

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Executive

8 December 2020

### Area Constituency Committee Feedback

#### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

To bring to the attention of the Executive key issues considered at the meeting of Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee held on 12 November 2020.

#### **2.0 Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee on 12 November 2020**

- 2.1 The Committee considered an annual update on Schools, Educational Achievement and Finance. The wide-ranging report provided information on: the number of schools across the area and their status; school standards and attainment; exclusions; special education needs; schools' finance; and planning of school places.
- 2.2 The Committee resolved to note that Members are concerned about budgets for schools, which are currently in a large amount of debt. Members highlight that the situation regarding schools in financial deficit has been getting worse for some time and shows no signs of improvement. Consequently, schools are now starting the year with huge deficits without a way to rectify the situation. The Committee discussed what the County Council is able to do to help such schools. County Councillor Gareth Dadd undertook to arrange for the topic to be brought to a future Members' Seminar.
- 2.3 The Committee arranged for Members' comments concerning proposed changes to the North Yorkshire Healthy Child Programme to be submitted to the Scrutiny of Health Committee's meeting on 18 December 2020. Members referred to the proposed changes as an imaginative re-scheduling of services given the reduction in funding. Members feel that, if a reduction in services needs to be made, the sensible way to do so is to retain, as far as possible, the visits for 0-5 year olds because the earlier years are particularly important. If that means that a greater reduction has to be made in the provision for 5-19 year olds, then that, sadly, is the correct balance that needs to be struck.
- 2.4 A Parish Council Chairman and a representative of a Residents' Association each made a public statement expressing various concerns stemming from possible developments and the implications for the highway network in the western arc of Harrogate. The organisations had launched a Campaign for Sustainability of Development. Arising from the two public statements, County Councillor Don Mackenzie, as Executive Member for Access, offered to meet the two speakers because he felt that the aims of the Campaign were unclear and it was unclear exactly what the organisations wanted the County Council to do.

#### **3.0 Recommendation**

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

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23 November 2020

Background Documents: None  
Appendices: None