

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 10.30 am at Seachange Community Trust (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), Roberta Swiers, Tony Randerson and Callum Walsh.

In Attendance: County Councillor Carl Les and NYP Inspector Jon Grainge

Officers: Andrew Dixon - Strategic Planning Manager; Jen Cave - Principal Adviser; Carol-Ann Howe - Head of Inclusion Support Services; Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny) and Hannah Bowles (Business Support).

Apologies for Absence: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Andrew Backhouse and David Jeffels

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

31. Appointment of Chairman

On being nominated and seconded, it was

Resolved -

That County Councillor Joe Plant be elected Chairman of the Scarborough & Whitby Area Constituency Committee, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2020.

County Councillor Thompson in the Chair

32. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 20 March 2019

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 20 March 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved –

That County Councillor Clive Pearson be elected Vice Chairman of the Scarborough & Whitby Area Constituency Committee to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2020.

34. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

36. Rural Policing Update

Considered -

A presentation provided by Inspector Jon Grainge, head of the Rural Taskforce Unit of North Yorkshire Police.

Inspector Jon Grainge provided an overview of the make-up and role of the Taskforce Unit, part of a proactive policing team serving North Yorkshire.

The presentation detailed the four key strands of the Rural Policing Strategy – Prevention, Engagement, Enforcement and Support for Rural Communities.

The Committee learned prevention was predominately the work of the PCSOs and that there were a number of ongoing operations focussed on farms, rural businesses and metal theft. They were also made aware of 'Mobile Rural Watch' which involved community members going on active patrol with the Police and volunteers acting as the eyes and ears of the Police, identifying suspicious vehicles etc. It was confirmed there were currently 18 such schemes in place across the county, all going from strength to strength. Community intelligence was being used to help identify extremism, rural based modern slavery and other vulnerable people in communities. Members agreed the challenge was to ensure a lasting legacy beyond the involvement of specific individuals or groups.

In regards to engagement, Members were pleased to note that all media avenues were being utilised, including social media, and in particular WhatsApp, which was enabling the Taskforce to tap into community group communication and carry out a graded assessment of the incoming data. This was seen as a supplement to 999 and 101 communications, not a replacement.

In regards to enforcement it was noted that Rural Taskforce Unit was able to access further support from other policing teams as and when needed, enabling considerable resources to be focussed on the needs of a rural community to help combat the perception that there was a lack of focus of rural areas, which historically had led to an under reporting of crimes.

Members noted the ongoing operations focussed on rural burglaries, farm burglaries and fly tipping, which for the latter involved working in partnership with Trading Standards, DVSA, DVLA and Local Authorities.

It was confirmed that wildlife crime was not a significant issue in the Scarborough and Whitby constituency area, although there had been some instances of deer poaching.

County Councillor Joe Plant thanked Inspector Jon Grainge for his attendance and it was

Resolved – That:

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

37. Schools Educational Achievement & Finance

Considered –

A report from officers from NYCC's Children & Young People's Directorate

The report provided an overview of local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges affecting schools in the Scarborough & Whitby constituency area.

Members noted the overview of the area including the standard and attainment levels across the area. County Councillor Liz Colling drew attention to improvements achieved as a result of the North Yorkshire Opportunities Area Funding due to end in 2020, and questioned what the legacy of that funding would be. It was noted that there had been a 6% improvement in phonics in pre-school early years which was improving school readiness, and that the learning from that focussed work was being shared with other areas.

Having considered the data on exclusion, County Councillor Eric Broadbent expressed concern about the loss of teaching support staff and its effect on exclusion rates. However it was noted that teaching assistants were not necessarily working with the most challenging of pupils i.e. those in danger of being excluded. County Councillor David Chance hoped there would be a gradual down turn in exclusions rates as a result of a change in ethos and suggested there might be small funding pots available to address specific locality issues.

Officers confirmed the focus was on supporting schools to do the best they could with the resources they had. In particular, working to address the social and emotional health of those pupils in danger of being excluded, and working with those schools with a higher number of excluded pupils.

County Councillor Joe Plant expressed thanks for the work that had led to the federation of two 11-16 institutions in Whitby, and questioned whether there was a strategic plan for primary schools in the Whitby area, particularly those in rural parts of the Whitby area.

It was noted that nine rural primary schools had closed across North Yorkshire due to falling numbers and the lack of a recovery plan. It was suggested that rural schools needed to look for opportunities for increased collaboration and possible federation in order to remain sustainable going forward. Officers confirmed that the Local Authority was encouraging discussions between Chairs of Governors in the Whitby area and that an event was planned for July 2019 to bring them together.

County Councillor Janet Jefferson welcomed the report and confirmed the Children & Young Peoples' Overview & Scrutiny Committee were aware of all of the issues, in particular the issue of sustainability, and were keeping a watching brief. She also noted that closing the gap was a key issue for schools in coastal areas due to the transient nature of their pupils.

County Councillor Tony Randerson expressed concern about the delay in providing a new school in the Eastfield area as it was putting an extra strain on existing schools. The AD

confirmed the previous procurement exercise had failed and that re-tendering was due to start again.

Finally County Councillor Joe Plant acknowledged that many of the issues raised were specific to the coastal area and were making it harder to improve/maintain schools in the area. He also expressed the importance of a Finance Officer attending when such an update report was presented in the future.

Resolved –

That:

- (i) The report be noted
- (ii) An annual update be provided as from September 2020.

38. NYCC Digital Strategy

In the absence of the Assistant Director Technology & Change, the Committee agreed to defer the item until their next meeting on 25 September 2019.

39. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Work Programme

Considered -

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

Members noted that the meeting date in September 2019 was likely to change to accommodate the attendance of the local MP. The Democracy Officer confirmed an alternative date would be sought once the MP had confirmed his availability.

In regard to the MP's attendance, Member agreed the following topics for discussion:

- Opportunity Area Funding
- Education Funding
- A64
- The future of Scarborough's industrial area.

Finally, the Chair acknowledged County Councillor Tony Randerson's concern that the hearing loop had not worked throughout the meeting and requested that the issue be addressed to ensure it did not happen again.

Resolved -

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

The meeting concluded at 12:15pm
MLC