

ITEM 8 - LATE REPORT

North Yorkshire County Council

Ryedale Area Committee

15 November 2017

Refocussing Area Committees

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To appraise the Area Committee of the proposals presented to Area Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen at the meeting held on 27 October 2017, and to invite Members to consider and comment upon these.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As Members are aware, the Executive is looking at reviewing the structure and functions of Area Committees to ensure that all Members are involved in meaningful and constructive debate to influence and shape their locality. To facilitate this the operation and feedback regarding our existing Area Committees have been reviewed and the Leader and Councillor Chance have attended all Area Committees to see how they function and how they can be strengthened.

3.0 Change of geography and numbers of Area Committees

- 3.1 Currently there are seven Area Committees which are coterminous with the seven District/Borough Council areas. The population of each district varies significantly from 52,000 to 157,000 and this results in a large variation in the number of County Councillors per Area Committee (from six to 18). Also the current Area Committee structure does not recognise the six Parliamentary constituencies in the County.
- 3.2 Therefore to strengthen Area Committees and to involve the MPs, it is proposed to create six Area Committees that are coterminous with the six Parliamentary constituencies. The population of each constituency (and therefore Area Committee) will be similar from 96,000 to 108,000 across the board and would result in a similar number of County Councillors per Committee (around 12 to 14).
- 3.3 It is hoped that the advantage of the proposed new structure will be to encourage MPs to attend Area Committees so that there can be the best democratic representation for their communities. MPs will be invited to attend at least one Area Committee meeting a year. To this end we may need to change the dates of some Committee meetings. It will provide a good vehicle for the MP and County Councillors to hold each other to account and to facilitate dialogue about issues facing the locality.
- 3.4 In light of this change of focus the Area Committees could be renamed Constituency Committees.

3.5 It is noted that there are some disadvantages in this arrangement in that four divisions would be split across two Area Committees, although these County Councillors could be invited to attend both Area Committees. Under current constituency boundaries it appears that there are four Councillors whose division would be split across two constituency committees:

- Boroughbridge - Cllr Robert Windass – 2 wards in Harrogate & Knaresborough and 1 ward in Skipton & Ripon
- Hertford and Cayton - Cllr Roberta Swiers – 1 ward in Thirsk & Malton and 1 ward in Scarborough & Whitby
- Lower Nidderdale & Bishop Monkton - Cllr Michael Harrison – 2 wards in Skipton & Ripon and 1 ward in Harrogate & Knaresborough
- Pannal & Lower Wharfedale - Cllr Cliff Trotter – 1 ward in Harrogate & Knaresborough and 1 ward in Selby & Ainsty.

3.6 At the time Area Committees were established there were very few “dual-hatted” Members; this is no longer the case as the vast majority of Members of the County Council are also Borough or District Councillors. It is intended, therefore, not to have separate Borough/District Councillor representatives as the Area Committees are well represented by “dual-hatted” Councillors.

3.7 The County Council and local partners have historically used District Council areas as geographical building blocks for service delivery and performance reporting, as opposed to Parliamentary constituencies. It is recognised that this proposal would require some work to ensure that the new Area Committees are given the relevant information.

4.0 Initial Powers

4.1 We will look to give Area Committees powers to provide meaningful scrutiny of local health issues within their area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

4.2 We will look to give Area Committees powers to provide meaningful scrutiny of local transport issues within their area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by Transport, Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4.3 It is intended to use Area Committees formally as Consultees in major decisions that affect their area.

4.4 Area Committees will receive reports and be consulted on major Educational issues that affect their locality.

4.5 Innovation funding decisions will be filtered by the Stronger Communities Team and then come to the relevant Area Committee for shortlisting with the final decision being taken at a meeting of Area Chairmen and Vice-chairmen.

4.6 Changes will be incremental as we are still reviewing additional decision-making and scrutiny/review functions going forward.

5.0 Progression of Proposals

5.1 Consultation took place with Area Chairs and Vice-Chairs at their meeting on the 27th October. They were broadly in favour of the proposals.

- 5.2 The present cycle of Area Committees will consider and comment upon the proposals.
- 5.3 Following the receipt of feedback from Area Committees, the refined proposals will be submitted to the cross party Constitution Working Group, prior to submission to the Executive for consideration and recommendation to full Council for approval.
- 5.4 It is hoped to implement any changes after the May 2018 County Council Meeting.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are invited to comment upon the proposals outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report.

County Councillors Gareth Dadd and David Chance

06/11/2017

Background Documents

- Appendix 1 Map showing existing NYCC Area Committee boundaries (green lines), constituencies (purple lines), and NYCC Divisions (black lines). A more detailed map, with the option to select these and other electoral boundaries, is available at <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>
- Appendix 2 List of current NYCC Area Committees and the NYCC divisions within each.
- Appendix 3 List of potential constituency committees and the NYCC divisions within each.

Divisions within current NYCC Area Committees

- Seven committees – two with 6 members and one each with 7 members, 10 members, 11 members, 14 members and 18 members

Craven Area Committee (7 members)

- Airedale
- Mid-Craven
- North Craven
- Ribblesdale
- Skipton East
- Skipton West
- South Craven

County Committee for Hambleton (11 members)

- Bedale
- Easingwold
- Great Ayton
- North Hambleton
- Northallerton
- Romanby and Broomfield
- Sowerby
- Stillington
- Stokesley
- Swale
- Thirsk

County Area Committee for the Harrogate District (18 members)

- Ainsty
- Boroughbridge
- Harrogate Bilton and Nidd Gorge (two members)
- Harrogate Central (two members)
- Harrogate Harlow
- Harrogate Oatlands
- Harrogate Saltergate
- Harrogate Starbeck
- Knaresborough (two members)
- Lower Nidderdale and Bishop Monkton
- Masham and Fountains
- Pannal and Lower Wharfedale
- Pateley Bridge
- Ripon North
- Ripon South

Richmondshire Area Committee (6 members)

- Catterick Bridge

- Central Richmond
- Middle Dales
- Richmond
- Richmondshire North
- Upper Dales

Ryedale Area Committee (6 members)

- Hovingham & Sheriff Hutton
- Kirkbymoorside
- Malton
- Norton
- Pickering
- Thornton Dale & The Wolds

Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee (14 members)

- Castle
- Eastfield & Osgodby
- Esk Valley
- Falsgrave & Stepney
- Filey
- Hertford & Cayton
- Newby
- Northstead
- Scalby & the Coast
- Seamer & Derwent Valley
- Weaponness & Ramshill
- Whitby/Mayfield Cum Mulgrave
- Whitby/Streonshalh
- Woodlands

Selby Area Committee (10 members)

- Cawood & Saxton
- Escrick
- Mid Selby
- Osgoldcross
- Selby Barlby (two members)
- Selby Brayton
- Sherburn in Elmet
- South Selby
- Tadcaster

Divisions within potential Constituency Committees

- Six committees – four with 13 members and two with 12 members
- The number of members per committee assumes that the four members whose division covers two constituencies would opt to join both committees

Harrogate & Knaresborough Constituency Committee (13 members)

- Boroughbridge (part only – Boroughbridge ward and Claro ward)
- Harrogate Bilton and Nidd Gorge (two members)
- Harrogate Central (two members)
- Harrogate Harlow
- Harrogate Oatlands
- Harrogate Saltergate
- Harrogate Starbeck
- Knaresborough (two members)
- Lower Nidderdale and Bishop Monkton (part only – Killinghall ward)
- Pannal and Lower Wharfedale (part only – Pannal ward)

Richmond (Yorks) Constituency Committee (13 members)

- Bedale
- Catterick Bridge
- Central Richmond
- Great Ayton
- Middle Dales
- North Hambleton
- Northallerton
- Richmond
- Richmondshire North
- Romanby and Broomfield
- Stokesley
- Swale
- Upper Dales

Scarborough & Whitby Constituency Committee (13 members)

- Castle
- Eastfield & Osgodby
- Esk Valley
- Falsgrave & Stepney
- Hertford & Cayton (part only – Cayton ward)
- Newby
- Northstead
- Scalby & the Coast
- Seamer & Derwent Valley
- Weaponness & Ramshill
- Whitby/Mayfield Cum Mulgrave
- Whitby/Streonshalh
- Woodlands

Selby & Ainsty Constituency Committee (12 members)

- Ainsty
- Cawood & Saxton
- Escrick
- Mid Selby
- Osgoldcross
- Pannal and Lower Wharfedale (part only - Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward)
- Selby Barlby (two members)
- Selby Brayton
- Sherburn in Elmet
- South Selby
- Tadcaster

Skipton & Ripon Constituency Committee (13 members)

- Airedale
- Boroughbridge (part only – Newby ward)
- Lower Nidderdale and Bishop Monkton (part only – Bishop Monkton ward and Lower Nidderdale ward)
- Masham and Fountains
- Mid-Craven
- North Craven
- Pateley Bridge
- Ribblesdale
- Ripon North
- Ripon South
- Skipton East
- Skipton West
- South Craven

Thirsk & Malton Constituency Committee (12 members)

- Easingwold
- Filey
- Hertford & Cayton (part only – Herford ward)
- Hovingham & Sheriff Hutton
- Kirkbymoorside
- Malton
- Norton
- Pickering
- Sowerby
- Stillington
- Thirsk
- Thornton Dale & The Wolds