

North Yorkshire County Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30 August 2018 at 9.30 am at the Harrogate Civic Centre, St Luke's Mount, Harrogate

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillor John Mann (in the Chair); County Councillors Philip Broadbank, Jim Clark, Richard Cooper, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Don Mackenzie, Zoe Metcalfe, Cliff Trotter, Geoff Webber and Robert Windass

In Attendance:-

County Councillor Carl Les (Leader of the Council)

County Councillor David Chance (Executive Member)

Leah Swain (Community First Yorkshire's Chief Executive)

County Council officers:- Richard Webb (Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services), Anton Hodge (Assistant Director – Strategic Resources), Marie-Ann Jackson (Head of Stronger Communities Programme), Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager) and Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Approximately 8 members of the public

Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors John Ennis and David Goode.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

9. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, presented apologies for absence, briefly explained the Committee's role, and highlighted that any members of the public who were present had the right not to be recorded or photographed.

10. Minutes

Confirmation was provided that all decisions made at the Committee's meeting on 14 June 2018 had been, or were in the course of being, implemented.

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Public Questions or Statements

A resident had given notice to ask questions about the Harrogate Congestion Study and the realignment of the A59 at Kex Gill. At the meeting, the resident explained that information on the County Council's website had changed during the previous couple of days and consequently some of the questions of which she had given notice were no longer valid. The resident advised that she wished to ask different questions instead of a number of those of which she had given notice. The Chairman explained that no officer was present to provide replies to different questions. He also highlighted that he had already been flexible in allowing the resident to ask five questions when the County Council's procedural rules permitted only one question per person per meeting. The resident asked some of the questions of which she had given notice. The Chairman read out the remaining questions of which notice had been given, together with a reply to each question. The questions and replies were as follows:-

- Question: Why is Kex Gill not on the Agenda for discussion by our elected members at the meeting of 30 August when it is on the Agenda for the meeting of Skipton and Ripon area on 31 August 2018?

Reply: A short update on progress with the realignment of the A59 at Kex Gill was requested by the Chairman of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee following the meeting of that Committee on 31 May 2018.

- Question: Why have the plans for Kex Gill approved on 24 July not been published on the NYCC website over one month later?

Reply: The proposed preferred alignment for the A59 at Kex Gill, which was set out in Appendix C to the report which went to the Executive's meeting on 24 July 2018, was adopted at that Executive meeting. The minutes of the Executive meeting were published on 25 July 2018 and are available on the County Council's website. With regard to Kex Gill, all details relating to the progress made with this matter, including all public consultations and information events, can be found on the County Council's webpages dedicated to this subject (search Kex Gill realignment). The final preferred route, for which a detailed design has yet to be completed, and which was approved by the Executive on 24 July 2018, is also available to view on the website pages dedicated to Kex Gill realignment.

- Question: Why were no notes taken at the second Engagement Group meeting for the Congestion Study? Notes were taken and published for the first meeting. On asking NYCC on 23 August for the date of the final of the three planned meetings we are told that only those attending are to know the date.

Reply: Notes taken from the second meeting of the Engagement Group will form part of the overall report on the Engagement Group's deliberations to elected members at the meeting of this Area Constituency Committee to be held on 8 November 2018.

- Question: How under such secrecy are the public to know when updates could be expected from publicly funded meetings?

Reply: The meetings of the Engagement Group are not public meetings and so their dates have not been widely published. Of course, members of the Engagement Group know the dates of the meetings and so they are not secret.

- Question: What payments/reimbursements from the public purse have been given to the attendees of the Engagement Group?

Reply: The membership of the Engagement Group is not as the resident has listed. The true list is published on the County Council's webpages dedicated to the Harrogate Congestion Study. There is no Chairman but a Facilitator, who is Ian Fielding. Engagement Group members are unpaid.

County Councillor Geoff Webber commented that he did not accept that, because a meeting was not open to the public, the County Council did not publish the date of that meeting. He suggested that the dates of all meetings should be published regardless of whether they were open to the public or not. Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer) advised that many County Council meetings and briefings were held which were not open to the public and therefore were not published on the County Council's website.

13. Adult Social Care Funding, the Green Paper and Fairer Funding for Local Government

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services which provided an overview of adult social care funding and provision within the Area Constituency Committee's area and also the likely approach of the Government to an adult social care funding Green Paper.

County Councillor Michael Harrison (Executive Member for Adult Services and Health Integration) and Richard Webb (Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services), accompanied by Anton Hodge (Assistant Director – Strategic Resources), introduced the report and highlighted the following issues.

- The County Council had used austerity as the driver to completely reorganise its service internally and also its external focus. In particular, the County Council had moved to focus on prevention, whereby, if the service could avoid people entering the social care and health system by it taking early intervention, then it would do so. This had had a huge impact from a cost perspective and also a positive impact on people who did not wish to be in hospital.
- The County Council had benchmarked itself against other similar Shire councils. This showed that the County Council spent £11m a year less on the basic adult and social care service as a result of its focus on prevention. That focus prevented people both entering social services and moving into the wider health sector.
- Main points which the County Council had advocated in recent years were a two-pronged approach to the future certainty around adult and social care – (i) about the County Council having a sustainable funding settlement and appropriate funding which supported the increased demand for social care services from the public, and (ii) the unfinished business around the Dilnot Report, namely, that individuals and families should be given some certainty for planning care costs in the future. These two points went hand-in-hand.
- The Government would be announcing that it was investing an additional £20billion for the NHS. The announcement would be accompanied by an adult

social care Green Paper. However, the County Council did not know how the extra money would be invested eg how much would go to acute hospital services; how much would go to primary care and community care; and how much would go to mental health. The County Council's plea was for a significant amount of the new investment to go into the community because that was where the biggest difference could be made in terms of prevention, whether that was physical health or mental health. The County Council recognised that the Green Paper would set out long term aspirations which the Government had for social care. However, it understood that there would be no investment totals at that stage and instead the next spending review would set out some additional funding for social care. Ministers were advising that a longer-term settlement would not be seen until about 2023/24. In the meantime, approximately 12% of monies which the County Council received for local social care were passported from the NHS and were due to cease in 2020, with no Government plans as yet for its continuation. If this funding were to end in 2020, significant cuts to social care services would be needed.

- A big issue around social care was the focus on Delayed Transfers of Care (ie people ready for discharge from hospital). The national perception was that this was due to social care and local government. Actually, only just over a third of the delays were due to social care and North Yorkshire County Council had a very good record in this constituency area. However, this was not the case in other parts of North Yorkshire, with particular challenges in York and Scarborough where different arrangements operated.
- It was highlighted that paragraphs 3.14 and 3.16 of the report to the Area Constituency Committee contained some factual errors, although these would be corrected immediately following this meeting via a revised report on the County Council's website. Paragraphs 3.14 and 3.16 should read as follows:-
 - 3.14 - Mental Health - Mental Health services locally have, historically, lacked the investment that other areas in the West Yorkshire and Harrogate NHS Integrated Care System (which covers the constituency) have seen. Mental Health Act admissions are lower than in other parts of the County, although emergency out of hours work has increased significantly in the last year.
 - 3.16 - Working with the NHS - There are 5 CCGs, 6 main NHS Trusts and 3 STPs serving the County. This constituency is served primarily by: Harrogate and Rural District CCG; Harrogate District NHSFT; Leeds NHSFT; York NHS FT; and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHSFT (Mental Health).
- The report summarised the national debate currently taking place concerning what the forthcoming Government Green Paper on adult social care should look like. The LGA and the County Councils' Network had each recently published documents. There were also various parliamentary select committee reports. Most of these came to similar conclusions, which also reflected the kind of issues which the County Council had been raising, namely, there needed to be some kind of longer-term financial settlement, certainty for individuals and families, and some very difficult decisions about how we, as a country, would pay for this.

The Chairman highlighted that this Committee could add value regarding this matter by gathering evidence of the local impact of policies and strategies and feeding that up for inclusion as part of the County Council's response to national politicians.

Members expressed the following comments concerning adult social care funding, the Green Paper, and fairer funding for local government:-

- The cost of providing care in this constituency area is comparatively higher.
- There is a struggle to recruit and retain people to work in the care sector because, in this constituency area, there is a labour shortage due to nearly full employment. The work which the County Council is currently undertaking regarding career choices and career pathways, and how people can be attracted to work in the care sector, is welcome.
- It is essential that medium-term funding remains in place until the long term funding solution is known, which is likely to be 2023/24.
- Prevention should be a key focus of the Green Paper and the Government should invest a significant proportion of the £20billion NHS additional investment in primary, community, and mental health services.
- Joint working between County Council health and social care, and various services of the Borough Council, such as housing and leisure services, is essential. Examples of such joint working currently being undertaken in this constituency area include a new housing scheme at Starbeck and prevention work on adult obesity and are welcomed.
- This subject matter should, in future, be named “health and adult social care”, rather than “adult social care”, to reflect the Government’s agenda to integrate health and social care.
- The Government’s adult social care Green Paper, and its new plan for the NHS, should both be published simultaneously in November 2018 as it is important that the County Council can start its work on this because the focus needs to be on integration.
- There is concern that, when massive amounts of money are poured into the NHS, it can lead to unintended consequences.
- There is a problem in North Yorkshire around the number of different health organisations with which the County Council needs to work.
- There is concern that, of the five CCGs, four are in very large deficit positions and acting unlawfully.
- County Councillor Geoff Webber expressed support for paying for adult social care, in the long term, by increasing income tax because it was a progressive tax directly related to the amount of a person’s income. County Councillor Philip Broadbent emphasised that the funding solution for social care should not be to rely on councils being permitted to increase Council Tax by 1% or 2% each year.

Members expressed varying opinions about whether the LGA should be making suggestions about national taxation.

County Councillor Geoff Webber expressed concern at a disparity between figures he had obtained previously from County Councillor Michael Harrison (Executive Member) relating to the calculation of training and pension costs of care staff which the County Council employed and the amount which the County Council paid to private care providers towards such staffing costs. County Councillor Michael Harrison and officers responded that there were significant differences between the overheads and the ways in which the County Council, as a statutory body, and private organisations, managed their accounts. They advised that the County Council actually paid above the recommended provider rate in this constituency. They further advised that County

Council staff were not necessarily doing the same things as care staff employed by private care providers and, as such, the jobs were not necessarily like-for-like.

Richard Webb undertook to provide County Councillor Geoff Webber with: (a) the number of residential and nursing homes in this constituency which did not accept County Council fee rates; and (b) the number of home care providers in this constituency which did not accept County Council fee rates.

In response to a request from County Councillor Paul Haslam, Richard Webb undertook to provide all Members of the Committee with figures/information in terms of future projections for adult social care in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area.

No particular lines of enquiry were identified during this meeting for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme. However, it was:-

Resolved -

- (a) That County Councillor Michael Harrison (Executive Member) and the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services take the comments which Members have expressed that this meeting, together with comments made by other Area Constituency Committees, and draft a response to the LGA Green Paper, then consult the Chairman of this Committee and subsequently submit a response by the 26 September 2018 deadline.
- (b) That, following publication of the Government's adult social care Green Paper, the County Council's draft response be shared with the Chairman of this Committee and, if the Chairman considers it necessary, the draft response be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for discussion.

14. Area Profile Follow-up - Stronger Communities Programme

Considered -

The report of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Harrogate District) which advised of the work of the Stronger Communities Programme in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area which aimed to create networks and facilities to help older people, and adults who had additional support needs, to live longer in their communities.

Marie-Ann Jackson (Head of Stronger Communities Programme), accompanied by Leah Swain (Community First Yorkshire's Chief Executive), introduced the report. They highlighted the "Achieve Together" work stream which prioritised a limited number of geographical areas to work with community partners on a range of outcomes relevant to that community and that delivered against the County Council's priorities. In the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area, two "Achieve" projects had been identified for 2018/19, namely, (i) an area to the east of the A1, which included Boroughbridge/Dishforth/Great and Little Ouseburn/Green Hammerton, where it was aimed to identify needs, gaps and opportunities to design and deliver a range of community initiatives; and (ii) an area along the A59 corridor, which included Knaresborough East/Starbeck/Knaresborough Road/Granby/High Harrogate/Woodfield/New Park, where the focus was on reducing social isolation. Examples of various projects were provided, including one relating to "Men's Sheds".

Marie-Ann Jackson also advised that, as part of the County Council's on-going transformation agenda, and the need to meet ever increasing demands on services with reduced resources, the Stronger Communities programme was working with Health and Adult Services to identify opportunities where working more with

communities and the third section could add value to, or augment, existing social care provision. This was particularly focussed in areas where it was difficult to recruit social care staff or where the market was under-developed. Potential areas of interest included non-regulated domiciliary care provision, micro-enterprise, delayed transfer of care solutions, and the potential to build on the current preventative offer. Conversations with colleagues in commissioning were just starting to see which elements might lend themselves to a community solution. This also offered an opportunity for voluntary sector providers to make themselves more sustainable and less reliant on grant.

During the Committee's consideration of the report, a Member suggested that there should be an audit of footpaths and that simple benches should be provided eg in the Stray in Harrogate so that people who had difficulty walking could continue to keep active. Members acknowledged that simple initiatives such as this could have a big impact on people's lives and wellbeing. No specific lines of enquiry, which might be added to the Committee's Work Programme, were identified by the Committee.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

15. Appointment to Vacancy on Outside Body - King James's Foundation at Knaresborough

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which invited the Committee to appoint to a vacancy for the County Council's representative on the King James's Foundation at Knaresborough.

The Chairman reported orally that two nominations had been received for this appointment because County Councillors David Goode and Zoe Metcalfe had each nominated himself/herself respectively. The Chairman asked Members to vote for each of the two nominees and subsequently declared that the greater number of votes had been received for the appointment of County Councillor Zoe Metcalfe.

Resolved -

That County Councillor Zoe Metcalfe be appointed to the vacancy for the County Council's representative on the King James's Foundation at Knaresborough, to serve until a replacement is appointed.

16. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which provided a draft Work Programme for the Area Constituency Committee to consider, develop and adopt. An update on the progress of work relating to the Harrogate Congestion Study was appended to the report.

The Chairman asked for suggestions regarding the Work Programme to be either raised at this meeting or emailed to himself and the Vice-Chairman during the following few weeks.

In respect of the suggestion, made at the Committee's previous meeting, that the Committee should consider house building:-

- County Councillor Geoff Webber asked that the Committee give early consideration to this issue due to the national shortage of social and affordable housing.
- County Councillor Richard Cooper advised that Harrogate Borough Council had recently secured grants to facilitate the bringing forward of housing sites, working with developers of sites which had unimplemented planning permissions. He also advised that the Borough Council was due to have a LGA Peer Inspection during September 2018, in respect of which the Borough Council had requested experiences of other authorities which had had success in bringing sites forward which had planning permission but had not yet been developed.
- County Councillor Richard Cooper suggested a way forward for the Area Constituency Committee, namely, to ask Harrogate Borough Council to produce a paper for consideration by this Committee regarding affordable housing delivery and bringing forward the 6,000 unimplemented planning permissions in order for this Committee subsequently to decide whether it wished this issue to be taken forward via its Work Programme. It was highlighted that the emphasis was on affordable housing. County Councillor Richard Cooper's suggestion was agreed by other Members. (The Committee's decision is recorded at (a) of the following Resolution.)

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee) suggested an item for consideration by this Committee in March 2019, namely, a forthcoming consultation about a mental health inpatient hospital build. He added that, although the proposed site of the new facility might be in another constituency area, the facility would be very important for the people of the Harrogate area who were likely to find it more convenient to travel to a meeting of this Area Constituency Committee to hear about the consultation, rather than to a meeting of another Area Constituency Committee or of the Scrutiny of Health Committee. Other Members expressed support for County Councillor Jim Clark's suggestion. (The Committee's decision is recorded at (b) of the following Resolution.)

Resolved -

- (a) That Harrogate Borough Council be asked to produce a paper for consideration by this Committee regarding affordable housing delivery and bringing forward the 6,000 unimplemented planning permissions in order for this Committee subsequently to decide whether it wishes this issue to be taken forward via its Work Programme.
- (b) That the forthcoming consultation about a mental health inpatient hospital build be included in the Committee's Work Programme for consideration at the meeting of this Committee to be held in March 2019.
- (c) That any further suggestions in relation to the Committee's Work Programme be emailed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman during the following few weeks.

The meeting concluded at 11.55 am.

RAG/JR