



## Agenda

**Notice of a public meeting of the: Skipton and Ripon Area  
Constituency Committee**

**To: Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Phillip Barrett,  
Mike Chambers MBE (Chairman), Michael Harrison,  
Robert Heseltine, David Ireton (Vice-Chairman),  
Stanley Lumley, Stuart Martin MBE, Patrick Mulligan,  
Gillian Quinn, Andy Solloway, David Staveley and  
Robert Windass.**

**Date: Thursday, 16th December, 2021**

**Time: 10.00 am**

**Venue: Remote meeting held using Microsoft Teams**

Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee. Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 21 July 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with other Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members. This position will be reviewed at meeting of full Council in February 2022.

The meeting will be available to view once the meeting commences, via the following link - [www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings). Recording of previous live broadcast meetings are also available there.

### Business

- 1. Welcome and introductions and apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 2 September 2021 (Pages 3 - 10)**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Public Questions or Statements**  
Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice and provided the text to Daniel Harry of Democratic Services (contact details below) no later than midday on Monday 13 December 2021. Each speaker should

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Daniel Harry Tel: 01609 533531 or e-mail [daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct those taking a recording to cease whilst you speak.

- 5. Executive member update to the committee**
- 6. Briefing on the response to a petition regarding the installation of a footway and traffic calming measures on Sutton Lane - Report of the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services, NYCC** (Pages 11 - 12)
- 7. Annual education report - schools, educational achievement and sustainability - Report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, NYCC** (Pages 13 - 26)
- 8. Rural Commission report and recommendations - Report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities, NYCC** (Pages 27 - 40)
- 9. Youth Council verbal update to committee - Report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, NYCC**
- 10. Committee work programme - Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager** (Pages 41 - 46)
- 11. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
Northallerton

Date 7 December 2021

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the remote, informal meeting held on Thursday, 2 September 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

County Councillors Mike Chamber MBE (Chair), Michael Harrison, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton (Vice Chair), Stanley Lumley, Stuart Martin MBE, Patrick Mulligan, Gillian Quinn, Andy Solloway and David Staveley.

In attendance: County Councillors David Chance, Gareth Dadd and Carl Les.

Officers present: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, NYCC), Daniel Herbert (Improvement Manager, Highways and Transportation, BES, NYCC), Philip Allott (North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)), Melisa Burnham (Area 6 Manager, Highways Operations, BES, NYCC), and Cheryl Pocknell (Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Officer, CYPS, NYCC).

Other Attendees: a representative of the Youth Council, and two public speakers.

Apologies: County Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Phillip Barrett and Robert Windass.

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

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#### **120 Introductions and apologies for absence**

The committee Chairman, County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE reminded the committee that the meeting was being held informally and that any formal decisions would need to be taken in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer using his emergency powers.

Apologies were noted.

#### **121 Minutes of the committee meeting held on 27 May 2021**

Considered the minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 27 May 2021.

##### **Resolved -**

- a. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 27 May 2021, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **122 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

#### **123 Public Questions or Statements**

There were two public questions. As both related to the closure of Skipton High Street on

market days, the questions were taken together.

Public Question 1 - Angela Monaghan.

Mrs Monaghan was unable to attend the meeting and so Daniel Harry read out the question on her behalf, as follows:

I was deeply concerned and disappointed to hear that North Yorkshire County Council has rejected the request of Skipton Town Council to retain the closure of Skipton High Street on market days, after the temporary closure expires at the end of August 2021.

This decision, which appears to have been taken in summary fashion with no consultation, ignores the views of the majority of residents and businesses of Skipton, who supported the closure three to one when surveyed earlier this year.

Closing the high street on market days is beneficial for a number of reasons, some of which were stated in the request for a temporary closure and still remain true:

- It supports social distancing during the Covid pandemic. In spite of recent relaxations of Covid restrictions, rates of infection are still very high and above the national average in the Skipton area (399.3 per 100,000 population today) and social distancing is still a necessary public health requirement that will be required for some time.
- It creates a safer environment for pedestrians.
- It improves air quality for pedestrians and stallholders alike.
- It makes shopping a more pleasurable experience, which will attract local residents and visitors into the town centre and promote the local economy.
- It creates better access for disabled people who struggle with the cobbled streets, so promotes equality.

In addition, we are in the middle of a climate emergency, and all council decisions should reflect NYCC's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. Was a climate change impact assessment carried out before the decision was taken not to retain closure of Skipton High Street on market days?

The NYCC response to the request cited disruption to traffic and deliveries. Yet these have been managed effectively during the last few months, and the majority are still in favour of closure 10.00am-4.00pm on 3 days a week (18 hours out of 168 a week), so why not continue, given the significant benefits?

I request that you ask NYCC to reconsider the decision to refuse this request and take into account the many benefits and views of local Skipton residents and business when doing so.

Public Question 2 - Susannah Daley, CEO Peel entertainment Group Ltd.

We have heard in the local press from residents about their views on the success or otherwise of the High Street closure in Skipton on Market days but very little from the businesses of Skipton.

My company owns several businesses based in the Skipton area, one of which is Alexanders Grand Café, Bar and Terrace which is situated on the High Street. We invested circa £3,000,000 (3 million) pounds in our project on the High Street bringing back to life a Georgian building that had become run down. We painstakingly and lovingly restored it and added a contemporary terrace which is an attractive feature on the other side of the High Street. In the four years so far since opening Alexander's has served both residents and visitors as a great place to eat and drink and or a reason to come and enjoy occasions and celebrations or just some quality time in the town. We believe we have been a reason for

some people to visit Skipton (some of our guests tell us this) and for some others an added bonus if they were visiting anyway. The venue has turned over approximately £3,500,000 (three and a half million) of revenue in four years, even with the COVID pandemic. We have created over 20 new jobs in the town centre.

We made this investment for two reasons, one because we have been resident in the area as a business for over twenty years and we felt it would be good to put some energy and investment back into the town and secondly because of our belief that Skipton can be become an even better tourist attraction whilst serving its residents with a lively and active retail and events scene.

The markets have been a long established tradition in Skipton and people enjoy coming knowing they will be here. The other events held by the town council like the Christmas markets have been a great success and are very strong drivers for trade in Skipton. We believe these closures have hugely benefitted business and residents alike. They have firstly made visiting Skipton a safer and more accessible on Market Days, families can wander up and down the high street with prams and children without any concern, and accessibility for wheelchairs and mobility scooters is hugely improved. It makes following COVID guidelines easier for all by allowing the stalls to face the other direction which in turn makes them easier to access and leaves the high street less congested and therefore easy to use and more attractive to visitors.

We have seen great business coming on these days, significantly higher than when the market runs in its traditional manner with the High Street open. It also means that residents and visitors are not dicing with death with the vans that had taken to parking irresponsibly at the side of the road making a trip down the High Street on market days even more perilous.

We accept and understand that in order to do this there have to be traffic diversions, however being resident in the town, we have canvassed our 50+ staff and all (no exceptions) feel that the diversions are relatively small and worth it for the gain of having a safer space and a more thriving town. We therefore we ask you to consider making this a permanent fixture to further improve the economic, social cohesion and safety of Skipton.

Response – Daniel Herbert, Improvement Manager, Highways and Transportation, BES, NYCC

A response to both questions was given by Daniel Herbert, Improvement Manager, Highways and Transportation, BES, NYCC as follows:

The closure was implemented to facilitate social distancing requirements to allow the market to reopen safely once the lockdown restrictions began to be eased. It was implemented at a rapid pace using a temporary traffic regulation order which can only be in place for 18 months and cannot be extended beyond that timeframe without becoming permanent. The temporary order will end after the Saturday market on 4th September 2021. A permanent traffic regulation order requires a different legal process involving a period of statutory advertisement inviting formal objections.

The temporary traffic regulation order was implemented using the powers that the County Council has as local highway authority which are delegated by the Executive to the Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services in accordance with the Delegation Scheme contained within the County Council's Constitution. Although the closure accommodated social distancing through the pandemic unfortunately at the same time it interrupted public transport / school transport services so had a knock on effect of increasing traffic congestion on the alternative routes. It is appreciated that users of the market will have enjoyed the benefits of the removal of traffic from the High Street but we must look at the wider implications across the highway network.

The current road network does not currently have the capacity to accommodate the extra

traffic that comes with the removal of a main route through the town such as the High Street. We are also aware that in the next few weeks roadworks will commence on The Bailey that are expected to run until Christmas for highway improvements funded by the new development and High Street will be the advertised diversion for any road closures that are required. In addition there are utility works planned in the town centre that have been on hold until post the lockdown reopening of businesses to aid the recovery along with major highway schemes next year including the Transforming Cities Fund which will see us delivering significant improvements for pedestrians and cyclists accessing the station and again High Street will be the advertised diversion for any road closures.

The desire being expressed by some who would like to see the closure of the High Street for market days made permanent is noted but hopefully the information provided above explains the rationale why that is not advisable at this time and for at least the rest of 2021 and 2022. We will look at this issue again later in 2022 though as part of the wider conversation about the further improvements in the town on the back of initiatives such as the Transforming Cities Fund project.

There followed a discussion during which it was County Councillors agreed that this was a contentious issue locally and that it was hoped that there could be further dialogue between the County Council and the Town Council to find a compromise. The complexity of managing modern traffic movements and pedestrian access in a Victorian market place and surrounding streets was noted.

**124 Attendance of the RT Hon Julian Smith MP - an opportunity for the MP to share his views on main issues of local interest**

The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

**125 Presentation by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - Mr Philip Allott**

Considered –

A presentation by Philip Allott, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC).

Philip Allott gave a presentation on his priorities and plans, as summarised below:

- The focus in the first three months has been upon getting out and about and meeting with staff across the Police and Fire and Rescue Service
- Priorities include the safety of women, support for victims of crime, greater use of youth diversion, tackling drug supply and drug use, reducing anti-social behaviour, dealing with cross border crime
- There is to be a renewed focus upon tackling rural crime and issues such as speeding on rural roads and road safety in general, noisy motorbikes, dog theft and wildlife crime
- Work will be done to supported the retained/volunteer fire fighters and small rural fire and rescue stations
- There is a need to develop the relationship between the Police and local communities so that they are better able to work together to promote community safety
- Will look to review and address the problems that exist with the 101 service
- Noted that the public appeared in general to be less tolerant following months of lockdowns and restriction during the pandemic
- Currently consulting on the Police and Crime and Fire and Rescue Plans
- There will be a need to appoint a deputy PFCC by May 2022. This is a statutory requirement.

There followed a discussion, the key points of which are summarised as below:

- Concerns were raised about the frequent movement of Police Officers between roles and areas during their career and the difficulties that this often caused when trying to develop lasting relationships in the local community
- PCSOs were seen as being a key link as they moved around less and were more visible and available in the community
- The greater use of Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems in rural areas was highlighted as a simple and efficient way of tracking speeding and other driving related offences
- ANPR could also be linked to decibel meters to enable motorcyclists with noisy exhaust systems that did not meet legal limits to be identified
- The renewed focus upon Ripon in recent months was welcomed as was proposed investment in the existing Police and Fire and Rescue stations, which were not seen as being fit for purpose.

County Councillor Andy Solloway asked whether the PFCC will continue to make pots of seed funding available for community-based projects.

In response, the PFCC said that there will be opportunities to bid for funding to help promote community safety projects and initiatives.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley said that more needed to be done to support volunteer fire fighters and ensure the long term future of rural fire stations.

The PFCC said that approximately half of the fire and rescue workforce was made up of on call fire fighters. Over the years, there had been improvements in fire and road safety, which has meant that there is less for on call fire fighters to do. The low levels of emergency call outs can affect recruitment and retention. Part of the solution will be to do more training and realistic exercises, a review of the shift patterns and a re-think of how rural fire stations are used. There may be a case for developing them into local business and community hubs.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE asked what action was being taken to tackle rural crime and crimes against animals.

In response, the PFCC said that the existing Rural Taskforce would be beefed-up and greater use of existing Police powers would be made to tackle wildlife crime. In many cases, the powers of the Police were limited, when the alleged offence was on private land with the landowners consent.

The PFCC said that greater use would also be made of modern technology, such as the use of drones which would extend the reach of Police officers and PCSOs, in rural areas.

County Councillor David Staveley left the meeting at 10:45am.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE summed up and thanked Phillip Allott for taking the time to attend the meeting.

#### **Resolved –**

- a. That the committee receive an update on progress after the first 12 months in office.

#### **126 Executive Member update**

County Councillor Carl Les thanked the Chairman for the invitation to attend the committee. He said that he welcomed the feedback from committee members on what was happening in their local area and the issues that are important to them and the electorate that they

represent.

County Councillor Carl Les noted the apologies for County Councillor Gareth Dadd and then updated as follows:

- Welcome the positive engagement with the PFCC
- Local Government Review is progressing with the Structural Change Order being finalised. Work is also underway on warding arrangements for the new Council, based upon 89 or 90 councillors
- The transition from the existing structures to the new would need to be as smooth as possible and there is a need to reassure both staff and members of the public
- Covid remains an issue and is likely to be the focus of work for the coming months. Infection rates are up but the level of hospital admissions has not risen at the same rate and people who are vaccinated tend to be less ill
- Renewed focus upon work to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions in the county
- Rural Commission report was a fresh look at known issues associated with living in rural areas of the county. The Executive will consider the recommendations in due course
- Interest in the demand responsive travel pilot and what this may mean for the future of bus services in rural areas of the county
- As part of the work on the establishment of a new unitary authority, there will be an opportunity to review the role and responsibilities of the Area Constituency Committees and what they do as a locally responsive and accountable element of the new council.

County Councillor Michael Harrison updated as follows:

- There are strong budgetary pressures in social care, particularly adult social care and concerns that there may be a bubble of unmet need, linked to the pandemic and lockdowns, that is now starting to work its way through the health and social care system
- There is a risk that the Government requirement that all care staff are fully vaccinated may exacerbate existing adult social care staffing shortages in the county.

County Councillor David Chance updated as follows:

- The Community Support Organisations continue to work with people in the community. The focus is upon building confidence and self-reliance
- Work is underway as part of a national effort to resettle Afghan refugees, following the withdrawal of Coalition Forces.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan updated as follows:

- Preparations are well underway for a return to school next week. Public Health have been actively involved in supporting schools
- The removal of bubbles in schools will help manage school attendance as the knock-on effect of a positive Covid test will be lessened
- It is likely that there will be some disruption but it is hoped that things quickly settle back to normal and children and continue with their education.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd was able to attend the meeting and updated on the budgetary pressures faced by the Council, particularly around adult social care.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE summed up and thanked the Executive Members for attending and updating the committee on key issues and priorities.



**127 NYCC Permit Scheme and Co-ordination of Works - Report of Karl Battersby, Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services, NYCC**

Considered –

A report by Allan McVeigh, Head of Network Strategy, Business and Environmental Services.

Melisa Burnham, Area 6 Manager, Highways Operations, presented the report, with key points as summarised below:

- This is the 6 month follow-up to the presentation to the committee on 11 March 2021
- At that meeting the following concerns/areas for improvement were raised: communication of works, co-ordination of works, damage to other services caused by works, the quality of re-instatement of the road surface after works had been completed
- The Council's permit scheme was established in February 2018 to increase the efficient running of the highway network by proactively managing works on the highways
- There are four main types of permits: major, standard, minor and emergency
- A quarterly co-ordination schedule is sent out to all statutory undertakers in order for them to populate any major works they have coming up in the next 3-6 months
- Where there is multiple demand for road space, we seek to encourage collaborative working
- Where emergency works need to be undertaken, it is requested that the utilities company contacts the team directly
- Any utility company working on the network has a statutory obligation to ensure that their works should not cause damage to other services
- Utility companies are actively encouraged to complete works with a first time permanent reinstatement
- Core samples can be taken of re-instatements to assess the quality of the work
- The introduction of the new, national flexi-permit scheme, which is currently out for consultation, would mean the statutory undertakers will no longer be required to submit a permit for every street they want to work on. Instead, they would be allowed blanket permissions for an area for four weeks.

There followed a discussion about the possible introduction of a national flexi-permit scheme and what this would mean for the Council. The consensus was that this will severely limit the ability of the Council to manage and co-ordinate works on the highways undertaken by utilities companies and so this may lead to some significant disruption to the network.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE thanked Melisa Burnham for the update and asked that, in view of the time, any questions relating to the report be directed to Melisa by committee members by email.

**Resolved –**

- a. The committee to keep a watching brief, particularly on the possible introduction of the national flexi-permits scheme. No further update required by the committee at this time.

**128 Youth Council update to committee - Report of Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, NYCC**

Considered –

A verbal update on the work of the Youth Council by Cheryl Pocknell, Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Officer, CYPS, NYCC and a member of the Youth Council.

Daniel Harry introduced the item, noting that this was an opportunity for the committee to engage with young people and take into account some of the issues that they face, when considering the matters on the work programme.

Cheryl Pocknell gave an overview of the work of the Youth Council and then the member of the local Youth Council outlined some of the key concerns for young people in the area. Of particular concern was the environment and climate change mitigation.

The member of the Youth Council noted that there is a need to recruit to the Youth Council locally as a number of members have left to go into higher education outside of the county.

Cheryl Pocknell said that the Youth Cabinet for North Yorkshire was beginning to prepare for the next Youth Parliament elections and so was looking for people to stand as candidates.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE summed up and thanked Cheryl and the representative from the Youth Council for attending and updating the committee.

**Resolved –**

- a. That the committee continues to engage with the Youth Council locally and take into account the priorities identified by young people in the area.

**129 Committee work programme - Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, outlining the committee work programme.

Daniel Harry introduced the report and asked that Members review the committee's work programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

The substantive item on the agenda for the December meeting was noted as the Annual Education Report.

It was agreed that the work programme be amended to include an update on the demand responsive transport pilot, the report and recommendations of the Rural Commission and further consideration of work to protect the environment and tackle climate change.

**Resolved –**

- a. That the committee work programme be updated by Daniel Harry and reviewed by members.

**130 Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.



**North Yorkshire County Council  
Skipton and Ripon Constituency Committee – 16 December 2021  
Sutton Lane, Petition for Footway and Road Safety Measures**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make the Committee aware of a petition submitted to the County Council requesting the installation of a footway and road safety measures on Sutton Lane, between Sutton in Craven and Eastburn.
- 1.2 It is also to advise the Committee of the process for dealing with the petition and of partnership working with Bradford Metropolitan District Council to prepare and deliver a road safety scheme for Sutton Lane.

**2.0 Update**

- 2.1 Sutton Lane is a cross boundary route linking the villages of Sutton in Craven in North Yorkshire (NYCC) and Eastburn in the Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) authority area. Footways extend for short distances only from the respective villages, leaving a central section of approximately 400m without footway or verge and has walls abutting the carriageway.
- 2.2 Tragically, in September this year a child was killed when walking along Sutton Lane and was struck by a vehicle. In response to this tragic event and on-going community concerns about pedestrian safety, a petition has been raised calling for a footway and other road safety measures to be installed. The petition has been submitted to both NYCC and BMDC.
- 2.3 The petition comprises of 745 signatures collected online and on paper. The NYCC petition scheme applies a minimum threshold of 500 signatures of persons who live, work or study in North Yorkshire, for it to be considered formally at the next available Area Constituency Committee. On review, the majority of signatories live outside the county, most being in Keighley or there is no address to determine residency. Based on what has been submitted, there is no way to ascertain whether the 332 with non-North Yorkshire addresses (not including those signed without address or provided in part only) work or study in the county.
- 2.4 Nevertheless, it is important for the County Council to publically demonstrate its commitment to addressing community concerns given this tragic incident, and hence the reason this briefing note is being presented. It should also be noted that regardless of process in dealing with the petition, the same course of practical action is being taken.

- 2.5 County Council Traffic and Road Safety Engineers have attended meetings in October and November with BMDC engineering colleagues along with Elected Members from NYCC, BMDC, Craven District Council, Parish Councils and North Yorkshire Police, to discuss community concerns and potential engineering options.
- 2.6 County Council and BMDC engineers are working together to develop a comprehensive and whole route proposal. Whilst the petition and local demand is for the construction of a footway, that requires the purchase or release of privately owned land. Previous attempts to acquire the land for this purpose have been made however, unsuccessfully. Notwithstanding the land requirements, there are also engineering challenges due to significant level differences between the carriageway and adjoining fields that also flood during periods of heavy rain.
- 2.7 Nevertheless, it is important to make progress and it remains for both authorities to work quickly to deliver a road safety scheme within the existing highway extents to achieve road safety improvements at the earliest opportunity. As this work progresses, renewed efforts to engage with land owners and understand the respective engineering challenges and cost will continue in parallel. It is proposed that officers bring a further update report to the Area Constituency Committee once a scheme has been developed.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee acknowledges the receipt of the petition and that a further update report will be provided once a scheme has been developed.
- 3.2 NYCC in partnership with BMDC continues to develop road safety scheme proposals for Sutton Lane.

Author:  
David Kirkpatrick  
Traffic Engineering Team Leader  
Highways& Transportation  
Business and Environmental Services  
North Yorkshire County Council

16 December 2021

Background Documents: County Council Petitions Scheme - [Petitions information and advice | North Yorkshire County Council](#)



**North Yorkshire County Council  
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee  
16 December 2021**

**Schools, educational achievement and finance**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Skipton and Ripon constituency committee area.

**2.0 Local educational landscape**

2.1 There are now 8 primary academies and 4 secondary academies within the Skipton and Ripon constituency area. The academy conversion rate for primary schools is lower within the constituency area when compared to the county as a whole (12.5% compared to 32.4% in North Yorkshire.) The academy conversion rate for secondary schools is also lower (44.4% compared to 65.1% in North Yorkshire).

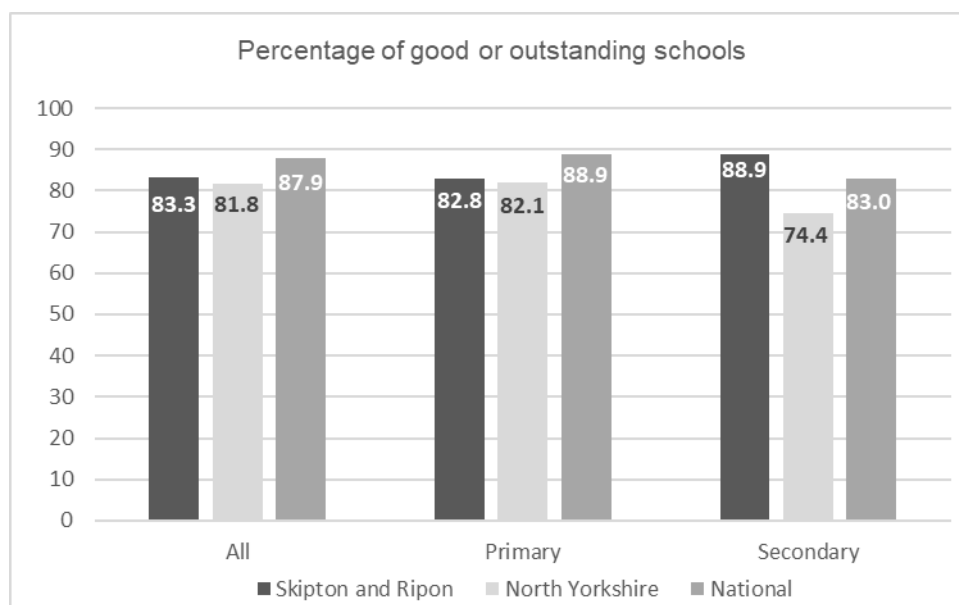
**Summary of schools' status – December 2021**

|                               | Schools in North Yorkshire |              | Schools in Skipton and Ripon ACC |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Primary Maintained            | 204                        | 67.6%        | 56                               | 87.5%        |
| Primary Academy & Free School | 98                         | 32.4%        | 8                                | 12.5%        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>302</b>                 |              | <b>64</b>                        |              |
| Secondary Maintained          | 15                         | 34.9%        | 5                                | 55.6%        |
| Secondary Academy             | 28                         | 65.1%        | 4                                | 44.4%        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>43</b>                  |              | <b>9</b>                         |              |
| Special Maintained            | 7                          | 70%          | 1                                | 50%          |
| Special Academy               | 3                          | 30%          | 1                                | 50%          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>10</b>                  |              | <b>2</b>                         |              |
| PRU Maintained                | 4                          | 80%          | 1                                | 100%         |
| PRU Academy                   | 1                          | 20%          | 0                                |              |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>5</b>                   |              | <b>1</b>                         |              |
| <b>Total maintained</b>       | <b>232</b>                 | <b>64.4%</b> | <b>63</b>                        | <b>82.9%</b> |
| <b>Total Academy</b>          | <b>128</b>                 | <b>35.6%</b> | <b>13</b>                        | <b>17.1%</b> |
| <b>Overall Total</b>          | <b>360</b>                 |              | <b>76</b>                        |              |

### 3.0 School standards

#### 3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the constituency area 82.8 per cent of primary schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, which is higher than the North Yorkshire average but lower than the national average. In terms of secondary schools, 88.9 per cent are judged good or outstanding, which is higher than the North Yorkshire and national averages. There are 13 schools currently judged requires improvement or inadequate in the constituency area.



#### 3.2 Attainment overall

The Committee has previously (17 December 2020) considered a report which contained all of the key attainment data for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Over the last 2 years, exams and assessments in schools have not taken place because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In 2020, GCSEs, AS and A level exams, and those for some equivalent qualifications, faced widespread cancellation and were replaced with a grading process involving centre assessment followed by statistical standardisation. Ultimately, statistical standardisation was dropped in favour of teacher/ centre assessment, unless the adjusted grades were higher.

Summer 2021 assessments were awarded based on teacher or centre assessment and no statistical adjustment processes were used. Final results for many qualifications, including GCSEs and A Levels, were released to schools in August 2021. Review and appeal processes have been made available where students believe they received the wrong grades, but overall, final grades were significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

The Government intends for GCSEs, AS, A Level and equivalent assessments and exams to go ahead in England in summer 2022 and has consulted on assessment arrangements. It is proposing some changes to general, and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Additionally, current plans would see school-level performance (league) tables reintroduced for the end of the GCSE phase (key stage 4) in 2022; school-level information is not being published during either 2020 or 2021. Further detail is expected about how the assessments will be graded in 2022 and beyond. Some concerns remain about whether these measures will go far enough to address inequalities, and whether schools, colleges, and students will have enough notice of the final arrangements.

In primary schools, national curriculum assessments due to be held in summer 2020 and summer 2021, including tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, were also cancelled too. These statutory assessments are expected to resume in 2022 and we will also see the wider introduction of the Reception Baseline Assessment.

Due to the changes in exams and assessments, the DfE has not collected and released school data for comparative purposes and so there is nothing to report to this Committee until Autumn 2022 when the results of the summer 2022 cycle will have been published.

### 3.3 Not in education, employment or training

There were 1087 young people recorded in Year 11 in this constituency in May 2020 and of this cohort only 9 (0.83%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as of August 2021.

## 4.0 Fixed-term and Permanent Exclusions

### 4.1 Fixed-term exclusion incidents

| Fixed term exclusions |                   |                 |                                     |   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Academic year         | Skipton and Ripon | North Yorkshire | Percentage of North Yorkshire total | Most common reason                      |
| 2020/21               | 407               | 3257            | 12.5%                               | Persistent disruptive behaviour (29.8%) |
| 2019/20               | 681               | 4366            | 15.6%                               | Persistent disruptive behaviour (52.9%) |
| 2018/19               | 569               | 5970            | 9.5%                                | Persistent disruptive behaviour (50.4%) |
| 2017/18               | 764               | 6,005           | 12.7%                               | Persistent disruptive behaviour (60.2%) |
| 2016/17               | 523               | 4,583           | 11.4%                               | Persistent disruptive behaviour (48.7%) |

In the 2020/21 academic year, there have been a total of 3257 fixed term exclusions for a total of 1462 individual children in North Yorkshire. 209 of

these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Skipton and Ripon constituency. The current rate of children fixed-term excluded at least once in the year is 1.5% of the mainstream school population in the constituency.

In the same period last year, there were 4189 fixed-term exclusions for a total of 1491 individual children, 191 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Skipton and Ripon constituency.

In the 2020/21 school year, 407 of the 3257 incidences of fixed-term exclusions in mainstream schools across the county were applied to 209 children and young people who went to schools in the constituency.

The most common reason for a fixed-term exclusion in the constituency has consistently been 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

In 2019/20 schools in the constituency area had a 17.4% share of the schools population in North Yorkshire and 15.6% of fixed term exclusions for the county, this decreased to 12.5% in the 2020/21 academic year.

Fixed-term exclusions can be a useful sanction, but frequent use can place pressure on family and foster placements, impacts on achievement, and may lead to risky behaviour while the pupil is not in school during the day.

## 4.2 Permanent exclusions

| <b>Permanent exclusions</b> |                          |                        |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Academic year</b>        | <b>Skipton and Ripon</b> | <b>North Yorkshire</b> | <b>Percentage of North Yorkshire total</b> |
| <b>2020/21</b>              | 5                        | 26                     | 38.5%                                      |
| <b>2019/20</b>              | 7                        | 52                     | 13.5%                                      |
| <b>2018/19</b>              | 7                        | 87                     | 8.0%                                       |
| <b>2017/18</b>              | 12                       | 103                    | 11.6%                                      |
| <b>2016/17</b>              | 7                        | 86                     | 8.1%                                       |

4.3 From September 2020 the transition of the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) to provide preventative places to reduce the need for secondary exclusions has been introduced. Schools are able to request placements at the PRS as part of a joint education programme for children that are disengaging from mainstream school. The partnership approach between the PRS and school will ensure that children receive the necessary support without a permanent exclusion. Post implementation review of this practice was due to be carried out this year but has been delayed due to Covid 19 and will take place next year.

## 5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

### 5.1 Targeted Mainstream Provision- Reshaping of SEN Provision in Skipton and Ripon over the 2020/21 Academic Year



The development of the new model of provision, Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) is intended to help the LA meet demand for full time education provision for children with SEND and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. This model delivers provision for children and young people who are able to access mainstream education but with additional support for their special educational needs.

Over the 2020/21 academic year proposals for Communication and Interaction targeted provision to support children and young people in Secondary education in this area have been developed. A feasibility study for capital works at a secondary school in Skipton is currently underway to ensure that high quality provision can be delivered on this site.

Work is continuing through 2021/22 to increase the amount of TMPs in areas which do not yet have host schools identified, to ensure that the LA has capacity to meet demand for this provision.

The 'outreach' offer for children and young people with SEND continues to be met by the SEND multi-disciplinary hubs made up of specialist staff employed directly by the Local Authority including specialist teachers, practitioners, educational psychologists and therapists.

## **5.2 SEN Statistics for Constituency Area**

As of January 2021 there were 548 children living in the constituency with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, 15.5% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan living in the area are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 37.0 % and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 19.0%, and Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) at 11.1%.

As of January 2021 school census there were 1388 children recorded as SEN Support from schools in this constituency, 14.9% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children receiving SEN support in the area are Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia) at 24.1% and Social, Emotional, Mental Health at 17.0%.

## **6.0 Elective Home Education**

As of 31st August 2021 there were 904 children recorded as Electively Home Educated in North Yorkshire, 113 of which were formerly from a mainstream school in Skipton and Ripon ACC. At the same point last year, there were 688 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 93 formerly from a mainstream school in Skipton and Ripon ACC. This represents a 22% increase in North Yorkshire and a 57% increase in Skipton and Ripon ACC.

Between 1st Sept 2020 to 31st August 2021, 483 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 56 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in Skipton and Ripon ACC. This figure was 41 from Skipton and Ripon of 294 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire, in the same period last year.

## 7.0 School Finance

### 7.1 Schools in Financial Difficulty – the countywide position

As of March 2021 the overall position for North Yorkshire Schools was:

- 22 schools with accumulated deficits totalling £7.5M
- This was an increase of £0.4M from 2019/20 (after adjusting for school closures, amalgamations and academy conversions in 2020/21)
- Deficits range from £1k (special school) up to £1.6M (special school)
- The average primary school deficit is £57k
- The average secondary school deficit is £596k
- 3 schools out of the 22 have since converted to Academy status or closed since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021
- Of the 19 schools remaining, 9 schools are predicting that their position will deteriorate, 8 are projected to improve their financial position and 2 are projected to return to a surplus position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### 7.2 School Projections - Based on May 2021/22 Start budgets

- 143 LA maintained schools (67%) are projecting an in-year deficit in 2021/22
- 6 schools are projected to move from a surplus balance to a deficit balance by March 2022
- 12% (26 schools) are forecast to be in deficit at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, this is projected to rise to just under one in five by March 23 and just under two out of five by March 24.

|   | 2018/19<br>(Actual) | 2019/20<br>(Actual) | 2020/21<br>(Actual) | 2021/22<br>(Forecast) | 2022/23<br>(Forecast) | 2023/24<br>(Forecast) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Number of Schools in Deficit</b>     | 47                  | 37                  | 22                  | 26                    | 40                    | 79                    |
| <b>Value of Deficit</b>                 | £6.0M               | £7.2M               | £7.5M               | £8.5M                 | £9.4M                 | 12.8M                 |
| <b>Proportion of schools in deficit</b> | 18%                 | 15%                 | 10%                 | 12%                   | 19%                   | 37%                   |

### 7.3 Funding

- Concern around overall quantum of funding given cost pressures (e.g. future pay awards, the longer term impact of the Covid pandemic in terms of additional expenditure requirements and potential income losses).
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 138 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £5,570 per pupil in 2021-22 compared to a national average of £5,935. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.5m.
- North Yorkshire primary schools are placed 35 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £4,715 per pupil compared to a national average of £4,611.
- Concern over the impact of continued high needs financial pressures on school budgets.

- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures for smaller, rural secondary schools, continues to be a significant concern. DfE proposed changes to increase sparsity funding will come into effect for 2022/23 school funding, however the maximum sparsity funding increase for a small secondary school is £10k. NYCC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

#### 7.4 Schools in Financial Difficulty – Skipton and Ripon

| <b>2021/22</b>  | <b>2023/24</b>   |
|---|--|
| 5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2022; 8% of schools in Skipton and Ripon | 26 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 40% of schools in Skipton and Ripon. |
| 2 primaries; 1 secondary; 1 special; 1 PRS  | 1 nursery; 21 primaries; 2 secondaries; 2 specials.  |
| Total projected value of deficits = £2.6M   | Total projected value of deficits = £3.3M  |
| Projected average primary deficit = £60k  | Projected average nursery deficit = £110k  |
| Projected average secondary deficit = £1M   | Projected average primary deficit = £49k   |
| Projected average special deficit = £1.4M   | Projected average secondary deficit = £480k  |
| Projected average PRS deficit = £36k  | Projected average special deficit = £624k  |

#### 8.0 Planning school places

##### 8.1 School sustainability

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have regrettably occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. There have been six closures in the county over the last three years with two of these occurring in the constituency area.

Following a public consultation period, a decision was made by Executive Members to close Kell Bank CoE School. The school closed on the 31 August 2021. The catchment area of Masham CE VA Primary School has been extended to serve the former area served by Kell Bank CE VC Primary School.

Clapham CE VC Primary School closed in August 2020.

## **8.2 Collaborative working**

Collaborative working is two or more schools working together to the mutual benefit of their pupils with the overall aim of improving outcomes for all. This has the potential to broaden opportunities and contribute to efficiencies. There are eight primary federations in the Skipton and Ripon Area. In one of these federations there are four maintained schools with a single governing body and Head teacher, the rest are made up of either two or three primary schools.

## **8.3 Pupil rolls – current and future**

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child under the Education Act 1996. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas together with:

- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The County Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Skipton and Ripon constituency area. A large proportion of the constituency is rural and served by small schools located within villages. A falling birth rate combined with changing demographics means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. Across the constituency the schools have worked innovatively to mitigate these challenges including forming local federations. Like all small schools the fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding.

The general picture across the whole of the County shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. There are several social and economic reasons for this including the availability and price of housing and employment factors. Currently we have several areas where the numbers on roll are falling and we have surplus capacity in the school system.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from sites proposed in the adopted Harrogate Borough Council Plan or the Craven Local Plan that do not yet have planning approval. Within the constituency are, Skipton town and Ripon will accommodate most of the housing growth over the Local Plan Period.

The key points to note within LA planning areas across the constituency area are:

## **8.4 Primary**

### **Ripon Town**

In addition to a number of current developments on-site or those with outstanding permission within Ripon Town, an outline planning application for 1,300 units at Claro

Barracks, Deverell Barracks and Laver Banks has been submitted to Harrogate Borough Council and this includes land for a new two form entry primary school. There is some limited capacity in existing primary schools in Ripon to cater for the first phase of housing development (at Deverell Barracks). CYPS are working collaboratively with Homes England and Defence Infrastructure Organisation on the provision of a school site on part of Claro Barracks and associated s.106 education contributions. It is currently anticipated that a new primary school will be provided in 2026.

It is assumed that the new school would initially open for nursery and reception pupils. The second year of opening would see Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils accommodated, adding a further year group for the third year and beyond until a full roll of 210 is achieved. This is in common with the opening profile for many newly established schools and helps to avoid destabilising existing provision. Further expansion of the school up to a two form entry will be in line with growth in pupil numbers from the catchment area.

### **Masham**

Although there are indicated sites within the Local Plan for Harrogate District, none of these sites are currently being developed.

### **Boroughbridge**

Although there a high number of housing permissions in this area, we are not yet seeing an impact on local school places but are monitoring the situation carefully in Boroughbridge Town and Kirby Hill.

### **Harrogate Primary Outer**

There is significant housing development planned/underway in to the west of Harrogate. Beckwithshaw Community Primary School (Harrogate Outer Area) is located close to some of these developments.

### **Skipton Town**

During the consultation on the Craven Local Plan the need for two additional primary schools within Skipton town was identified. It was suggested that one of these could be located on land already within NYCC's ownership to the north west of the town (Raikeswood Drive), and the other could be within sites to the east of the town (Airedale Ave and Elsey Croft). Other options for providing additional places within the town were also considered and a planning application has been submitted for a proposed expansion of Greatwood Primary Academy. If approved this would add an additional 210 places to the primary school without the need to build a new school on one of the sites reserved.

## **8.5 Secondary**

### **Ripon Secondary Schools**

There are three secondary schools in the Ripon area; Ripon Grammar School, Outwood Ripon Academy and Nidderdale High School and Community College, Pateley Bridge. The scale of anticipated development for Ripon and the surrounding area, including the Ripon Barracks site, does not warrant the introduction of a new secondary school in the town area. The LA is expecting to secure developer contributions to enable the expansion of provision on an existing secondary town site(s) and have commenced discussions about how to introduce additional capacity.

## Skipton Secondary Schools

It is not expected that the new housing in Skipton will warrant the need for additional secondary school places in the town. There are currently 480 surplus places across the secondary schools in Skipton and the estimated pupil yield from new housing is not expected to exceed that number.

## South Craven School

The Bradford Local Plan includes a target for new homes in Silsden of 700 homes, and in Steeton and Eastburn of 175 homes. Using our usual multiplier of 1 secondary aged pupil from every 8 houses, this would generate approximately 109 secondary aged pupils. The Craven Local Plan includes proposals for housing in Glusburn/Crosshills, Cononley, Cowling, Farnhill & Kildwick, and Sutton-in-Craven, which would generate approximately 20 secondary aged pupils. These would be in addition to the pupils from current housing permissions shown in Appendix 1.

South Craven School currently has around 138 pupils from outside its catchment area from the Skipton area, and around 328 pupils from outside its catchment area, mainly from the Bradford Local Authority area. If there were increased demand from within its catchment area, the proportion of out-of-catchment area pupils would decrease over time.

## 9.0 Recommendation

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>9.1</b> That Members note the report on educational factors in the Skipton and Ripon constituency area.</p> |
|---|

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Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

## APPENDIX 1

### Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

| School planning area  | Places available as at 2020/2021 | Number on Roll 2016/2017 | Number on roll 2020/2021 | Surplus Capacity 2020/2021 | Forecast pupils as at 2025/2026 | Pupils from current housing permissions until 2025/2026 | Surplus capacity 2025/26 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>PRIMARY</b>  |                                  |                          |                          |                            |                                 |   |                          |
| Boroughbridge Primary<br>Boroughbridge Primary*<br>Kirkby Hill CE<br>Roecliffe CE   | 474                              | 357                      | 334                      | 140                        | 299                             | 266   | -91                      |
| Boroughbridge Primary Outer<br>Dishforth Airfield CP<br>Great Ouseburn CP*<br>Green Hammerton CE*<br>Kirk Hammerton CE*<br>Marton-cum-Grafton CE*<br>Nun Monkton Primary*<br>St Peter's Brafferton CE*<br>Staveley CP*  | 784                              | 548                      | 569                      | 215                        | 523                             | 79  | 182                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1258</b>                      | <b>905</b>               | <b>903</b>               | <b>355</b>                 | <b>822</b>                      | <b>345</b>  | <b>91</b>                |
| Harrogate Primary Outer<br>All Saint's CE School*<br>Askwith CP<br>Beckwithshaw CP<br>Birstwith CE<br>Admiral Long CE<br>Darley CP<br>Follifoot CE*<br>Hampsthwaite CE*<br>Kettlesing Felliscliffe CP<br>Killinghall CE*<br>North Rigton CE<br>Ripley Endowed*<br>Sicklinghall CE*<br>Spofforth CE* | 1324                             | 1130                     | 1183                     | 141                        | 1091                            | 217   | 16                       |
| Masham Primary<br>Masham CE VA Primary  | 116                              | 111                      | 127                      | -11                        | 126                             | 18  | -28                      |
| Nidderdale Primary Outer<br>Dacre Braithwaite CE<br>Fountains Earth, Lofthouse CE<br>Glasshouses CP<br>Summerbridge CP  | 263                              | 220                      | 210                      | 53                         | 169                             | 22  | 72                       |
| North Craven Primary Outer<br>Austwick CE<br>Bentham CP<br>Giggleswick Primary<br>Hellifield CP<br>Ingleton Primary<br>Long Preston Endowed VA  | 729                              | 525                      | 501                      | 228                        | 468                             | 81  | 180                      |
| Pateley Bridge Primary<br>St Cuthbert's CE Primary  | 119                              | 91                       | 79                       | 40                         | 85                              | 11  | 23                       |
| Ripon Primary<br>Holy Trinity CofE Infant School<br>Holy Trinity CofE Junior School<br>Moorside Primary School<br>Outwood Academy Greystone<br>Ripon Cathedral CE<br>Sharow CE<br>St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary   | 1279                             | 1262                     | 1145                     | 134                        | 1020                            | 215   | 44                       |
| Ripon Primary Outer   | 647                              | 584                      | 535                      | 112                        | 439                             | 46  | 162                      |

|   |             |             |             |            |             |            |            |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Bishop Monkton CE<br>Burton Leonard CE<br>Fountains CE<br>Grewelthorpe CE<br>Kirkby Malzeard CE<br>Markington CE<br>North Stainley CE<br>Skelton Newby Hall CE  |             |             |             |            |             |            |            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1926</b> | <b>1846</b> | <b>1680</b> | <b>246</b> | <b>1459</b> | <b>261</b> | <b>206</b> |
| Settle Primary<br>Settle CE   | 210         | 177         | 177         | 33         | 177         | 7          | 26         |
| Skipton Primary<br>Christ Church CE<br>Skipton Parish Church CE<br>Skipton, Greatwood CP<br>Skipton, Water Street CP<br>St Stephen's Catholic   | 1149        | 991         | 942         | 207        | 930         | 198        | 21         |
| Skipton Primary Outer<br>Bradleys Both CP<br>Burnsall VA Primary<br>Carleton Endowed CE<br>Cracoe and Rylstone CE<br>Embsay CE<br>Gargrave CE<br>Grassington CE<br>Kettlewell Primary<br>Kirkby in Malhamdale United VA<br>The Boyle and Petyt Primary<br>Thornton in Craven CP<br>Threshfield School | 1274        | 1032        | 1052        | 222        | 1015        | 75         | 184        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2423</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>1994</b> | <b>429</b> | <b>1945</b> | <b>273</b> | <b>205</b> |
| South Craven Primary<br>Glusburn CP<br>Sutton in Craven CE<br>Sutton-in-Craven CP   | 731         | 648         | 704         | 27         | 677         | 26         | 28         |
| South Craven Primary Outer<br>Cononley CP<br>Cowling CP<br>Kildwick CE<br>Lothersdale Primary   | 508         | 512         | 541         | -33        | 485         | 18         | 5          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1239</b> | <b>1160</b> | <b>1245</b> | <b>-6</b>  | <b>1162</b> | <b>44</b>  | <b>33</b>  |
| Thirsk Outer<br>Alanbrooke School*<br>Baldersby St James CE<br>Carlton Miniott Primary *<br>Dishforth CE<br>Knayton CE*<br>Pickhill CE*<br>Sessay CE*<br>South Kilvington CE*<br>Topcliffe CE Academy*  | 968         | 804         | 851         | 117        | 739         | 61         | 168        |
| <b>SECONDARY</b>  |             |             |             |            |             |            |            |
| Harrogate & Rural Secondary<br>Harrogate Grammar*<br>Rossett School*<br>Harrogate High*<br>St John Fisher Catholic High*<br>St Aidan's CE High*<br>Nidderdale High  | 7685        | 7736        | 7841        | -156       | 7928        | 380        | -623       |
| Mid Craven Secondary<br>Ermysted's Grammar School<br>Skipton Girls' High School<br>The Skipton Academy<br>Upper Wharfedale School   | 2826        | 2297        | 2346        | 480        | 2381        | 123        | 322        |
| North Craven Secondary<br>Settle College  | 675         | 571         | 664         | 11         | 657         | 46         | -28        |



|  |      |      |      |    |      |     |      |
|--|------|------|------|----|------|-----|------|
| Ripon & Rural Secondary<br>Outwood Academy Ripon<br>Ripon Grammar School | 1709 | 1516 | 1656 | 53 | 1658 | 136 | -85  |
| South Craven Secondary<br>South Craven School                            | 1806 | 1742 | 1806 | 0  | 1901 | 23  | -118 |

Note

- \* School outside the constituency area
- Figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions, but not undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals.

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- Why we set it up
- Who was involved
- What it was (and what it wasn't)
- How it worked
- Key recommendations
- Next steps

Full report at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/ruralcommission](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ruralcommission)

## Rural economy

- Devolution is critical to ensuring the right use of investment in the region and the Commission calls on the Government to agree a deal as a matter of urgency.
- The County Council must encourage investment in the region. This could be pursued through a mutual bank, with supporting funding from the Levelling Up Funds or the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- The Commission sees a role for North Yorkshire leading in green employment including food, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. The Levelling Up Funds or the Shared Prosperity Fund must provide seed funding support to be match funded by industry.

## Energy transition

- The Government must invest in an electricity structure that does not overlook rural and remote areas.
- The LEP and the County Council must advocate for investment in rural electricity infrastructure.
- The National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should execute an enabling strategy to permit the essential infrastructure and upgrades to buildings to be undertaken, to ensure a ‘fit-for-purpose’ future within these protected landscapes.

## Digital connectivity

- The National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must establish a Digital Inclusion Group to advise on a digital infrastructure that will be acceptable for these protected regions.
- The Government and OFCOM must understand digital connectivity as a human right. This is as much a human right for people in rural and remote areas as it is in urban areas. The Commission advocates that the Government begin by connecting its most remote citizens to avoid the typical lagging-behind model.
- DCMS must place a higher priority on digital inclusion in rural communities and set out a strategic approach to address the issue for North Yorkshire and other sparsely populated areas. The Shared Prosperity Fund could be used as a vehicle to address this issue.

## Farming and land management

- Defra must have a more integrated approach to farming, land management and the environment. It must recognise that farming and land management practices are central to achieving environmental targets. Working with Nature, rather than substituting for it, will deliver the most profitable farms in conjunction with the most sustainable Nature.
- The County Council, in conjunction with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, should facilitate a new Farm Business Task Force to direct the culture change needed for the farming future and to ensure changed business practice meets environmental targets. This should liaise closely with the national Agricultural Productivity Task Force.
- Defra must provide free business coaching and mentoring support to help farm businesses survive and restructure, whilst ensuring support is in place to help farmers exit the industry with dignity.

## Rural schools, education and training

- The Commission believes that DfE must revise its National Funding Formula to ensure increased support for rural super sparse secondary schools.
- The County Council must lead on pioneering a two-stream educational system post GCSE in rural and remote areas, with one stream focusing on vocational education while the other remains academic.
- The County Council and the LEP must strengthen the offer for post-16 education and provide a better sense of future for young people.



## Rural housing

- The formula for designating affordable housing must be revised by MHCLG so that it does not reflect market value in an area but rather average income in the area.
- Local authorities should have the power to levy a charge on second homes, which must stay in the county and be used to further affordable housing.
- Each parish in rural North Yorkshire should build five houses over a ten-year period. 40% of this housing stock must be affordable or available for rental.

## Rural transport

- The Commission believes that Defra must make it clear what rural fund will replace the loss of the EU Rural Development Programme funding which allowed local communities to respond imaginatively to local needs around transport.
- Until the devolved authority is established, the County Council must have the power to use Shared Prosperity Funds and Levelling Up funds to design relevant schemes for rural and remote areas in North Yorkshire.
- The Commission believes that the County Council should take up the opportunity to provide more innovative passenger transport such as demand responsive transport across the county.

## Cross cutting themes

- Devolution is critical to securing long-term investment into the region and the Commission calls on the Government to agree a deal as a matter of urgency. This will allow North Yorkshire to ensure best use of levelling up funds for its remote and rural regions.
- The County Council must establish an Advisory Task Force to include civil servants, rural business, banking and industry, academic and scientific expertise, and communities to take forward our recommendations.
- The Commission urges the government to ensure Levelling Up funds recognise the needs of sparsely populated northern regions as much as the needs of northern industrial regions.
- Community and social infrastructure are critical. The Government must ensure Levelling Up funds protect social infrastructure in remote and rural regions.

## Next steps:

- Report made 57 recommendations to 17 organisations
- Substantial interest from press and influencers
- Report broadly supportive of our ambitions
- NYCC response agreed by Executive on 21 September
- Rural Task Force to maintain momentum
- Opportunities to open new, or to reinforce existing, discussions with government and others



# Rural North Yorkshire: The way forward

## Beautiful, connected, and embracing the future

### Executive Summary

July 2021

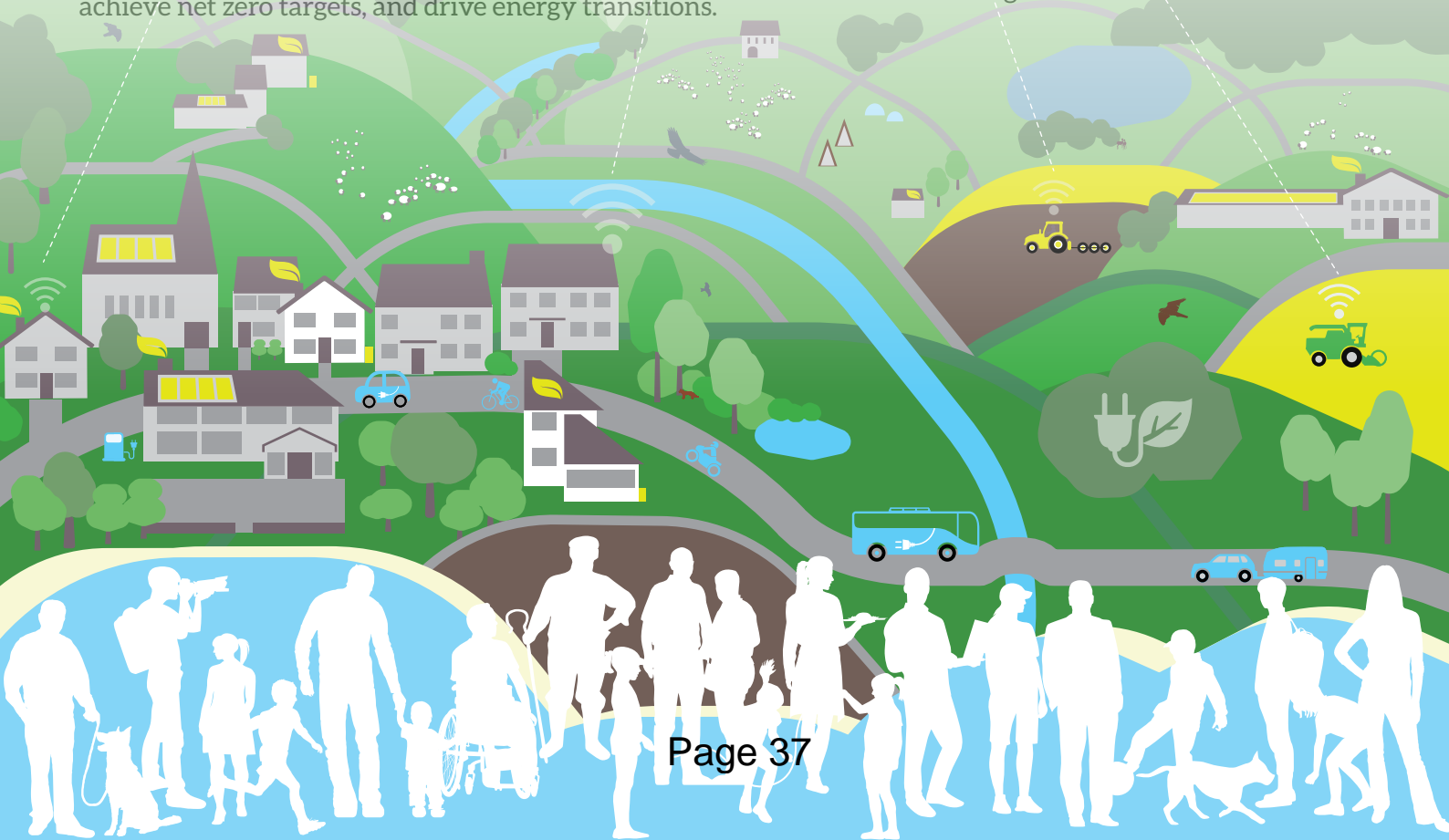
This is the first Rural Commission of its kind. Our report aims to preserve the beauty of Rural North Yorkshire while embracing new ways of living and being.

The issues the Commission has examined require positive behavioural change to allow rural and remote North Yorkshire to become a leader in the green economy, have beautiful living rural spaces, to be digitally connected, farm sustainably and have vibrant services. The Commissioners believe that a thriving rural community is one in which people of all ages and backgrounds can find a home and play a part in community life.

The Commission strongly advocates for the levelling up debate not only to focus on Northern industrial regions, but also on remote and rural regions. The debate must recognise the significant potential of rural and sparsely populated rural areas to contribute to the national economy, achieve net zero targets, and drive energy transitions.

**The Commission is strongly of the view that devolution is a priority for rural North Yorkshire. The Commission believes that central government must ensure additional powers and funding for the devolved authority so that it has real capacity within the region for decision-making and control of significant funding.**

The Commission examined seven key themes: rural economy; energy transition; digital connectivity; farming and land management; rural schools, education and training; rural housing; rural transport. Cross cutting themes were also examined.



The Commissioners: The Very Reverend John Dobson DL, Martin Booth, Chris Clark, Heather Hancock, Jean MacQuarrie, Professor Sally Shortall, Dr Debbie Trebilco, Sir William Worsley Bt DL.

## Key recommendations:

**Rural economy: key challenge:** North Yorkshire has a diverse economy. There is high skilled employment but there is also a significant low wage economy.

### What Commissioners suggest:

- Devolution is critical to ensuring the right use of investment in the region and the Commission calls on the government to agree a deal as a matter of urgency.
- The County Council must encourage investment in the region. This could be pursued through a mutual bank, with supporting funding from the Levelling Up Funds or the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- The Commission sees a role for North Yorkshire leading in green employment including food, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. The Levelling Up Funds or the Shared Prosperity Fund must provide seed funding support to be match funded by industry.

**Energy Transition: key challenge:** Up to 47% of North Yorkshire is designated as either a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the rural housing stock is made of solid brick or stone walls; there is no gas grid, and weak electrical infrastructure.

### What Commissioners suggest:

- The Government must invest in an electricity structure that does not overlook rural and remote areas.
- The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the County Council must advocate for investment in rural electricity infrastructure.
- The National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should execute an enabling strategy to permit the essential infrastructure and upgrades to buildings to be undertaken, to ensure a 'fit-for-purpose' future within these protected landscapes.

**Digital connectivity: key challenge:** The Commission acknowledges the commitment and considerable investment the County Council has made to digital connectivity in North Yorkshire. Despite the significant investment, digital connectivity remains a significant challenge, especially in rural areas.

**The Commission is strongly of the view that digital connection must be considered a human right.**

### What Commissioners suggest:

- The Yorkshire National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must establish a Digital Inclusion Group to advise on a digital infrastructure that will be acceptable for these protected regions.
- National government and OFCOM must understand digital connectivity as a human right. This is as much a human right for people in rural and remote areas as it is in urban areas. The Commission advocates that the government begin by connecting its most remote citizens to avoid the typical lagging-behind model.
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport must place a higher priority on digital inclusion in rural communities and set out a strategic approach to address the issue for North Yorkshire and other sparsely populated areas. The Shared Prosperity Fund could be used as a vehicle to address this issue.



**Farming and Land Management: key challenge:** North Yorkshire has a long and proud history of farming. There was a great deal of evidence that farming, and farmers are facing significant challenges and policies must be developed to assist them to meet these challenges.

### What Commissioners suggest:

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must have a more integrated approach to farming, land management and the environment. It must recognise that farming and land management practices are central to achieving environmental targets. Working with Nature, rather than substituting for it, will deliver the most profitable farms in conjunction with the most sustainable Nature.

The Council, in conjunction with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, should facilitate a new Farm Business Task Force to direct the culture change needed for the farming future and to ensure changed business practice meets environmental targets. This should liaise closely with the national Agricultural Productivity Task Force.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must provide free business coaching and mentoring support to help farm businesses survive and restructure, whilst ensuring support is in place to help farmers exit the industry with dignity.

**Rural schools, education and training: key challenge:** North Yorkshire has the highest number of small schools in England. Rural schools perform well. Yet, rural schools risk closure. The sustainability of rural schools is largely attributable to falling pupil rolls, financial difficulties and schools standards. Children attending small rural schools achieve better educational outcomes than urban children, yet they are less likely to go on to further and higher education when they leave school.

### What Commissioners suggest:

The Commission believes that the Department for Education must revise its National Funding Formula to ensure increased support for rural super sparse secondary schools.

The County Council must lead on pioneering a two-stream educational system post GCSE in rural and remote areas, with one stream focusing on vocational education while the other remains academic.

The County Council and the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership must strengthen the offer for post-16 education and provide a better sense of future for young people.

# Key recommendations:

**Rural housing; key challenge:** in North Yorkshire there is a significant shortage of affordable homes in large parts of the County and an acute housing shortage within the national parks. The general high cost of rural housing means that the region is unaffordable for low- and medium-income families.

## What Commissioners suggest:

The formula for designating affordable housing must be revised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government so that it does not reflect market value in an area but rather average income in the area.

The County Council should be enabled to have the power to levy a charge on second homes which must stay in the county and be used to further affordable housing.

Each parish in rural North Yorkshire should build five houses over a ten-year period. 40% of this housing stock must be affordable or available for rental.

**Rural transport; key challenge:** People who live in super sparse and rural areas need to travel for school, employment, shopping, and health facilities. This raises issues that include accessibility, affordability, and environmental impact.

## What Commissioners suggest:

The Commission believes that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must make it clear what rural fund will replace the loss of the EU Rural Development Programme funding which allowed local communities to respond imaginatively to local needs around transport.

Until the devolved authority is established, the Council must have the power to use Shared Prosperity Funds and Levelling Up funds to design relevant schemes for rural and remote areas in North Yorkshire.

The Commission believes that the County Council should take up the opportunity to provide more innovative passenger transport such as demand responsive transport across the county.

**Cross cutting themes; key challenge:** The Commission identified a number of issues for the region that are impacted by all of the previous themes. These are the demographic challenge and the missing generations; leadership; the importance of community and climate change.

## What Commissioners suggest:

Devolution is critical to securing long-term investment into the region and the Commission calls on the government to agree a deal as a matter of urgency. This will allow North Yorkshire to ensure best use of levelling up funds for its remote and rural regions.

The County Council must establish an Advisory Task Force to include civil servants, rural business, banking and industry, academic and scientific expertise, and communities to take forward our recommendations.

The Commission urges the government to ensure Levelling Up funds recognise the needs of sparsely populated northern regions as much as the needs of northern industrial regions.

Community and social infrastructure are critical. The government must ensure Levelling Up funds protect social infrastructure in remote and rural regions.



## North Yorkshire County Council Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee 10am on 16 December 2021

### Committee work programme

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider, amend and add to the Committee's draft work programme (see Appendix 1), as required.

#### 2.0 Remit of the committee

- 2.1 The Area Constituency Committees:

- Act as a forum for Members to bring forward issues affecting their local Electoral Divisions
- Hear and respond to questions and statements from members of the public relating to anything affecting the community within the constituency area
- Agree a Work Programme which lists items of business which the Committee wishes to consider at future meetings
- Undertake meaningful scrutiny of local health issues within their constituency area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by the Scrutiny of Health Committee
- Undertake meaningful scrutiny of local transport issues within their constituency area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Act as consultees in major decisions that affect their constituency area (including responding to consultations)
- Make recommendations on the application of Innovation funding (supported by the Stronger Communities Team)
- Develop a working relationship with the local MP, sharing updates and information on relevant local issues.

#### 3.0 Scheduled committee dates

- 3.1 Forthcoming committee dates are:

- 10am on 7 January 2022
- 10am on 10 March 2022.

#### 4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members consider, amend and add to the Committee's draft work programme (see Appendix 1), as required.

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON  
8 December 2021

Report Author: Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.

**Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee**  
**Work Programme 2021 to 2022 – dated 1 December 2021**

**Informal meetings of the committee held during the peak of the pandemic when formal meetings of the Council for most committees were postponed**

2 April 2020, 23 April 2020, 14 May 2020, 4 June 2020, 16 July 2020, 3 September 2020

**10am on 10 March 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting**

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| Committee discussion with local MP         | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency   |
| Castleberg Community Hospital, Giggleswick | Final update from Airedale Wharfedale and Craven CCG, NHS Property Services and Airedale NHS Foundation Trust   |
| Highways                                   | Operation of the permit scheme for highways works and the quality of work undertaken by utilities companies - Business and Environment Services, NYCC |
| Stronger Communities                       | Stronger Communities update - Stronger Communities Programme, NYCC  |

**10am on 27 May 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting**

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| Committee discussion with local MP | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency                                      |
| Tourism and economic development   | Tourism and the promotion of local heritage and natural environment (6 month update) - Business and Environment Services, NYCC |
| Schools                            | Regulation of and support for home schooling – Children and Young People Services, NYCC  |
| Transport                          | Digital Demand Responsive Bus Service – Business and Environment Services, NYCC  |
| Youth Council                      | Presentation on the work of the Youth Council and how it can engage with the ACCs – Children and Young People Services, NYCC   |
| Governance                         | Appointments to committees and outside bodies – Legal and Democratic Services, NYCC  |

| <b>10am on 2 September 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting</b> |  |
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| Committee discussion with local MP                              | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency  |
| Executive Member update   | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area   |
| Highways  | Operation of the permit scheme for highways works and the quality of work undertaken by utilities companies – six month update – Business and Environment Services, NYCC   |
| Community safety  | Overview by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner – Philip Allott   |
| Youth Council   | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area   |
| <b>10am on 16 December 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting</b> |  |
| Executive Member update   | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area   |
| Sustainable schools   | Annual Education Report – Children and Young People Services, NYCC   |
| Rural Commission  | Overview of Report and Recommendations   |
| Youth Council   | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area   |
| <b>10am on 7 January 2022 – live broadcast remote meeting</b>   |  |
| Budget consultation   | An opportunity for committee members to review the annual council budget and its implications for the area covered by the committee, ahead of the Executive meeting in January 2022 and County Council in February 2022. |
| <b>10am on 10 March 2022</b>                                    |  |
| Committee discussion with local MP                              | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency  |
| Executive Member update   | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area   |

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| Youth Council                         | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area |
| Climate Change and the environment    | Update on progress with the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan  |
| <b>10am on 26 May 2022 - TBC</b>      |  |
| Committee discussion with local MP    | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency                                |
| Executive Member update               | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area                 |
| Youth Council                         | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area |
| Schools                               | Regulation of and support for home schooling – Children and Young People Services, NYCC                                  |
| Transport                             | Digital Demand Responsive Bus Service – Business and Environment Services, NYCC  |
| Governance                            | Appointments to committees and outside bodies – Legal and Democratic Services, NYCC                                      |
| <b>10am on 1 September 2022 - TBC</b> |  |
| Committee discussion with local MP    | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency                                |
| Executive Member update               | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area                 |
| Youth Council                         | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area |
| Community safety                      | Overview by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner – Philip Allott   |
| <b>10am on 15 December 2022 - TBC</b> |  |
| Committee discussion with local MP    | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency                                |
| Executive Member update               | An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area                 |

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| Youth Council | An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area |
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**Matters of interest to the committee that have yet to be scheduled:**

- River Wharfe - water cleanliness – scrutiny review by Leeds City Council. This will be a joint piece of work the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Police crime data briefing, neighbourhood policing and the new Target Operating Model

Daniel Harry

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