

North Yorkshire County Council

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 July 2013

Work Programme

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Confirm, amend or add to the areas of work shown on the work programme schedule (attached at Annex A).

2 Background

2.1 The scope of this Committee is defined as:

'Transport and communications infrastructure of all kinds, however owned or provided, and how the transport needs of the community are met.'

'Supporting business, helping people develop their skills, including lifelong learning.'

'Sustainable development, climate change strategy, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and enhancement flooding and cultural issues.'

3 Mid Cycle Briefing – 7 June 2013

3.1 The Mid Cycle Briefing is an opportunity for the lead Members of the Committee (Group Spokespersons) to have informal discussions around the work programme. Attached at Annex B is a briefing note that gives more information on this.

3.2 At the Mid Cycle Briefing held on 7 June, the Group Spokespersons reviewed the committee's work over the last four years and looked at the current and emerging issues, some of which include:

- further budget savings;
- the condition of the highway network;
- the future of passenger/community transport in North Yorkshire;
- the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership, in particular its five year Growth Strategy;
- the opportunities offered by next year's visit to the county of the Tour de France; and
- waste strategy/waste treatment.

3.3 At the Mid Cycle Briefing Group Spokespersons also discussed correspondence from a member of the public expressing concern about the bus subsidy given to a commercial operator for providing a bus service to serve Follifoot and Rudding

Park as part of the Harrogate to Leeds 770 bus service. Richard Owens, Assistant Director for Integrated Passenger Transport attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Council's current policy with regards to bus subsidy. Arising from this, Group Spokespersons felt that rather than concentrate upon a single local issue there should be a wider discussion on the bus strategy and the bus subsidy provided to commercially-run operators. This dovetails well with the fact that the County Council plans to produce a revised Bus Strategy early next year, which will link to the public transport subsidy that the Council provides to operators, with a possible reduction in subsidy as detailed below. The draft strategy is expected to be presented to the Committee in either January or April next year.

4 Revenue Budget/Medium Term Financial Strategy

- 4.1 In response to further budget savings needing to be made, arising in part from the Government's recent 2015/16 Spending Review announcement, the Executive at its meeting on 9 July will be considering a range of budget savings proposals to put forward to the County Council on 24 July. This will include a proposal to recommend to the County Council that a consultation exercise be undertaken on reducing the public transport subsidy by £1.1m. The consultation exercise would commence in August, and subject to the results of the review, the changes would come into effect from April 2014.
- 4.2 At the same meeting the Executive is also due to consider a proposal to recommend to the County Council that a consultation exercise be undertaken on charging at household waste recycling centres for certain types of waste. The consultation would be for a period of three months and would commence as soon as practicable. Subject to the results of the consultation the changes would be introduced as soon as possible in 2014/15.
- 4.3 The Executive will also be asked to consider a proposal to recommend to the County Council that a consultation exercise be undertaken on reducing the discretionary cost of post-16 transport to schools and colleges. The consultation would be aligned with the consultation exercise on the public transport subsidy. The changes relating to post-16 transport would be phased in from September 2014 onwards subject to the results of the consultation.

5 Mineral and Waste Development Framework Members Working Group (MWDFMG)

- 5.1 The purpose of the MWDFMWG is to discuss issues relevant to the development of new planning policy for minerals and waste for those parts of the County outside the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks. It also provides the opportunity for Members to provide informal direction to officers on the development of new policy for minerals and waste.
- 5.2 The terms of reference state that the group consists of seven Members, with each Member representing one district, and that the membership is politically balanced. Historically the core membership of the group has been from the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However due to the fact that the current Committee does not include a County Councillor with a division in Ryedale district, Group Spokespersons have been consulted on their party's membership of the MWDFMWG.

5.3 The membership of the working group has been confirmed as follows:

- Craven: Cllr Richard Welch (Cons)
- Hambleton: Cllr Robert Baker (Cons)
- Harrogate: Cllr Peter Horton (NY Inddept)
- Richmondshire: Cllr Michael Heseltine (Cons)
- Ryedale: Elizabeth Shields (Lib Dem)
- Scarborough: Cllr David Jeffels (Cons)
- Selby: Cllr Robert Packham (Lab)

5.4 The working group usually meets four times a year and the first meeting will be held in early Autumn to discuss the draft Minerals and Waste Plan before it goes to the Executive. Notes of all the meetings will be appended to the Committee's Work programme report

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Approve, comment or add to the areas of work listed on the Work Programme schedule

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Date: 4 July 2013

Background Documents: None

Annex: Annex A – Work Programme
Annex B – Note on mid cycle briefings

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2013 / 14

Scope

‘Transport and communications infrastructure of all kinds, however owned or provided, and how the transport needs of the community are met.

Supporting business, helping people develop their skills, including lifelong learning.

Sustainable development, climate change strategy, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and enhancement flooding and cultural issues.’

Meeting dates

Scheduled Committee Meetings Agenda briefings to be held immediately prior to Committee meeting. Attended by Lead Members of Committee.	17 July 2013 10am	30 October 2013 10am	22 January 2014 10am	16 April 2014 10am
Scheduled Mid Cycle Attended by Lead Members of Committee.	17 September 2013 10am	19 December 2013 10am	19 March 2014 10am	14 May 2014 10am

Overview Reports

Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Action/By Whom
Consultation, progress and performance monitoring reports			
Each meeting as available	Corporate Director and / or Executive Member update	Regular update report as available each meeting	David Bowe/Executive Members

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Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Action/By Whom
17 July 2013	Ringway	Report on actions being put in place by the highways maintenance & highways improvement contractor (Ringway) to improve performance and communications	Chris Connor (Ringway)/Barrie Mason
	Flood Risk Management Strategy	Update	Mark Young
	Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme	Update on the phased rollout of the programme across North Yorkshire	Paul Gilmore
30 October 2013	Economic Development – Part 2	Economic Development (Skills & Apprenticeships)	Jane Venn/Emily Wren
	Tour de France	Report on the arrangements of the North Yorkshire stage of the Tour de France	Gary Verity (Welcome to Yorkshire)
	Five Year Growth Strategy	Report on the York and North Yorkshire & East Riding Partnership's emerging Five Year Growth Strategy in response to the Local Growth Fund	James Farrar
	Winter Maintenance	Regular annual update	Mike Roberts
Items where dates have yet to be confirmed	Community Transport funding <i>(late 2013 or early 2014)</i>	Discussion paper on the future of community transport funding in North Yorkshire	John Laking
	Temporary Vehicle Activated Signs <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	Feedback on the review to consider how the use of temporary vehicle activated signs has worked following the Committee's scrutiny review in September 2012	Allan McVeigh
	Airport Consultative Committee <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	Annual report by the County Council's representatives on: Leeds/Bradford International Airport (Cllr Trotter) Durham and Tees Valley Airport (Cllr Jeffels) Robin Hood Airport (Cllr Pearson)	County Councillors David Jeffels, Cliff Trotter and Chris Pearson

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Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Action/By Whom
Items where dates have yet to be confirmed	Local Transport Plan – mid-term review	To discuss and comment upon the areas to be reviewed	Andrew Bainbridge
	Improving habitats for biodiversity <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	Progress report on pilot schemes in North Yorkshire schools/tenant farms	Matt Millington
	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update report on performance against the action plan • ‘Small Steps Big Difference’ – NYCC internal environmental campaign 	Anton Hodge/Neil Irving
	Highways Agency <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	Regular annual update	Roger Wantling
	Bus Strategy <i>(22 January or 16 April 2014)</i>	To receive the revised draft Bus Strategy and details about the bus subsidy following the consultation exercise	Richard Owens
	Local Nature Partnership for North Yorkshire & York <i>(16 April 2014 or later)</i>	Update on progress	Ian Fielding
	The use and management of Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads (UUR) <i>(16 April 2014 or later)</i>	Feedback from pilot schemes	Doug Huzzard
	Economic Development <i>(16 April 2014 or later)</i>	Regular update	James Farrar
Member working groups			
	Working group on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework <i>(First meeting to be held in mid-September 2014)</i>	To contribute to the preparation of new spatial planning policies for minerals and waste.	Rob Smith/Jonathan Spencer
Possible future overview reports and presentations from external partner organisations			
	Finance Yorkshire	Finance Yorkshire offers ‘seed corn’ finance, business loans and equity-linked finance for businesses in or relocating to the Yorkshire and Humber region.	

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Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Action/By Whom
	Rail services	To give an update on current and planned rail services affecting North Yorkshire. Feedback from Rail User Group	Rail operating companies Rail User Group
	Promoting access to our heritage	To give an overview and promote discussion	English Heritage

In-depth Scrutiny Projects/Reviews

Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Action/By Whom	Timescales

Please note that this is a working document, therefore topics and timeframes might need to be amended over the course of the year.

North Yorkshire County Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Mid Cycle Briefings

What is a mid cycle briefing?

The mid cycle briefing is a meeting of the lead Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee mid way between two Committee meetings.

Who attends the mid cycle briefing?

The mid cycle briefing is attended by:

- the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Group Spokesperson(s)
- As part of a Members mentoring programme the 'Shadow' for the Chairman may also attend

In effect, although the meetings are non political, this means that each of the parties are represented.

- The Chairman may invite the rest of the committee membership to the mid cycle briefing if this is required or thought helpful.
- The Corporate Development Officer who supports the Committee
- NYCC Officers / Executive Members and/or external experts / partner agencies are there by invitation as required.

Whenever possible, to reduce travelling, attendance at the briefing may be via video conferencing.

Is the mid cycle briefing a public meeting?

No. It is not open to the public.

What is the purpose of the mid cycle briefing?

The mid cycle briefing is basically a planning and horizon scanning meeting. It provides an opportunity for the lead Members to:

- Review the Committee future work programme and suggest topics / agenda items for consideration by the Committee
- Have an informal discussion with Officers and Executive Members on matters of particular interest within the scope of the Committee. The items may not be on the current Committee work programme.
- To have an informal discussion with partner agencies / external experts on matters within the scope of the Committee
- To be briefed on upcoming emerging issues

What is the impact of the mid cycle briefing?

Matters discussed at the mid cycle briefing can lead to:

- Items being put forward for consideration by the Committee to be placed on the future work programme
- Better informed lead Members
- Lead members views being taken into consideration by NYCC officers / Executive / partner agencies / external experts
- Potential issues being resolved

Does the briefing have an agenda?

There are no formal rules on sending out papers as there are for committee meetings, but there is an agenda with background papers as required. This is usually emailed out a week before the meeting. Unless there are particularly large documents that Members might prefer in paper format.

Are Members eligible to claim expenses?

Yes. Members are able to claim expenses for attendance at this briefing

Is the briefing minuted?

Brief notes and action points are usually taken of the meeting.

Is the briefing diaried?

The briefing dates are published annually within the County Council diary. This is also helpful if an additional Committee meeting is required as the date can often be used.

Is the wider Committee informed of the outcome of the mid cycle briefing?

The wider Committee is kept informed through the regular Committee work programme report written by the Corporate Development Officer. This includes any potential items for the work programme.