

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 10.00 am at The Street, 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough, YO12 7PW

Present:-

County Councillors Eric Broadbent, David Chance, Liz Colling, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Clive Pearson (Vice Chairman), Joe Plant (Chairman), Tony Randerson, and Roberta Swiers.

Officers: Graham North (NYCC Highways & Transportation), Ian Marr (NYnet Ltd), Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny), Sue Mitchinhill and Hannah Bowles (Business Support).

In attendance: County Councillor Carl Les.

Apologies for absence: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, David Jeffels and Callum Walsh.

17. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 26 September 2018

Resolved -

That the Minutes be noted.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

20. Transport Update

Considered -

The report of Graham North, North Yorkshire County Council Highways & Transportation Officer, providing an update on the key strategic transport corridors relevant to the area covered by the committee, namely the A64 / A1237 / A59 road corridor, and Scarborough to York and Scarborough to Hull rail links.

Members received a brief overview of Transport for the North (TfN) confirming that North Yorkshire County Council was a Board member and had played an active role since it became a statutory body in April 2018. Members noted:

- The potential future improvements to transport infrastructure in the constituency area resulting from the East Coast to Scotland, and Central Pennines strategic development corridors identified within TfN's Strategic Transport Plan.

- The ongoing analysis work of road and rail networks and the involvement of NYCC officers in stakeholder meetings.

Members also noted the East West Connectivity Study findings and the interventions identified within the North Yorkshire Transport Prospectus, designed to alleviate stress levels at York Outer Ring Road (A1237 Dualling), A64 to the North of York (Hopgrove Dualling) and West of Malton.

County Councillor Liz Colling questioned whether the traffic count data used to identify those stress levels had included commuting traffic data and asked that a copy of that data be provided.

In regard to rail, Graham North summarised the history of the provision of rail services across the area and outlined the ongoing service improvements, the planned timetabling improvements, and the station upgrades. He also provided data on the increase in rail users and confirmed that NYCC was working with the rail companies to monitor the service changes and encourage further improvements.

Following an enquiry from County Councillor Joe Plant regarding the timescale for delivery of further station improvements at Seamer, Graham North confirmed Phase 1 would focus on the development of car parking facilities and Phase 2 would improve accessibility. He also confirmed that a business case would be developed to support a future application for funding for the provision of a new station.

Several members raised their concern about the number of trains being terminated at Malton and the lack of alternative transport from that station. Graham North confirmed that Transpennine Express (TPE) were encouraging passengers to change trains at York where there were appropriate facilities for their use whilst they waited for a later train. Also, that TPE had been instructed that they must not cancel two consecutive trains and that they should provide information on cancellations in sufficient time.

In expressing his concern about the current standard of service rather than the frequency of the service, County Councillor Tony Randerson confirmed his disappointment in the pace of the planned improvements.

County Councillor Andrew Jenkinson provided an example of how the current unreliability of the service was resulting to loss of employment for some commuters.

County Councillor Eric Broadbent raised a HR query about drivers' hours and the loss of service as a result.

In response, Graham North outlined future plans for changes to the franchise which included improvements to rolling stock, capacity increases and upgrades to the York to Leeds to Manchester links. He also confirmed that roster changes in summer 2018 had addressed the HR issues referred to, and that NYCC would continue to highlight issues and concerns as they occurred in order to support service resilience.

In regard to highways, Members were pleased to note the recent Government Budget announcement of an additional £420m to be made available to councils in 2018/19 for road maintenance including tackling potholes. They also noted that in order to improve east-west connectivity:

- A joint business case with Scarborough Borough Council had been developed for a project to improve four key junctions within Scarborough town centre;
- Highways England were considering options for a construction scheme for 2020-2025 which may include junction improvements and dualling of various sections of the A64;

ITEM 01

- The programme of improvements to the A1237 York Outer Ring Road were progressing, with work underway at the B1224/A1237 Wetherby Road roundabout and plans had been approved for improvements at Monks Cross roundabout.
- Works was continuing to develop a scheme to improve the resilience of the A59 route and realign the road at Kex Gill.

County Councillor Andrew Backhouse sought reassurance that the same partnership approach to funding the improvements to the four key junctions in Scarborough, approach would be implemented with other district councils for other projects across the county. He also suggested the approach needed communicating better to improve the public's perception. In response, Graham North agreed to provide written confirmation.

Specifically in regard to the A64 improvement works, Graham North confirmed the focus was on the York end of the A64, following a suggestion from County Councillor Tony Randerson that the introduction of dual carriage way all the way to Scarborough would lead to problems unless infrastructure changes were made in the town.

Finally, County Councillor Liz Colling asked for information on the planned phasing of that work, which Graham North agreed to provide in writing.

Resolved – That:

- (i) The update be noted and Graham North thanked for attending.
- (ii) Commuter traffic data used to forecast traffic flows and help identify interventions as part of the east west connectivity study, be circulated to the Committee
- (iii) Information on the planned phasing of the A64 improvement works be circulated to the Committee
- (iv) The Committee receive a future update on the project to implement improvements to four key junctions within Scarborough town centre.

21. Update on Phase 3 Delivery of Superfast Broadband across North Yorkshire

Considered – An overview of the ongoing work to deliver superfast fibre based broadband to the constituency area covered by the committee.

Ian Marr, Project Manager from NYnet Ltd presented the report giving an overview of the previous phases, the costs involved, public contributions per phase, and the number of premises now with superfast broadband across the county.

He also highlighted some of the issues affecting those premises where superfast broadband had yet to be delivered, and the potential for a fourth phase of delivery.

County Councillor Tony Randerson drew attention to a new estate at Eastfield where properties were still awaiting superfast broadband after two years. Ian Marr confirmed that if a developer provided the appropriate infrastructure, Openreach would install superfast broadband for free to any development of more than 30 properties. County Councillor Tony Randerson agreed to provide further information direct so that the issue could be investigated.

County Councillor David Chance gave an example of a village where all but one property now had superfast broadband, and County Council Clive Pearson confirmed that superfast broadband coverage was often intermittent and speeds poor in villages across the North Yorkshire Moors. Ian Marr outlined the process for interventions and confirmed all those types of issues would be scrutinised by NYnet, if reported. He also drew members' attention

to the Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme and the possibility that the scheme might be extended.

County Councillor Andrew Backhouse queried the amount of funding, and Ian Marr confirmed that the cumulative funding total for all phases was £20.5m, but there was potential to extend the contract to £33m subject to additional funding (£12.5m) being secured, along with a satisfactory negotiation with BT to extend the contract.

Finally, in response to a question from County Councillor Eric Broadbent on the long term prospect for Broadband, Ian Marr confirmed that emerging technologies, 4G networks, satellite etc, would lead to changes in delivery going forward, all of which would benefit the challenges faced by those living in the more rural parts of North Yorkshire.

Resolved –

- (i) That the update be noted and Ian Marr thanked for attending.

22. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Draft Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) asking Members to review the draft Work Programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

County Councillor David Chance proposed the Committee should consider and respond to the consultation on Whitby Schools and asked that it be added to the committee's work programme for the meeting in March 2019.

Resolved -

- (i) The draft agenda for the next meeting of the committee on 20 March 2019 be agreed in line with the work programme, with the addition of 'The Consultation on Whitby Schools'.
- (ii) That a draft work programme for the coming municipal year be circulated for the Committee's consideration.

The meeting concluded at 11:45am

MLC