

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at No. 3 Racecourse Lane, Northallerton on Tuesday, 10 March 2020 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.

Other Councillors Present: County Councillor Derek Bastiman

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

There was one representative of the press in attendance.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

431. Minutes

Resolved –

That the public Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

432. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

433. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved –

That on the grounds that it 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 Appendices B & C to agenda item 8.

434. Questions and Statements from members of the public

There were no public questions or statements.

435. Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function - Suggested Changes to Practice

Considered – A report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Board, bringing together the findings of the Board's review of overview and scrutiny practice at the Council.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman introduced the report, confirming the purpose of the review which was carried out following a request from the Member Working Group on the Constitution in response to a number of issues raised by Cllr Geoff Webber.

The report detailed the areas of improvement identified by the review and in particular, Cllr Bastiman highlighted the need for:

- Refresher training from scrutiny members and scrutiny Chairs
- A more defined relationship with the Executive to ensure the perception of independence
- Improved communication between Overview & Scrutiny and the Area Constituency Committees

He also confirmed that the review findings and report had been endorsed by the Scrutiny Board

County Councillor David Chance, the portfolio holder for Overview & Scrutiny, acknowledged the County Council's good practice in Overview & Scrutiny and confirmed that he also endorsed the review findings.

County Councillor Carl Les noted the views of Cllr Webber detailed in the report and suggested that officers may also benefit from training in how to present reports to Members. Finally, he thanked the Scrutiny Board for its work on the review.

Resolved –

That the Improvement Plan be noted.

436. Better Together Collaboration Agreement Review

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) seeking an extension of the Better Together Collaboration Agreement between Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) introduced the report, confirming that the current agreement included an option to extend the arrangement for a further three years. He drew Members attention to the benefits of the Better Together Programme detailed in the report and confirmed that Selby District Council's Executive had already approved the option to extend.

Richard Flinton, Chief Executive confirmed the working arrangements with Selby had been successful and that the model would be suitable for roll out to other District Councils.

Members agreed it had been an excellent initiative and it was

Resolved –

That the formal Collaboration Agreement with Selby District Council be renewed for a further three years.

437. Forward Work Plan

Considered - The Forward Plan for the period 28 February 2020 to 28 February 2021.

County Councillor Michael Harrison confirmed that a decision had recently been taken to push back to a later meeting the Review of Extra Care Provision, currently listed for the Executive's consideration on 24 March 2020.

Resolved –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

438. Extra Care Housing in Bedale - Outcome of Procurement and Consideration of Scheme Proposal

Considered - A report of the Corporate Director for Health & Adult Services seeking approval for the awarding of funding to support the development of a new extra care housing scheme in Bedale.

County Councillor Michael Harrison introduced the report which detailed the procurement work undertaken through the Council's Extra Care Housing Framework, to procure a new extra care housing scheme in Bedale, and identify the appropriate level of grant funding required in order to make the proposed scheme a viable option.

Dale Owens, Assistant Director for Health & Adult Services outlined the issues around the refusal of planning permission, the developer's decision to appeal that decision and the subsequent changes made to the scheme design in order to alleviate community and planning concerns.

Cllr Harrison made it clear the Executive was aware that the local planning committee had refused the application, and that the developer had submitted an appeal. As the County Council fully respected the planning process, he noted that the Executive was being asked to put in place the funding for the scheme should the appeal be successful, and that any funding decision taken at this time would have no bearing on the planning process.

Members noted the summary of what the revised scheme would deliver and the potential need for intermediate care units in the future. County Councillor Gareth Dadd suggested that in line with previous applications for funding, at this stage it should be agreed in principle only, with further consideration to the funding request being given once planning permission has been granted.

As there was no discussion about the content of the two exempt Appendices, the Executive choose not to go into private session. Instead it was

Resolved - That:

- i. The level of funding required for the Bedale extra care scheme as detailed in confidential Appendix B of the report be approved in principle only, at this stage.

- ii. The Corporate Director Strategic Resources, in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) be authorised to negotiate appropriate legal arrangements, if intermediate care units are required.

The meeting concluded at 11:20am
MLC