

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 10.30 am at Seachange Community Trust (The Street), 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough, YO12 7PW

Present:-

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

In Attendance: and County Councillor Carl Les

Officers: Robert Ling – Assistant Director Technology & Change; Richard Marr – Highways Manager for Areas 1 & 3; Helen Watson – Highways Improvement Manager; Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny) and Hannah Bowles (Business Support).

Apologies for Absence: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Eric Broadbent and Callum Walsh.
Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

40. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 19 June 2019

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 19 June 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

41. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

42. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

43. Attendance of Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting due to parliament being recalled.

Resolved – That an additional meeting be arranged for the MP to attend in November 2019

44. NYCC Digital Strategy

Considered –

A presentation from the Assistant Director – Technology & Change, on North Yorkshire County Council's Digital Strategy.

Robert Ling confirmed the Strategy was from North Yorkshire not just NYCC and highlighted a number of key points raised in the presentation i.e.:

- The Digital Strategy was based on five key blocks which all interplayed together.
- The Strategy would only be achieved through joint working with partners and the sharing of data.
- Digital technology could be used to support communities and enable people to live independently in their own home - The work being done in Sleights by Technology and Change, Health and Adult Services and the Stronger Communities Team had demonstrated what could be achieved with the introduction of relatively cheap, simple and widely available technologies NYCC and its partners needed to continue to enable people to exploit the opportunities that new digital technologies provided.
- Investment in digital skills was low locally, regionally and nationally, and could be addressed. However, there were opportunities to invest more time, money and effort in predictive technologies and into research and innovation more generally.
- The third sector had a key role to play in driving innovation but their role needed to be recognised and the sector supported
- There were great opportunities to use data to predict demand and target investment and activity. However, there were ethical issues relating to the management and use of data that needed to be addressed
- More services were being provided digitally and in a way that made previously bureaucratic administrative processes simpler and easier to access and use

Robert Ling drew attention to the key actions identified in order to achieve the vision detailed in the Strategy, and in regard to the Strategy principles, it was noted that

- The Blue Badge scheme was a good example of how service delivery had been improved through research and innovation.
- Security needed to be ensured without reducing the quality of the user experience
- Digital by default did not mean digital only.
- The emphasis was firmly upon human-centred design and enabling people.

The Chairman, County Councillor Joe Plant, thanked Robert Ling for the presentation and then invited committee members to comment.

County Councillor David Jeffels asked if there was a role for Members to bring together NYCC with community members to help drive the Blue Badge scheme forward.

County Councillor Clive Pearson asked that those residents living in more rural areas where there was no broadband and therefore no digital access to services not be forgotten.

County Councillor Liz Colling queried how much of the ambitions were predicated on 5G.

In response, Robert Ling said that developments in technology, changes in government policy and changing commercial opportunities would all help increase the coverage towards 95%. However, there was a balance to be achieved in the cost of provision, against the benefits to service delivery. He confirmed there was a need to look at alternative ways of delivering access and that it was not dependent on 5G as a lot could be achieved without it.

Resolved –

That the update be noted.

45. Scarborough Junctions Upgrade

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Business & Environmental Services, providing an update on the need for, and progress of the construction phase of four junction improvements in Scarborough.

Richard Marr - Highways Manager, introduced the report detailing:

- The impact on the local infrastructure resulting from the significant levels of housing and economic growth across Scarborough, in particular its impact on roads and junctions.
- The scheme changes required to address the impact upon surrounding junctions in order to provide a more effective solution.
- The completion of the works to the first junction in July 2019, and the current intentions for the remaining three junctions, as shown on the maps provided.
- The consultation events undertaken to date and the future consultation event planned.

The Chairman, County Councillor Joe Plant, thanked Richard Marr for his update and invited committee members to comment.

County Councillor Liz Colling confirmed that some residents had little or no understanding of the projected growth and asked that officer provide a clearer narrative on that as part of the ongoing/planned consultations. Officers confirmed it would be possible to provide traffic flow data from 2017 and expected traffic flow data for 2032 to help residents visualise the expected growth.

It was noted that the funding for the works was based on improving through traffic to support future growth, not to aid pedestrian traffic. However, Members queried a number of the plan layouts provided, the use of traffic signals, the positioning of bus stops etc, and pointed out a number of examples of where a pedestrian crossing might be better placed to achieve safer crossing routes, particularly near schools, without affecting the overall schemes.

They went on to ask that the following be considered:

- Appropriate replacement of those trees removed to enable the junction improvements – it was suggested that the National Tree Planting Champion who was based in North Yorkshire, may be able to supply some additional trees free of charge
- Any new traffic lights installed to be integrated properly with other sets of traffic lights in the vicinity – members gave a number of examples where this did not appear to be working effectively at present across Scarborough
- The appropriateness of the street lighting around the new junctions
- An additional crossing and bus layby at the junction near the 6th Form, and/or the possibility of an additional bus stop at the other side of the junction to reduce the number of crossings required by students.
- The number of traffic lights across the town centre which had been added ad-hoc over the years and the need for a holistic review of whether all those sets of lights were necessary

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– members expressed concern that in various places the lights were not working together and therefore were preventing an appropriate flow of traffic.

In response to the issues raised, Officers confirmed the following:

- The only trees to be removed as part of the junction improvement works were those that fell within sight lines or were damaging the infrastructure. For every one removed, two would be planted, but additional trees could be looked at.
- The issues raised around street lighting would be passed to street lighting colleagues.
- Traffic light signal heads could be added to the drawings and explained at the consultation events to give clarity on where they were to be installed as part of the junction improvement works.
- The suggestion of additional crossings and a bus layby could be priced up but it was confirmed that there was a limit to the funding available for the works.
- It would be possible to talk to schools and bus operators to check the appropriateness of stopping points.
- Traffic lights by their nature made junctions more efficient and where a fault occurs the system alerts the traffic signals team. However, the issues raised around traffic signals would be passed to the traffic signals team for their consideration.

County Councillor Roberta Swiers confirmed she agreed with the plans for lighting and other safety measures at the updated junctions, as pedestrian safety was paramount.

The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and it was

Resolved – That:

- (i) The update be noted
- (ii) A further update be provided to a future meeting of the Committee

47. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Work Programme 2019/20

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 the areas of focus identified by the other Area Constituency Committees and the work programmes of the County Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Specifically, in regard to their requested update on Scarborough & Whitby Hospitals scheduled for their next formal meeting in December 2019, Members noted their invite to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny of Health Committee on 13 December 2019 at which Simon Cox from North Yorkshire CCG would provide a comprehensive update on the East Coast Review, including key milestones and timelines; access to capital funding; and any specific proposals for changes to services.

A number of members confirmed their intention to attend the Scrutiny of Health meeting and with that in mind, they agreed to limit their requested update at their December meeting to an

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update on Whitby Hospital only. In addition, it was agreed the agenda for the committee's December meeting should also include:

- An update on Life Expectancy across the constituency area.
- Attendance of a representative of Yorkshire Water to provide an update on their environmental performance, following the findings of the Environment Agency published July 2019
- An update on cybercrime and scams, and the actions taken by Trading Standards to address them.

Finally, Members confirmed their wish to invite the Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP to an additional meeting of the Area Constituency Committee in November 2019. The Scrutiny Officer agreed to identify an appropriate date based on the MP's availability.

Resolved -

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

The meeting concluded at 11:55am

MLC

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