

At a Virtual Meeting of the  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(External) of Richmondshire  
District Council held on Thursday,  
25 March 2021 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Patricia Middlemiss (Chairman)  
Councillors William Heslop, John Amsden, Susan Fairhurst, Karin  
Sedgwick and Paul Spencer.

**Officers:** Edward Maxwell (Democratic Services Officer) and Leo Stolarski  
(Democratic Services Support Officer).

**In Attendance:** Councillor Lorraine Hodgson, Inspector Mark Gee (North Yorkshire  
Police) and Emily Mellalieu (Flood Risk Manager, NYCC).

**Apologies:** Councillor Paul Cullen.

**OSE-16/20 Minutes**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 be confirmed  
and signed as an accurate record.

**OSE-17/20 Public Speaking and Question Time**

There were no public questions or statements submitted for  
consideration at the meeting.

**OSE-18/20 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**OSE-19/20 North Yorkshire Police Crime and Disorder Update**

Inspector Mark Gee of North Yorkshire Police presented a report  
detailing the number of Crimes and instances of Anti-Social Behaviour  
(ASB) committed in Richmondshire during 2020 and 2021. 1,143 crimes  
had been reported during January and February 2021, which was a 29%  
reduction on the same time period last year. Insp Gee highlighted the  
impact that “stay at home” messaging was having on crime, by reducing  
the amount of road travel and decreasing the opportunities for burglars  
to strike unoccupied homes. 355 instances of domestic abuse were  
reported, which was a 15% reduction. There had been 775 reports of  
ASB; a significant increase which was partly due to COVID-related  
FPNs.

The Committee enquired about the impact of fraud and cybercrime,  
particularly on elderly and vulnerable people. Insp Gee noted that there  
had been an increase, particularly scams relating to DPD and Royal Mail  
deliveries, and that the Police had been working to educate the  
community where possible, and that he would feed back the

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Committee's concerns into the Financial Fraud Team.

**Resolved:** That Insp Gee be thanked for his time in attending and answering questions, and the content of the report be noted.

### OSE-20/20 NYCC Update on Flooding in Richmondshire

Emily Mellalieu, Flood Risk Manager for North Yorkshire County Council, gave a verbal presentation to the Committee explaining the role of her team. In 2010, NYCC was given the role of Lead Local Flood Authority, with the responsibility of acting as a statutory consultant to planning authority on sustainable drainage, in areas where the risk is highest. They also had the responsibility for producing flood investigation reports under s19 of the Water Management Act 2010, the last such report having been produced in 2019.

The Committee asked about the provision of resilience plans, and it was explained that these were provided by the Emergency Team and considered all contingencies, looking to provide an operating plan to increase preparedness before an event. The situation in Gilling West was also discussed, and it was highlighted that the Environment Agency's involvement would be required since the water source was a main river, which fell under the EA's remit. The Committee was informed that areas of specific concern could be highlighted to the team by email, and arrangements made for site and local visits.

**Resolved:** That Emily Mellalieu be thanked for her time in attending the meeting, and for answering the Committee's questions.

### OSE-21/20 Task Group Update and Work Programme 2020-2021

The Democratic Services Officer presented for consideration the current Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee Work Programme for the Civic Year 2020-2021.

**Resolved:** (a) That Mental Health be added to the Health and Partnerships work area, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of residents.

(b) That NYnet Broadband be considered as a matter of priority, as the Committee felt it was vital to a successful economic recovery.

(c) That the impact of cybercrime and fraud be considered as part of the Crime and Disorder work area.

(d) That a Task Group meeting be set up and the NYCC Flood Risk Management team and a representative of the Environment Agency be invited, so that Members could explore issues surrounding flood risk in their wards.

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The meeting concluded at approximately 8.15 pm.