

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 10.30 am at Scarborough dial-a-Ride, 66 Londesborough Road, Scarborough, YO12 5AF

Present:-

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

Officers: Gail Chester (SEND Transport Manager), Cathy Summers (NYCC Commercial Sector Service Development Manager), Karen Atkinson & Paddy Chandler (Stronger Communities Delivery Managers), Matt George (Strategic Planning Officer CYPS), Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny), and Hannah Bowles (Business Support).

Apologies for absence: County Councillors Andrew Backhouse, Eric Broadbent, Roberta Swiers and Callum Walsh.

23. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 12 December 2018

Resolved -

That the Minutes be noted.

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

26. SEND Update

Considered -

The report of the SEND Transport Manager providing an update on the implementation of NYCC's revised Home to School Transport Policy.

Gail Chester, the SEND Transport Manager introduced the report and provided a brief background to the reasons behind the changes and an overview of those changes, as agreed in May 2018.

Members noted:

- The policy now covered young people up to 25yrs old who had an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP)
- Implementation was to be phased over 3yrs

- There had been no resulting impact on NEET
- The increase in parental transport allowance, bringing it in line with neighbouring Local Authorities.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman suggested the cost per mile should be increased automatically in line with future increases in the Councillor travel expense rate.

It was confirmed that there had been no reports of families suffering hardship as a result of the changes, but two families had come forward to say they were considering appealing. However, officers had been able to work with those two families to provide the necessary support thereby mitigating their need for an appeal.

Members requested a further update in one year's time.

Resolved – That:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) A further update be provided in March 2020.

27. Scarborough Park & Ride Consultation

Considered –

A report from NYCC's Commercial Sector Service Development Manager, providing an update on the consultation of options to change the level of service provision of Park & Ride in Scarborough.

The report provided an overview of the existing provision and data on current levels of performance. Members noted the decline in usage and agreed it was timely to review the provision.

Members having considered the options laid out in the report, agreed option 3 was the most appropriate way forward, but raised a number of concerns:

- The proposed annual start date i.e. two Sundays before Easter, was not appropriate as the fluctuation in Easter dates would lead to confusion and it would not allow for taking advantage of early visitors to the town as a result of a spate of good weather in March. With this in mind, Members agreed a specific date needed to be identified and two suggestions were made; the 1st April, or the date when car parking charges start.
- NYCC and Scarborough District Council needed show their commitment to Park & Ride by offering better incentives to encourage usage
- Allowing a minimal number of stops on the route would encourage residents to use it as a service bus and reduce the number of wasteful 'ghost' buses
- The service should run later into the evening in summer, to accommodate visitors attending shows/the open air theatre etc

It was confirmed that as part of the consultation, the views of the Transport, Economy & Environment Overview & Scrutiny would also be sought

Resolved –

That:

- (i) The report be noted
- (ii) Option 3 was the Committee's preferred option, subject to their comments above.
- (iii) An update on the outcome be provided to a later meeting.

28. Update on the Federation of Secondary Schools in Whitby

Considered -

An update on the decision to federate Eskdale School and Caedmon College in Whitby and form a Sixth Form Centre on Scoresby site from September 2019.

The meeting was attended by Andy Fyfe, Head Teacher of Eskdale School; Carolyn Watkinson, Chair of Governors, Eskdale School; Simon Riley, Principal of Caedmon College; and Matt George, NYCC Strategic Planning Officer (CYPS).

Simon Riley introduced the item confirming that:

- Both schools had worked together to build up their level of trust and a shared vision for the future.
- The Federation would be formed in mid July 2019 with one governing body governing both schools.
- Both schools would retain the own DfE number and be inspected separately by OFSTED.
- As from September 2019, the Scoresby site would house the sixth form college - the reconfigured building would provide update classrooms, a resource area, common rooms and a café area.
- Education for all 11 – 16 year olds and alternative provision would be delivered from the Eskdale School site.

Carolyn Watkinson drew attention to the consultation that had be carried out with students to enable them to help shape their own future, and it was noted that the feedback from pupils had been positive and had helped in the design of the new schools.

Andy Fyfe confirmed it had been a really good opportunity for Whitby to create and innovate the way staff were trained and lessons delivered.

Members congratulated the new Head Teachers and governing body on their work to deliver secondary education provision in Whitby, but concern was expressed about the ongoing issues with catchments, particularly for those living in more rural areas. Simon Riley confirmed both schools were aware of the issues and explained the long lead in times required for changing catchment areas as a result of the consultation process required. Carolyn Watkinson confirmed that both the existing governing bodies were aware of all the issues surrounding catchments. She also made a plea for support from Councillors in winning over hearts and minds in the community, as it would be key to tackling some of the entrenched positions.

Resolved –

That:

- (i) The update be noted
- (ii) The attendees be thanked for their contribution

29. Stronger Communities

Considered -

A report of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager for Scarborough district providing an introduction to the work of the Stronger Communities team in supporting partner organisations to delivery voluntary services in the Community.

The report gave an update on the stronger communities programme linked to the Essential Life Skills Programme in the Scarborough and Whitby constituency area, and outlined the projects that had benefited from Essential Life Skills funding.

Members received a presentation on the work of Gallows Close Centre providing improved health and wellbeing outcomes, support for parents and families and engagement with children and young people. Jim Martin, Centre Director, provided an overview of how the Centre started up as a result of a lottery fund 3-year grant of £350K. He also detailed the work of the part time staff and volunteers, and Kendra Davies explained how she had become involved with the Centre, both as a parent and a volunteer.

Members agreed the Centre provided an excellent service to vulnerable people and low income families, giving them a good start in life.

In regard to funding, Members drew attention to the opportunities for accessing financial support from NYCC locality budgets and other local funding opportunities. It was noted that the Stronger Communities Team could provide advice and support to enable voluntary organisations like the Gallows Close Centre to apply for and make the most of additional funding opportunities both regional and national. Karen Atkinson the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager confirmed this would require the gathering of an evidence base of hard data i.e. figures and softer data i.e. evidence of positive impact, to support future funding applications.

A number of members confirmed they had previously contributed to the Centre from their Locality Budget and thanked the Centre for its exemplar work. It was agreed that it would be helpful if a summary of the aggregated learning could be disseminated across the Borough, and if the work of the centre could be replicated elsewhere. It was confirmed there were a number of similar projects across the borough.

Resolved –

That:

- (i) The presentation be noted
- (ii) Jim Martin and Kendra Davies be thanked for their presentation and the Committee's thanks be passed on to all the volunteers.

30. 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.

Members noted the list of possible future venues and agreed that one suitable venue was all that was required in each location. It was agreed that the next meeting be held at The Street in Scarborough and that future meetings be alternated between Scarborough & Whitby, unless there was to be a significant item on the agenda specific to one of those locations, in which case that meeting to take place in that location.

Resolved -

That the Democracy Officer update the work programme to reflect the decisions made during the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12pm
MLC