

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday, 24 November 2020 commencing at 11.00 am.

County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair, plus County Councillors David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Apologies: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan

Other Councillors Present: County Councillors Stanley Lumley, David Hugill and Paul Haslam,

Officers present: Richard Flinton, Barry Khan, Gary Fielding, Richard Webb, Karl Battersby, Stuart Carlton, Mark Ashton, Barrie Mason, Melanie Carr & Daniel Harry

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

508. Introductions

Members of the Executive and Corporate Management Team introduced themselves, and County Councillor Carl Les welcomed other County Councillors present at the meeting.

509. Minutes

Resolved –

That the public Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

510. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

County Councillor Michael Harrison declared that he had an interest in that he had relatives that worked in Health & Adult Services. It was noted the Standards Committee had previously given him a dispensation, enabling him to participate in, and vote at the meeting.

511. Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

512. Lowering the age range of Stillington Community Primary School to 3-11

Considered –

A report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, on the outcome of an informal consultation carried out by the Governors of Stillington Community Primary School on a proposal to lower the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11, in order to offer nursery education for three year olds from 23 February 2021.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson introduced the report detailing the school's OFSTED inadequate judgements in 2017 and 2019, and the steps taken to address the findings. She drew attention to the resulting directive academy order by the Regional Schools Commissioner and the subsequent collaboration with the Foston and Terrington federation.

The report detailed the School's proposal to extend its current Reception/ Key Stage 1 provision to provide places for 3 year olds in a Foundation Stage Class. It also provided an overview of the consultation undertaken, the school's response to the issues raised, the views of those consultees not in favour of the proposal, and the governing body's subsequent acceptance of the proposal.

Executive Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations and it was

Resolved – That:

- i. Proposals and statutory notices be published on 11 January to lower the school age range of Stillington Community Primary School from 23 February 2021.
- ii. A final decision on these proposals be taken on 16 February 2021.

513. Conditions related to Department for Transport Grant Funding for A59 Kex Gill

Considered –

Report of the Corporate Directors for Strategic Resources and Business and Environmental Services providing a progress update on the A59 road re-alignment scheme at Kex Gill and detailing a grant condition requested by the Department for Transport.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie introduced the report, and provided an overview of the historical problems with the A59 and the ongoing realignment works, together with an update on progress and timescales.

It was confirmed that questions raised by the DfT had been responded to, and that the scheme was now progressing through their governance system to work towards granting conditional approval of funding. The next stages in the process were outlined and it was noted that the earliest the process could be completed would be mid January 2021.

Members noted the legal requirements that would need to be met if the grant funding was to be awarded, and the conditions likely to be attached, including that any costs incurred over and above the DfT contribution would need to be met by the County Council.

Members considered the associated financial implications for the County Council and Karl Battersby, Corporate Director for Business & Environmental Services confirmed the robustness of the business case and costings, and the included 16% contingency figure based on a worst case cost scenario. It was also confirmed:

- The next milestone of the scheme was consideration of the planning application, due to be heard on 15 December 2020.

- Should a positive response be received from the DfT, the business case and costings would be re-checked before a final report came to the Executive seeking approval for acceptance of the grant funding.
- The scheme would be strongly project managed to reduce the risk of an overrun.
- The cost of the scheme was essentially fixed for the DfT and the risk associated with an overspend lay solely with the County Council.
- Any contingency underspend would be proportionately split between the DfT and the County Council, based on their financial contributions to the scheme.

On behalf of the residents of his division, County Councillor Stanley Lumley welcomed the progress with the scheme, and Members agreed it was vital for the connectivity and economy of the county.

The Executive voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, and it was

Resolved – That:

- i) The update on the Scheme be noted.
- ii) The Department for Transport's proposed grant condition that the County Council fund any additional costs of the Scheme over and above their grant, be accepted.

514. Review of North Yorkshire County Council's 20 mph Speed Limit

Considered –

Report of the Transport, Economy & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee presenting the findings and recommendations from their review of the County Council's 20mph speed limit policy.

The report introduced by County Councillor Stanley Lumley, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, detailed the in-depth and comprehensive review carried out by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, including data, advice and evidence provided by NYCC officers, other Local Authorities and a range of interested parties and organisations.

He confirmed the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's conclusion that the existing County Council policy on 20mph speed limits allowed a degree of flexibility already, and that any policy change would need to ensure that road users could continue to move effectively and as efficiently as possible, both for work and leisure purposes.

He went on to highlight the range of suggestions within the report and drew specific attention to the need for public support for the introduction of 20mph speed limits, which at this stage was far from clear. He therefore confirmed the Overview & Scrutiny Committee proposals that the policy needed to be:

- Updated and made more publicly accessible on the county council's website.
- More explicit in considering 20mph speed limits around both primary and secondary schools, with consideration given to extending the distance traditionally considered around schools.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access thanked the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their work and their report, and confirmed his acceptance of the conclusions and associated recommendations within the report. He also reminded members that

North Yorkshire was a very safe highways authority and that the accident rate caused by speed in built up areas, was tiny in comparison to road safety in other areas on the highway network. Finally, he confirmed that the Police had previously confirmed they were not prepared to enforce 20mph limits which might result in the need for engineering measures to slow traffic down in some locations, which the public are not in favour of.

Karl Battersby, Corporate Director for Business & Environmental Services also supported the timely report and its findings, and agreed that speed limits needed looking at alongside a wider range of factors including driver behaviour, in order to improve the environment and safety.

County Councillor David Hugill welcomed the work that had gone into the review and the potential it brought for levelling up the County Council's policy. He also recognised the difficulty of enforcing 20mph speed limits without speed reduction measures.

County Councillor Paul Haslam also gave his support to the report but felt an opportunity had been lost to widen the purview of the report and create behavioral change and a modal shift in transport.

County Councillor Michael Harrison suggested that the position of individual schools needed taking in to consideration e.g. those on busy/fast roads where a 20mph speed limit would not be appropriate. He suggested that as part of the work arising from the review consideration should be given to other methods of improving the safety of pedestrians in those particular settings.

Finally, County Councillor Gareth Dad congratulated the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on their well-produced and balanced report, and it was

Resolved – That:

- i. The review findings be noted
- ii. The Executive Member for Access in discussion with the Corporate Director for Business & Environmental Services take forward the recommendations and;
- iii. The actions arising from the recommendations be detailed in a future report to the Executive

County Councillor Gareth Dadd left the meeting at 11:43am.

515. Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report

Considered –

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) providing an overview of the key issues considered at recent Area Constituency Committee (ACC) meetings.

County Councillor Michael Harrison drew attention to the feedback from the Scarborough & Whitby ACC meeting held on 6 November 2020 and its decision to invite MP Gavin Williamson (Government Minister) to their next meeting in January 2021 to discuss the national schools funding formula and its effect on schools in Scarborough and on the viability of small schools. He suggested that if the Minister's attendance was confirmed, the Committee should be given appropriate support from the Council in order to be able to put forward a strong case on behalf of the whole county.

County Councillor David Chance also drew attention to the same ACC's decision to invite NHS representatives to their January meeting to discuss both the concerning issues with Scarborough Hospital, as detailed in a recent CQC report, and the ongoing review of East Coast hospitals.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

516. Forward Work Plan

Members considered the Forward Plan for the period from 10 November 2020 to 30 November 2021.

Resolved - That the Forward Plan be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11:47am

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