

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 10.30 am via Skype

**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

Officers: Richard Marr (Highways Area Manager); Helen Watson (Highways & Transport Improvement Manager); Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager); Howard Emmett (AD Strategic Resources); Jane le Sage(AD Inclusion); Julie Pattison (Senior Educational Advisor); Sally Dunn (Head of Finance, Schools & Early Years); Joy Willis (Principal Advisor, CYPS); Melanie Carr (Democratic Service & Scrutiny); Daniel Harry (Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager) and David Edwardes (IT Support).

Also Present: County Councillors Carl Les & Gareth Dadd; Inspector Matt Hagen & PC Rory Sadler - North Yorkshire Police; Alex Richards - Scarborough Borough Council; Andrew Santon - Highways England.

Apologies for Absence: County Councillors Andrew Broadbent & Roberta Swiers.

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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**57. Minutes of the meeting of the Scarborough & Whitby Area Committee held on 15 January 2020**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**58. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**59. Public Questions or Statements**

There were no public questions or statements.

## 60. Rural Policing Update

Considered - A presentation from Inspector Matt Hagen & PC Rory Sadler of North Yorkshire Police (NYP) on the work of the Rural Taskforce, which highlighted the current issues within the Scarborough and Whitby constituency area and provided a breakdown of the statistics for the different types of crime recorded.

PC Rory Sadler provided a detailed overview of the North Yorkshire Police's ongoing Operations – Checkpoint and Figaro.

It was confirmed that Operation Checkpoint was intelligence led, focussed on tackling cross-border criminality, and jointly run by forces across the north of England. It was noted that:

- The Scarborough & Whitby constituency area was at the lower end of rural crime figures compared to other areas across North Yorkshire.
- Poaching season had now started leading to an increase in the number of reports of damage to crops and gates, and harassment of land owners.
- Opportunistic crime was commonplace.
- Theft of power tools and quad bikes regularly reported

In regard to Operation Figaro, NYP's civil action approach to poaching i.e. the issuing of community protection warnings and Notices, Members noted that a lack of compliance with the associated conditions would result in criminal charges and Criminal Behaviour Orders being made – the equivalent of an Anti-social Behaviour Order.

PC Rory Sadler went on to provide an overview of NYP's Rural Watch Scheme, facilitated through social media, allowing rural communities to contact and receive feedback from NYP to report suspicious behaviour in their communities. Members agreed that rural communities were often hard to reach communities and therefore welcomed the use of WhatsApp as a way of keeping in touch with the Police and enabling communities to work together to prevent crime in their localities.

County Councillor David Jeffels queried whether the older Countryside Watch schemes and Farm Watch Schemes were still running, and it was confirmed there were still approximately 25 countryside watch schemes, but in many areas, a WhatsApp group was replacing them.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman questioned whether hare coursing suspects were likely to take note of a Community Protection Warning/ Notice, and it was confirmed that many do go on to re-offend. It was noted that the final outcome for repeat offenders was a Criminal Behaviour Order, being barred from the county and the confiscation of their vehicle, equipment and dog.

In regard to Raptor Persecution – Operation Owl, it was confirmed that North Yorkshire was the worst hit county for that type of crime, with an increasing number of calls being received by NYP. Inspector Matt Hagen stressed it was particularly prevalent in the Scarborough & Whitby constituency area. It was noted that forensic evidence was often required to successfully prosecute offenders and therefore specialist wildlife crime officers were involved.

In regard to Operation Seabird, PC Rory Sadler confirmed that a number of partner organisations were working with the Police to protect seabird colonies and sea life e.g. the RNLI, the RSPCA and Humberside Police Marine Unit. In response to a query raised by

County Councillor Derek Bastiman, regarding the policing of the use of jet skis, Inspector Matt Hagan agreed to provide the details of a contact at Humberside Police.

Members acknowledged the problems with getting farmers and landowners to come forward and give evidence, and provided feedback from their local Rural Watch, some of whom were unable to get out as often as they would like, as a Police officer was not always available to go out with them. It was noted that PCSOs did not have the power to stop and investigate vehicles acting suspiciously.

Members thanked Inspector Matt Hagen and PC Rory Sadler for their attendance and it was:

### **Resolved –**

That the presentation be noted.

## **61. Update on National Town Deal Project for Scarborough & Whitby**

Considered – A presentation from Alex Richards, Scarborough District Council's Economic Development Manager on the Town Deal for Scarborough & Whitby, which provided an overview of the ambitions for both towns, the physical transformation schemes being proposed as part of the bid for both towns, and the steps taken to date in the lead up to the bid submission.

The presentation also provided a detailed breakdown of the public stakeholder consultation undertaken, and the associated cost and expected benefits for each proposed scheme.

Members were pleased to note:

- The level of public engagement in the consultation - 500+ written contributions for Whitby and 700+ for Scarborough – which helped generate and inform the proposed schemes
- The additional Government funding for a number of fast track projects / quick wins - £7K for Scarborough and £5K for Whitby;
- The progress made with developing the Masterplan Framework;

Whilst members were in favour of the proposed schemes for Whitby, concern was expressed by some about the impact of increased traffic and impeded traffic flow on other areas of town, because of the proposed pedestrianisation of Whitby Bridge. They questioned whether it would improve the economy of the town and suggested further thought should be given to the accessibility of the taxi rank near the harbour, the turning spaces for buses etc, and the knock on effects on parking in the outskirts of town, which was already a problem.

County Councillor Liz Colling went on to query the planned improved access to free wifi. In particular, the security of that access and its ongoing maintenance. She was also unconvinced by the proposed Broomfield carbon neutral self-build housing scheme. querying its value to anyone other than those few house owners.

In response, officers confirmed:

- The free Wi-Fi would provide public access to council and other public service providers through a system that supported a whole host of other activities that generated additional bandwidth revenue.
- Green skills education and training would be delivered by the self-build scheme through a partnership with Scarborough's Construction Skills Village.

In regard to Scarborough's LCWIP, it was noted that the four strategic corridors proposed as part of the Town Deal would be a significant investment in the area (£6m), providing 16km of quality dedicated cycleways and supporting cycle infrastructure.

Members thanked Alex Richards and NYCC officers for their update and it was

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

## 62. Schools Educational Achievement & Finance

**Resolved** – That the update on the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges affecting schools in the Scarborough & Whitby constituency committee area be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on 6 November 2020.

## 63. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Work Programme 2020/21

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.

County Councillor Andrew Jenkinson requested an update on the Crown Tavern roundabout in Scarborough be added to the agenda for the next meeting in November 2020.

**Resolved -**

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

The meeting concluded at 12:50pm

MLC