

## North Yorkshire County Council

## Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 October 2019

## 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 in the work programme schedule (**Appendix 1**).
- c. Approve the draft scope of the Single-use Plastics Review (**Appendix 2**).

**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 Updates – 20 mph speed limit policy task group**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 17 July 2019 the task group received the headline figures for the three year period 2015/16 to 2017/18 showing the differences in Killed and Seriously Injured (KSIs) between 20mph and 30mph areas in a three year period. In total across the three year reporting period, areas with a 30mph speed limit there were 1626 collisions. Police records showed that of those, 70 were attributed to speed (just over 4% of the total).
- 3.2 At its meeting on 20 September 2019 North Yorkshire Police and 95 Alive representatives attended to discuss the opportunities and challenges of introducing more 20mph speed limits in the county. The task group also received the number of KSIs from 2014 to 2018. Driving with excessive speed was not the main cause but was instead more down to inappropriate behaviour such as driver distraction. The task group heard from the Police representative that 20mph speed limits on arterial routes were less likely to work as there was poor compliance on roads with space and openness, providing good driver with good visibility. The capacity or otherwise of the Police to enforce the speed limit was not a reason why the Police would object to a proposed change in the speed limit, rather the Police would only object if the proposed speed limit did not adhere to the DfT criteria. Compliance with speed limits relied on regular Police

enforcement and compliance would fail if the speed limit was unrealistic in relation to the design and layout of the road.

- 3.3 A representative from the 20s Plenty Campaign group will be attending the task group's next meeting on 24 October 2019 to discuss its policy approach and reasons for introducing more 20mph limits.

#### **4 County Council Motion**

- 4.1 The following Notice of Motion was discussed at the County Council meeting held on 24 July 2019:

“That the Government ensures that where their assets and infrastructure will be protected by a flood and coastal protection scheme all Utility companies are required to make a proportionate and appropriate mandatory level of financial contribution towards that particular scheme, and subject to the costs of any contribution not being borne by the Utilities customers.”

The Motion was proposed by County Councillor David Jeffels, in the absence of County Councillor Derek Bastiman, and seconded by County Councillor Joe Plant. The County Council Chairman determined that the Motion be referred to the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Council.

- 4.2 The Committee is recommended to ask the Chairman of the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers MP, to call for the financial contribution from utility companies to be mandatory.

#### **5 Single-use Plastics Review**

- 5.1 At the committee meeting held on 24 January 2019, Members agreed to convene a task group to establish how North Yorkshire County Council along with partners and members of the public could reduce the use of single-use plastics. The task group was to be set up once the detail of the government's proposals were known in its Resources & Waste Strategy and following on from the completion of the Committee's review of 20mph speed limit policy.
- 5.2 Appendix 2 to this report contains the draft terms of reference of the Single-use Plastics Review for approval.

#### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That the Committee:
- a. Notes the information in this report.
  - b. Confirms, amends, or adds to the areas of work listed in the Work Programme schedule.
  - c. Requests the Chairman to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to call for the financial contribution from utility companies to be mandatory, with reference to the County Council Motion of 24 July 2019.
  - d. Approves the draft scope of the Single-use Plastics Review.

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15 October 2019

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Work Programme Schedule 2019/20
- Appendix 2 – Draft scope of the Single-use Plastics Review.

Background documents:

North Yorkshire County Council Forward Plan

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/council-forward-plan>

## Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2019/20

### 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

<b>Scheduled Committee Meetings</b>	<b>24 Oct 2019</b> 10am	<b>23 Jan 2020</b> 10am	<b>15 April 2020</b> 10am	<b>13 July 2020</b> 10am	<b>22 Oct 2020</b> 10am	<b>21 Jan 2021</b> 10am	<b>14 April 2021</b> 10am
<b>Scheduled Mid Cycle Briefings</b> Attended by Group Spokespersons only	5 Dec 2019 10am	27 Feb 2020 10am	2 June 2020 10am	10 Sept 2020 10am	10 Dec 2020 10am	25 Feb 2021 10am	

### Reports

Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference
<b>Consultation, progress and performance monitoring reports</b>		
Each meeting as available	Corporate Director and / or Executive Member update	Regular update report as available each meeting
	Work Programme	Regular report where the Committee reviews its work programme

## Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2019/20

Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference
<b>24 October 2019</b>	Highways England	Regular annual update
	Rail developments	Update report on the rail franchise, Rail North and Transport for the North
	Promoting access to our heritage	Overview of the County Council's growth and heritage service
<b>23 January 2020</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership	Annual LEP update
	Winter Highways Maintenance	Overview of the policy on Winter Highways Maintenance
<b>Items where dates have yet to be confirmed</b>	HGV overnight parking in North Yorkshire	To explore the issues of HGV overnight parking in North Yorkshire and ways to respond once a county-wide draft policy has been developed.
	Tourism in North Yorkshire	Overview of the work and future plans of Welcome to Yorkshire.
	Traffic management in the county: tackling traffic congestion	Overview of the ways that the County Council can tackle traffic congestion problems in the county such as through the use of smart traffic lighting to control traffic flow. Road junction road improvements in Harrogate and Scarborough town to be taken as examples.
	Countryside access	Overview of the County Council's countryside service and priorities (including unclassified roads, prioritisation of the public rights of way network and improving the definitive map processes)

### In-depth Scrutiny Projects/Reviews

Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Timescales
The North Yorkshire economy post-Brexit	Steering group (via mid cycle briefings) comprising of the Group Spokespersons to consider the measures required to support the local economy following the triggering of Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon by the UK government.	Ongoing (commenced March 2017)
20 mph speed limit policy	Response to the publication of the National Research project by the Department for Transport examining 20mph speed limits	Commenced May 2019
Single-use plastics review	To explore ways to reduce the use of single-use plastics by North Yorkshire County Council staff and visitors, partner organisations, local businesses and residents.	To commence by February 2020

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

## Transport, Economy &amp; Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee

## Plan of Scrutiny Review

TOPIC	North Yorkshire County Council's Single-use Plastics Review
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>According to the Institute for European Environmental Policy, single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once. Single-use plastic items are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics and healthcare. Examples include: light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes, and razor blades.</p> <p>300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.</p> <p>Since the broadcast of the BBC's Blue Planet II programme in autumn 2017 highlighting the effect of plastic pollution in seas, oceans and on beaches, this has become a much-debated topic with high levels of public interest.</p> <p>At the meeting of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 January 2019, Members agreed to convene a task group to establish how North Yorkshire County Council along with partners and members of the public could reduce the use of single-use plastics. The task group was to be set up once the detail of the government's proposals was known in its Resources &amp; Waste Strategy and following on from the completion of the Committee's review of 20mph speed limit policy.</p> <p>The issue of single-use plastics and how to reduce, reuse and recycle has been a part of North Yorkshire County Council's work around waste reduction over many years. However, the single-use plastics review though goes beyond North Yorkshire County Council's service provision, as the topic relates to broad environmental concerns in society. Societal changes and attitudes (e.g. plastic bottles becoming less acceptable) and legislative changes will mean the profits of those parts of the plastic industry producing single use plastic will reduce if they fail to adapt. There is a role for North Yorkshire County Council to show leadership by amplifying action in a positive way to encourage others to reduce the use of single-use plastics. We need to establish therefore not only how the Council can reduce single-use plastics through its own services but also do more work with partner organisations, local businesses and residents to encourage a reduction in the use of single-use plastics across North Yorkshire.</p>

<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>To establish additional ways to reduce the use of single use plastics by North Yorkshire County Council staff and visitors.</b>  This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committing to reducing our reliance on single-use plastics where practicably possible.</li> <li>• Identifying sites and service areas where significant improvements can be made.</li> <li>• Communicating to staff, building users and visitors the role they have to play to ensure the success of the reduction in single use plastics.</li> </ul> <p><b>To establish how North Yorkshire County Council can work with partner organisations, local businesses and residents to encourage a reduction in the use of single-use plastics across North Yorkshire.</b>  This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging partner businesses, schools and young people on board across North Yorkshire to reduce single-use plastics.</li> <li>• Engaging with businesses to provide strategic leadership on how they can develop their own actions with this agenda.</li> <li>• Engaging with residents through our webpage, social media, case studies, press releases, and identifying how they can contribute.</li> <li>• Suggesting simple changes that can be made to daily routines that will help save money, improve health and help the planet.</li> </ul> <p><b>To look for alternatives to single-use plastics and best practice elsewhere including but not limited to other local authorities.</b></p>	
<p><b>Council Plan: key ambitions 2019-2023)</b>  (tick most appropriate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child and young person has the best possible start in life</li> </ul>	<p>√</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life</li> </ul>	<p>√</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth that enables our citizens to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are a modern council which puts our customers at the heart of what we do.</li> </ul>	<p>√</p>
<p><b>TASK GROUP MEMBERS</b></p>	<p>To be determined at the meeting of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 24 October 2019.</p>	
<p><b>PARTICIPANTS/STAKEHOLDERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Yorkshire County Council’s Waste and Countryside Services team and North Yorkshire County Council’s procurement team</li> <li>• Other local authorities in North Yorkshire and best practice local authorities elsewhere</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business representatives</li> <li>• Community representatives/campaign groups such as Surfers Against Sewage <a href="https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/">https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/</a></li> </ul>
<b>METHOD</b>	<p>A series of meetings commencing February 2020 to take evidence from stakeholders. (The first meeting will be a discussion amongst the task group members to consider the wider policy context including national government policy and to discuss existing North Yorkshire County Council practices in relation to the use and reduction of single-use plastics and issues to be addressed in relation to the agreed objectives of the review.</p> <p>National research.</p> <p>Local authority best practice elsewhere.</p> <p>Final report with recommendations to be submitted in summer 2020.</p>
<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<p>Report to go to 22 October 2020 Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, Executive – November/December 2020 – meeting date to be confirmed.</p>
<b>SUCCESS INDICATORS</b>	<p>That the task group is able to produce a report with a series of practical and workable recommendations for reducing single-use plastics in North Yorkshire.</p>
<b>ESTIMATE OF RESOURCES REQUIRED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task group meetings.</li> <li>• Wherever possible task group meetings will be held on the same day as other meetings that task group Members are attending in order to reduce travel costs (including mid cycle briefings scheduled for 27 February, 2 June and 10 September 2020).</li> <li>• Officer support – Legal and Democratic Services and Waste and Countryside Services.</li> </ul>