

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**23 January 2020**

**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**).

**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 On 24 October 2019, the task group met with a representative from the 20s Plenty Campaign group to discuss its policy approach and reasons for introducing more 20mph limits. Further research was later conducted to investigate the approach and findings of local authorities that had introduced a wider 20mph policy.

3.2 On 5 December 2019 the task group had its final meeting to sum up its findings and to determine the recommendations to be included in the report.

3.3 A task group report with recommendations will be submitted to the Committee at its next scheduled meeting to be held on 15 April 2020.

3.4 In summary key points that the report will make and related recommendations are as follows:

- It is unrealistic for there to be a blanket approach of 20mph speed limits existing in all settlements in the county and to cover a wide area both in terms of cost and enforcement. Speed limits should reflect the nature of the road and in essence be 'self-explaining'.
- The economic impact has to be taken into account with regards to extending journey times by a wide area introduction of 20mph speed limits.

- Ongoing improvements in car technology are seeing the introduction of enhanced driver safety driver aids such as automatic braking and speed limiters.
- There is an existing County Council policy on 20mph speed limits. This allows a degree of flexibility already to allow our communities to introduce 20mph speed limits in their areas. The policy though would benefit from some updating and to be promoted. Some communities might not be aware of the policy but could benefit from the introduction of 20mph speed limits.
- The policy should be more explicit in considering 20mph speed limits in school zones.
- The policy should reference links to the wider policy agenda in relation to driver education (promoting behavioural change), supporting alternative modes of transport and shaping the built environment. This is so that the wider policy focus is not exclusively constrained by historical accident statistics in determining 20mph speed limits, if an otherwise strong case can be made for a 20mph speed limit to be introduced in a specific area.
- For 20mph limits to be adhered to there needs to be a partnership approach involving a wide number of organisations including planning departments.
- Education, as part of the 95 Alive Partnership, also needs to continue to be strong theme in relation to getting motorists to keep to the speed limit and avoid being distracted – the latter being the main cause of motor vehicle accidents in the county.

#### **4 Single-use Plastics Review**

- 4.1 The task group will meet on 27 February 2020, further to the Committee at its meeting held on 24 October 2019 agreeing the terms of reference of the review and nominating Members to the task group. The Members currently appointed to the task group are County Councillors David Goode, Paul Haslam, Chris Pearson and Roberta Swiers. County Councillors Robert Heseltine and David Jeffels who were not able to be present at the Committee’s meeting in October have also offered to sit on the task group.

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 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. Approve the nominations of County Councillor Robert Heseltine and County Councillor David Jeffels to the Single-Use Plastics Task Group.

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14 January 2020

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Work Programme Schedule 2020/21

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 2020/21

### 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>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	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

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Meeting	Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference
<b>23 January 2020</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership	Annual LEP update
	Winter Highways Maintenance	Overview of the policy on Winter Highways Maintenance
<b>15 April 2020</b>	Apprenticeships	To provide an update on the County Council's progress in supporting apprenticeships in North Yorkshire including responding to the Apprenticeship Levy introduced in 2017
	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)
	North Yorkshire County Council's Economic Growth Plan	Update on Economic Growth Plan refresh
<b>13 July 2020</b>	Rural transport	An update on rural bus services and community transport including matters arising from the call for evidence on rural transport by the Rural Commission
	Road casualties	To advise Members of the road casualty figures in 2019 and initiatives being undertaken by the work of the 95Alive Partnership
	Highways Maintenance Contract	To receive the annual report on actions being put in place by the highways maintenance & highways improvement contractor (Ringway)
	Highways England	Regular annual update
<b>22 October 2020</b>	Rural Commission (North Yorkshire)	To discuss the findings and recommendations of the Rural Commission

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	Civil Parking Enforcement	To provide a review of countywide Civil Parking Enforcement in 2018/19 and 2019/20	
	Grass-cutting	To provide an update on grass-cutting arrangements with parish councils	
<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	

### In-depth Scrutiny Projects/Reviews

Subject	Aims/Terms of Reference	Timescales	
The North Yorkshire economy post-Brexit	To consider (via mid cycle briefings and committee meetings) 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	Completed – task group report to be submitted to 15 April 2020 Committee meeting	
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 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.