

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday, 12th January, 2021 commencing at 11.00 am.

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

Officers present: Richard Flinton, Barry Khan, Gary Fielding, Karl Battersby, Richard Webb, Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Andrew Dixon, Matt George and Melanie Carr

Apologies: County Councillor Don Mackenzie.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

526 Introductions

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

It was noted that County Councillor Don Mackenzie had sent his apologies as he was scheduled to represent the County Council at a meeting of the Transport for the North's Rail North Committee.

527 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 December 2020

Resolved –

That the public Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

528 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

529 Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

530 Schools Budget 2021-2022

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 2021-22.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan introduced the report and drew members' attention to:

- The school deficits in rural secondary schools. It was noted the funding outlook

remained challenging for small, rural secondary schools, preventing them from being able to achieve the economies of scale of their more urban counterparts, or deliver the same breadth of curriculum;

- The 3% increase for the key factors in the National Funding Formula for the coming financial year;
- The decision not to transfer funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs budget for the 2021/22 financial year;
- The findings from a recent local funding consultation on the eight available options regarding the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), and the methodology to be used for allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values. The report confirmed that the majority of the responses received to the local consultation indicated support for an MFG of 2%, with AWPU as the preferred option under a 2% MFG. In addition, the report noted that the Schools Forum had also given its support for an MFG of 2%, but preferred the use of the lump sum as the methodology for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values.

Members noted the report and voted unanimously in favour of the report recommendations. It was therefore

Resolved – That:

- i. A Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of 2.0% in the calculation of school budgets for the 2021/22 financial year be applied.
- ii. The lump sum be used as the methodology for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using National Funding Formula (NFF) values.
- iii. The Council would 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.

531 St Hilda's Roman Catholic Primary School, Whitby - Closure Proposal

Considered –

A report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service regarding the outcome of the public consultation carried out on the proposal to close St Hilda's Roman Catholic Primary School.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan introduced the report confirming that he had first approved the commencement of the consultation on the closure of the School in February 2020, but this had been halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to allow stakeholders the opportunity to look at alternatives to closure.

He went on to detail the consultation steps that had been taken to ensure all of the options were fully considered, and confirmed that the school's Governing Body had now confirmed its request that North Yorkshire County Council commence formal consultation on the proposed closure of the school.

County Councillor David Chances was pleased to note that those pupils that had

transferred to other schools had assimilated well, but expressed his disappointment at the proposal to close the school even though he accepted there was no other option available at this stage.

In response to a query from County Councillor Greg White, it was confirmed that locally and nationally it was very rare for a school to turn itself around and remain open once it had started on the route to closure.

All Members voted in favour of the recommendations and therefore it was

Resolved – That:

- i. statutory proposals and notices be published on 22 January 2021 proposing to cease to maintain St Hilda's Roman Catholic Primary School, Whitby with effect from 9 April 2021.
- ii. A final decision on the proposal be taken on 9 March 2021.

532 Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report

Considered – A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) providing an overview of the key issues considered at a recent meeting of the Skipton & Ripon Area Constituency Committee.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

533 Forward Plan

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

Resolved - That the Forward Plan be noted.

534 Other business which the Leader agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

County Councillor Carl Les drew Members attention to one item of urgent business, the nomination of Councillor Stephanie Duckett to the Looked After Children Members Group (LAC MG).

County Councillor Janet Sanderson proposed the nomination and as there were no objections to the proposal, it was

Resolved - That Councillor Stephanie Duckett be confirmed as a member of the Looked After Children Members Group

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am.