The Committee received a presentation on the work of Trading Standards to prevent and protect residents from scams and eCrimes, which provided a detailed overview of the types of scams and eCrimes being perpetrated across the constituency area i.e. consumer and retail fraud, subscription traps, advanced fee fraud and phishing, and the scale and impact of it which had increased nationally as a result of the use of IT.

The Committee received examples of enforcement and were pleased to note the ongoing work to gather intelligence, identify those involved and work with communities to educate residents.

### 6.4 Budget Update

The Committee received a presentation on NYCC's latest financial position, and the ongoing savings requirement and plan.

There were no recommendations from the committee to the Executive, but having noted the number of schools in financial difficulties across the area (13%) and the expected increase in that number by March 2022 (53%), they expressed concern that schools might start looking at a programme of redundancies if no additional funding was provided. They agreed the national formula was not working for schools in rural areas and that schools needed to better understand their financial position and work to identify ways of addressing it.

In regard to ASC, they agreed the market needed stimulating to give people more choice and that a long term national solution was required.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the Executive notes the report and considers any matters arising from the work of the Area Constituency Committees detailed above, that merits further scrutiny, review or investigation at a county-level.

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
Northallerton

22 January 2020

Background Documents: None  
Appendices: None

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