

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 10.30 am at Seachange Community Trust (The Street), 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough, YO12 7PW

Present:-

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

Officers: Gary Fielding (Corporate Director –Strategic Resources), Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health), James McCluskey (NYCC Trading Standards Officer), Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny) and Luke MacIntosh (Business Support).

Also Present: Paul Carter, Yorkshire Water - Head of Corporate Affairs

Apologies for Absence: County Councillor Callum Walsh

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

48. Minutes of the meeting of the Scarborough & Whitby Area Committee held on 25 September 2019

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

49. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

51. Update on Yorkshire Water's Environmental Performance

Members received a presentation from Paul Carter, Yorkshire Water's Head of Corporate Affairs on Yorkshire Water's environmental performance following the Environment Agency's

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last Assessment in 2018 which showed a drop in the Company's performance rating. The presentation confirmed the Company had previously been assessed as good from 2015-2018 with a three-star rating, but had dropped to two stars in 2018 as a result of its poor performance on serious pollution incidents.

Paul Carter detailed the Company's response i.e. entering into a formal escalation for pollution, and the measures taken to mitigate and improve performance e.g.

- Improving their ability to predict and proactively prevent pollution incidents through the installation of monitors in high risk pollution locations;
- Improving the maintenance of pumping stations
- Improving its marketing and communications to raise awareness of the impact of blockages caused by unsuitable materials entering the sewer network;

Whilst Members noted the additional £50m spent on improvement measures, they raised a number of concerns around Yorkshire Water's unfulfilled commitment to improve the quality of bathing water, the effect of new builds on the sewer network, and the lack of Yorkshire Water input on planning applications.

In regard to the quality of bathing water, Paul Carter confirmed that the analysis of samples took place over a four-year period. Whilst the more recent samples had shown a sufficient /good standard, the previous three years were still affecting the average rating. He also confirmed the aging network was struggling with extreme weather events but the Company now had a better understanding of what was happening at key points in the network, and was working to keep rainfall out of the network. In addition, he confirmed:

- Yorkshire Water was not a statutory consultee on planning applications but did have a good working relationship with Planning Departments
- House builders must provide water storage on new housing developments to ensure they do not contribute additional surface water to the network
- 90% Of blockages are caused by non-bio-degradable wet wipes entering the network – Manufacturers were starting to look at improved labelling etc
- Performance had improved in 2019 - the Company met its target of being in the top 25% of Water Companies
- Future challenging targets had been set with the aim of being assessed as a 4* Company

Finally, in response to a member's question about Yorkshire Water ability to trade water, it was confirmed that the national infrastructure required did not currently exist to move water right across the country, but that Yorkshire Water was able to do so with some of its neighbouring water companies.

Members thanked Paul carter for his attendance and it was:

Resolved – That:

- i. The update be noted
- ii. That a further update on the ongoing improvement works be provided in six months, with an annual performance update provided thereafter.

52. Life Expectancy Update

Considered –

A presentation from the Director of Public Health on life expectancy across the constituency area and the contributing factors.

Lincoln Sargeant introduced the report which provided a breakdown of life expectancy data by wards across the constituency area, in line with area of deprivation.

Members noted the variations in life expectancy detailed in the report and the widening gap between Scarborough life expectancy rates and those in both North Yorkshire and England, and expressed concern that local people were not benefitting from gains in health and wellbeing to the same extent as those elsewhere.

Lincoln Sargeant confirmed the Annual Public Health Report for 2019:

- Examined the reasons for that gap e.g. cancers, cardio vascular and respiratory diseases
- Highlighted the four health behaviours that if intervened on, could make a significant difference i.e. smoking, obesity, excess alcohol and sedentary behaviours
- Made recommendations to tackle poverty - a background factor to the four health behaviours

Whilst it was confirmed there was a lot of positive work ongoing across the constituency area to help tackle the four health behaviours, Members agreed that relying on education to persuade people from engaging in them was not sufficient, and that it would require some structural change like the banning of smoking in public buildings to achieve and maintain a sustained reduction.

Finally, Members acknowledged other factors affecting life expectancy e.g. a good education, the quality of housing and job opportunities, and were pleased to note that work was ongoing with Scarborough Borough Council to lead on a strategic approach to tackling the range of factors affecting life expectancy across the area.

Members thanked Lincoln Sargeant for his report and it was

Resolved – That the update be noted.

53. Trading Standards Update

Considered –

A presentation on the work of Trading Standards to prevent and protect residents from scams and eCrimes.

James McCluskey - Trading Standards Officer, provided a detailed overview of the types of scams and eCrimes being perpetrated across the constituency area which included consumer and retail fraud, subscription traps, advanced fee fraud and phishing, the scale and impact of which had increased nationally as a result of the use of IT.

Members noted there had been 67 reported cases in the constituency area between April 2018 and December 2019, and questioned the ease at which residents could report such crimes.

James McCluskey confirmed there was a national consumer helpline providing a clear mechanism for reporting. He also confirmed work was ongoing to gather intelligence, identify those involved and work with communities to educate residents, and provided examples of enforcement.

Members were encouraged to help with protecting residents in their areas through education and to support those effected.

The Chair thanked James McCluskey for his attendance and it was

Resolved – That the update be noted

54. Annual Budget Update

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director for Strategic Resources gave a presentation on NYCC's latest financial position, and the ongoing savings requirement and plan. He highlighted:

- The £212m Savings Plan
- The £62m cumulative temporary funding confirmed for 20/21, with future years still to be confirmed
- The planned areas of investment
- The shortfall in Directorate savings of £18.8m
- The planned use of Reserves
- The proposed increase in Council Tax of 3.99% in 2020/21

He went on to focus on the unrelenting demand led pressures in Adult Social Care and Children's Services, and highlighted the specific issues affecting the Scarborough & Whitby constituency area e.g.

- New Inclusion locality hub model reflecting SEND multi-disciplinary teams
- New Scarborough, Whitby, Filey & Ryedale locality board comprising Headteacher representation for school improvement and SEND
- Continued transformation of PRS
- Implementation of new targeted provision (from Sept 20)
- Maintained nursery school supplementary funding
- Transport – policy changes (free and nearer, pick-up from curtilage of the road) + review of solo travellers + independent travel training
- Impact of PSVAR
- Review of Young People's Accommodation Pathway (Oct 21)
- The limited availability of Health & Adult Social Care, particularly in the more rural areas
- The increasing challenge of finding providers willing to accept NYCC's approved rates – currently 36% did not accept NYCC fee rates

Members noted the number of schools in financial difficulties across the area (13%) and the expected increase in the number of schools by March 2022 (53%). They expressed concern that schools might need to look at a programme of redundancies if no additional funding was provided, and agreed the national formula worked less well for schools in rural areas. They acknowledged that schools needed to better understand their financial position and work to identify ways of addressing it.

In regard to HAS, they acknowledged it was a low paid sector which made recruitment and retention more difficult, which again the rural environment did not help. They agreed that stimulating the market would give people more choice and agreed a long term national solution was required.

Resolved – That the presentation and update be noted.

55. Cycle Strategy Update

Members received a written update on the County Council's approach to cycle path network. As there were no officers present to answer questions, Members were asked to submit them via the Democracy Officer, outside of the formal meeting.

56. 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 local MP had yet to attend and the Scrutiny Officer agreed to identify an appropriate meeting date in March, 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 12:50pm

MLC