



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 5 May 2021

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes
and Reports**



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend the Annual General Meeting of the County Council. This meeting is being held remotely using Teams on **Wednesday, 5 May 2021 at 10.30 am**, at which the following business will be transacted.

Pursuant to The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held using video conferencing with a live broadcast to the Council's YouTube site. Further information on this is available on the committee pages on the Council website - <https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk>

The meeting will be available to view once the meeting commences, via the following link - www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings

BUSINESS

1. Election of the Chairman of the County Council

To serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 February 2021

(Pages 7 - 12)

3. Apologies for absence

4. To elect a Vice-Chairman of the County Council

To serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022.

5. Declarations of Interest

6. Chairman's Announcements

Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chairman of the Council.

7. To elect a Leader of the Council

The Leader was elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Council in May 2017

following the County Council Elections. This was for a period of four years. The recent deferment of the planned County Council Elections from May 2021 to May 2022 means that we now need to elect a Leader to serve until the May 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Council.

8. Statement by the Leader of the Council

Including:

- The number and appointment of Executive Members.
- Appointment of Deputy Leader.
- Allocation of portfolios and delegation of Executive powers/functions.

(Pages 13 - 14)

9. 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 Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) – email: barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk or in writing to Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD by midday on Thursday, 29 April 2021. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item.

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 anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

10. To consider the report and recommendations of the Executive and make decisions on them

(Pages 15 - 18)

11. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies - Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

(Pages 19 - 22)

12. Formal meetings of the Authority's Committees from 7 May 2021 onwards - Report of the Leader

(Pages 23 - 30)

13. Statements of Executive Members, in the order set out below, followed by the Statements of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Executive Members:

13(a) Executive Member for Access - County Councillor Don Mackenzie

(Pages 31 - 32)

13(b) Executive Member for Stronger Communities - County Councillor David Chance

(Pages 33 - 36)

13(c) Executive Member for Health and Adult Services - County Councillor Michael Harrison

(Pages 37 - 38)

13(d) Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing - County

Councillor Caroline Dickinson

(Pages 39 - 42)

- 13(e) Executive Member for Open to Business - County Councillor Andrew Lee**
(Pages 43 - 44)
- 13(f) Executive Member for Customer Engagement - County Councillor Greg White**
(Pages 45 - 50)
- 13(g) Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects - County Councillor Gareth Dadd**
(Pages 51 - 52)
- 13(h) Executive Member for Children's Services - County Councillor Janet Sanderson**
(Pages 53 - 54)
- 13(i) Executive Member for Education and Skills - County Councillor Patrick Mulligan**
(Pages 55 - 56)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:

- 13(j) Scrutiny Board (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)**
(Pages 57 - 58)
- 13(k) Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Karin Sedgwick)**
(Pages 59 - 60)
- 13(l) Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)**
(Pages 61 - 62)
- 13(m) Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Stanley Lumley)**
(Pages 63 - 64)
- 13(n) Scrutiny of Health Committee (Chairman: County Councillor John Ennis)**
(Pages 65 - 68)
- 13(o) Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Janet Jefferson)**
(Pages 69 - 70)

Members of the Council may, without notice, ask the Member who made the statement questions arising from matters raised in that statement or may ask any questions on matters in that the portfolio not mentioned in the statement, but unless notice has been given by 4 May 2021, the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, and this is then circulated to all Members.

14. Notices of Motion

15. Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

RICHARD FLINTON
Chief Executive Officer

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

Monday, 26 April 2021

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North Yorkshire County Council

County Council

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held remotely on 17 February 2021 commencing at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Jim Clark in the Chair.

County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Bob Baker, Philip Barrett, David Blades, Derek Bastiman, Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, Lindsay Burr MBE, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Liz Colling, Richard Cooper, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, John Ennis, David Goode, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, Bryn Griffiths, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Robert Heseltine, David Hugill, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Stanley Lumley, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackay, Don Mackenzie, John Mann, Stuart Martin MBE, John McCartney, Zoe Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Stuart Parsons, Caroline Patmore, Yvonne Peacock, Chris Pearson, Clive Pearson, Gillian Quinn, Tony Randerson, Janet Sanderson, Karin Sedgwick, Andy Solloway, Peter Sowray MBE, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter, John Weighell OBE, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Windass.

County Councillor Helen Grant left the meeting at 11.15am and County Councillor Stuart Parsons left the meeting at 12:21pm due to technical problems with their IT.

ATTENDING:-

There were no members of the public participating in the meeting. This was a live broadcast remote meeting held using MS Teams. As such, the meeting was available to be viewed by the public on the Council YouTube channel - <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings>

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

165 Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 November 2020

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 18 November 2020, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams and the motion was declared carried with 58 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 18 November 2020, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

166 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Andrew Backhouse, Mel Hobson, Joe Plant, Callam Walsh and Geoff Webber.

167 Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Michael Harrison declared two interests: the first that a family member works for the Council's Health and Adult Services; the second that his employer is one of the companies named in the Treasury Management report. He confirmed that he had received the necessary dispensations from the Standards Committee.

168 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the Honorary Aldermen and members of the public who were watching the live broadcast meeting on the Council's YouTube site.

The Chairman informed Members of the usual arrangements for the meeting.

The Chairman passed on congratulations, on behalf of the Council, to Sam Clayton who was awarded an OBE and Janine Nicholson an MBE, both for their work with children and young people.

The Chairman noted the untimely death of County Councillor Richard Welch. Richard was a County Councillor for 12 years, representing the Ribblesdale Division. He was also a councillor for the Penyghent ward for Craven District Council and also a County Council appointee to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The Chairman noted the death in December 2020 of former County Councillor Michael Pitts, who represented the Newby Division for 16 years. He was also a longstanding Scarborough Borough Councillor and served as the Mayor of Scarborough.

The Chairman noted the death in January of former County Councillor Claire Kelley, who served from 1997 to 2005. She also served as a Harrogate Borough Councillor from 1992 until 2002.

The Chairman informed Members who are school governors that they did not need to declare an interest under the Code of Conduct in the item on school admissions, as this is not a role carried out for profit or gain.

The Chairman made a number of announcements relating to work that he was doing in his role as Chairman.

169 Statement by the Leader of the Council

County Councillor Carl Les made a statement and answered questions, under Contract Procedure Rule 2.3, as Leader of the County Council, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appear in the Minute Book (pages 12342 to 12344 of the Minute Book).

170 Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

171 To consider report and recommendations of the Executive and make decisions on them

Revenue Budget 2021/22 (revised 11.02.21) and the Medium Term Financial Strategy Report, Capital Spending Plan and Treasury Management Strategy

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2021/22 to 2023/24, the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and Council Tax for 2021/22

The recommendation at paragraph 3.1 of the report (pages 12348 to 12349 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

A named vote was taken by roll call and the motion declared carried with 59 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions, as follows:

For: County Councillors Val Arnold, Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Bob Baker, Philip Barrett, Derek Bastiman, David Blades, Eric Broadbent, Lindsay Burr MBE, Michael Chambers MBE, David Chance, Jim Clark, Liz Colling, Richard Cooper, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Stephanie Duckett, Keane Duncan, John Ennis, Caroline Goodrick, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Robert Heseltine, David Hugill, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Andrew Jenkinson, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Carl Les, Stanley Lumley, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackay, Don Mackenzie, John Mann, Stuart Martin MBE, Zoe Metcalfe, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Caroline Patmore, Yvonne Peacock, Chris Pearson, Clive Pearson, Gillian Quinn, Tony Randerson, Janet Sanderson, Karin Sedgwick, Andy Solloway, Peter Sowray MBE, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers, Angus Thompson, Cliff Trotter, John Weighell OBE, Greg White, Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Windass.

Against: County Councillors John McCartney and Stuart Parsons

Abstentions: County Councillors Philip Broadbank, David Goode, Bryn Griffiths and Janet Jefferson.

Resolved -

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2021/22 to 2023/24, the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and Council Tax for 2021/22 be approved.

Capital Five Year Spending Plan and the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22

These items were taken as one. The recommendation regarding the Capital Five Year Spending Plan at paragraph 3.2 of the report (page 12349 to 12350 of the Minute Book) and the recommendation regarding the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 at paragraph 3.3 of the report (page 12350 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried, with 58 for, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

Resolved -

That the Capital Five Year Spending Plan and the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 be approved.

Council Plan 2021-2025 (Revised 11.02.21)

The recommendation at paragraph 3.4 of the report (page 12350 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried, with 61 for, none against and 1 abstention.

Resolved -

That the draft Council Plan be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised to make any necessary changes to the text, including reflecting decision made on the budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the updated performance data.

Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the school year 2022/23

The recommendations at paragraph 3.5 of the report (page 12351 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried with 61 for, none against and no abstentions.

Resolved -

That:

- (a) the proposed admission policy for community and voluntary controlled schools and the proposed admission policy for nursery and primary schools, school with nursery classes and pre-reception classes Appendices 1 and 2 of the report (pages 12615 to 12620 of the Minute Book);
- (b) the proposed co-ordinated admission arrangements as set out in Appendix 3 of the report (pages 12621 to 12646 of the Minute Book);
- (c) the proposed In-Year Fair Access Protocol as set out in Appendix 4 of the report (pages 12647 to 12660 of the Minute Book); and
- (d) the proposed published admission numbers (PAN's) for community and voluntary controlled schools as show in Appendices 5 (primary) and 6 (secondary) (pages 12661 to 12674 of the Minute Book);

be approved.

Appointments to committees and other bodies

The recommendation at paragraph 3.6 and the report (page 12351 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried with 59 for, none against and no abstentions.

Resolved -

That:

County Councillor Stephanie Duckett be confirmed a Member of the Looked After Children Members Group.

172 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances and make a decision on them

The recommendations at paragraph 5.1 at page 334 (page 12677 of the Minute Book) were moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried, with 62 for, none against and no abstentions.

(Note that at the meeting the votes in favour was originally stated as 62 but upon review of the votes cast, the correct number was found to be 61 in favour.)

Resolved -

That the County Council approved:

- (a) That the current Members' Allowances Scheme be retained for the 2021/22 financial year.
- (b) That, if there are any increases in the travel and subsistence rates payable to staff, a similar increase be made to the rates in the Members' Allowances Scheme, to come into effect at the same time.

173 Statements of Executive Members, in the order set out below, followed by the Statements of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The written statements of the Executive Members and Chairmen of the Scrutiny Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees having previously been circulated were noted.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member for Education and Skills, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12688 to 12690).

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12692 to 12693).

County Councillor David Chance, Executive Member for Stronger Communities, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12694 to 12697).

County Councillor Michael Harrison, Executive Member for Health and Adult Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12698 to 12699).

County Councillor Caroline Dickinson, Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12700 to 12702).

County Councillor Andrew Lee, Executive Member for Open to Business, made a statement and answered questions. A summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12704 to 12705).

County Councillor Greg White, Executive Member for Library, Customer and Community Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12706 to 12710).

County Councillor Gareth Dadd, Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12712 to 12713).

County Councillor Janet Sanderson, Executive Member for Children's Services, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12714 to 12715).

The written statements of the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees having previously been circulated, and which appear in the Minute Book were noted.

County Councillor John Ennis, Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee, answered questions.

174 Report of the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Notice of Motion on Sky Lanterns

The recommendation at paragraph 5.0 of the report (page 12735 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried, with 60 for, none against and no abstentions.

Resolved -

To:-

- 1) Promote the restriction of the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on property and land owned by the Council. This includes those that are made from bamboo or claim to be biodegradable.
- 2) Ask all Parish and Town Councils within North Yorkshire to pass a similar motion, to ban the release of sky lanterns on Parish or Town Council land.
- 3) Incorporate the ban into all future residential tenancy and land lease agreements.
- 4) Proactively engage with businesses, landowners, schools, residential homes, council tenants, social housing providers, charities and community groups, to raise awareness of safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives that people can celebrate with, through promotion and campaigns.
- 5) Work with the County's MPs to ensure that the issue is considered by Parliament.

175 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were received within the deadline.

176 Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

The meeting closed at 1pm.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

05 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER CLLR CARL LES

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The nation was privileged to be allowed to share in what was a private family funeral. As the Dean of Windsor said in his remarks “Our lives have been enriched through the challenges that he has set us, the encouragement that he has given us, his kindness, humour and humanity”.

He was a frequent visitor to North Yorkshire, as part of visits made by the Queen, and also part of his 22,000 solo engagements, and many communities in our County, of place and of interest, will have many memories of how they related to him, not least the thousands of young people who participated in the “D of E Scheme” and the great benefits they acquired because of that participation.

Rest In Peace, Rise In Glory

Covid

As we emerge from the latest lockdown, and benefit from the hugely successful mass vaccination programme, there appears to be a brighter future ahead. We need to reflect on how well our officers have responded, and the strong partnership arrangements that exist in North Yorkshire. It would be invidious to try to single out individual organisations for praise, as all have worked for the common good, but I’m pleased that the Chairman has indicated a willingness to visit voluntary organisations to recognise their roles.

Climate Change

The Executive will be considering a draft carbon reduction plan for the Council in July. This will be framed in the context of our 2030 aspiration, with an annual update on progress and more detailed actions for the next year.

We are expecting the council’s carbon footprint to have reduced during last financial year because of the impact of the Covid pandemic, including closed buildings and reduced travel. It is essential that we do not allow everything to return to exactly as it was before. For example, whilst face to face meetings are essential in some circumstances, video conferencing works very well for many meetings and is significantly more efficient in carbon and time.

The Council’s energy team were recently successful in attracting £1.9m from the government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to make some of our schools and offices more energy efficient through improvements to buildings including double glazing. Making properties more energy efficient will be a key strand of our carbon reduction plan.

As a co-chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board I was pleased to play a part in launching the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission on 17 March. The Commission is an independent body that will help raise our region’s collective ambition in tackling climate

change. The Commission's focus will be on reducing carbon emissions as quickly as possible, and ensuring people in Yorkshire are prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, heatwaves and sea level rise. The Commission will encourage even greater investment in low carbon, climate resilient developments that create benefits for everyone, including a just transition for workers. It will also give Yorkshire and the Humber a louder, clearer and unified voice with which to call for the changes and support that we need to see at the national level so that we can achieve net-zero as swiftly as possible. For more information about the Commission please see <https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/>.

LEP

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Helen Simpson to the Chair of our LEP, one of the best performing LEP's in the country. At the same time I would like to thank David Kerfoot for all the good work and leadership he provided both in his tenure as Chair, but also a longer time as Deputy to Barry Dodd. David was passionate in his support for rural businesses, and also SME's and micro-businesses, which make up such a large part of the North Yorkshire economy.

Virtual meetings

We have been in direct communication with the Minister and Secretary of State about virtual meetings, and also through our connections with LGA and especially the County Council Network. We have supported the legal opinion being sought from the High Court by Herts CC and Lawyers in Local Govt, and I'm encouraged by a reply I received from the SoS that he would join with this request, rather than oppose it, and if it was positive he would move quickly to provide flexibility. Flexibility is the key point we require, as both virtual and face-to-face meetings have advantages.

The High Court hearing is on 21st April, but we are not clear when any judgement will be made. In the meantime we responded to the LGA's request for details of how we had held meetings, their value and their challenges, and we will respond to the Minister's call for evidence.

LGR

The consultation has now closed, and we await the SoS's decision, sometime in July we are told. Whatever the outcome, local government will need to work together for the benefit of all our residents wherever they live in the County, and that will be our commitment. In particular we need to collaborate on the Levelling Up and Community Renewal initiatives, working with our MP's as sponsors of such bids.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

North Yorkshire County Council

5 May 2021

The Report of the Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide County Council with details of reports received, decisions made and recommendations to County Council by the Executive since the last meeting of the County Council on 17 February 2021.

2.0 Details of meetings

- 2.1 The following sections provide details of decisions made and recommendations to County Council by the Executive since the last meeting of the County Council on 17 February 2021. The meetings were held on the following dates: 16 February 2021; 9 March 2021 (Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget); and 23 March 2021. The meeting scheduled for 20 April 2021 was cancelled.

All of the meetings were live broadcast and the recordings of the meetings are available via the following link - <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings>

2.2 16 February 2021 Executive Meeting

The Executive met on Tuesday 16 February 2021. It was a live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillor Paul Haslam.

Apologies: none received.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Area Constituency Committee Feedback
- Special Schools Budget 2021-2022
- Lowering the Age Range of Stillington County Primary School
- Winding-up of SJB Recycling Ltd
- Review of Traded Services in Education and Skills due to Covid-19
- Potential Purchase of Land within the County (this item contained exempt information).

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 16th February, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

2.3 9 March 2021 Executive (Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget) Meeting

The Executive met on Tuesday 9 March 2021. It was a live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison,

Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Paul Haslam, Janet Jefferson, Karin Sedgwick, Andy Paraskos and Annabel Wilkinson.

Apologies: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Q3 Performance Monitoring and Budget report including: Revenue Plan; Capital Plan; Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators
- Covid Winter Grant Scheme Update
- St Hilda's Roman Catholic Primary School, Whitby - School Closure Proposal
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
- Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

2.4 **23 March 2021 Executive Meeting**

The Executive met on Tuesday 23 March 2021. It was a live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillors David Goode and Paul Haslam.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Revised Plan for Economic Growth
- Scrutiny Review Final Report - Single Use Plastics
- Collaboration Agreement - Shared Waste Arrangements with City of York Council

The link to the reports and minutes from this meeting is as follows:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 23rd March, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

3.0 **Formal meetings of the authority's committees from 7 May 2021 onwards**

The current regulations enabling the holding of remote access meetings lapse on 7 May 2021. The Executive has not been able to meet and consider how to hold the formal meetings the authority's committees, from 7 May 2021 onwards. As such, the Leader agreed to urgently recommend to full Council, under his urgency powers in para 14 of the Executive Members' Delegation Scheme, a proposal for how formal committee meetings could be held.

The full report is in the main agenda.

4.0 Recommendations by Executive for approval/information at County Council

The following recommendations were made by Executive at the above meetings for approval and/or information at County Council:

4.1 Appointment to Committees and Other Bodies

This item was considered at Executive on 9 March 2021, where Executive was asked to recommend to County Council for approval, the appointment of Ashley Green to the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board as the deputy representative for Healthwatch North Yorkshire.

The Executive RECOMMENDS:

That the appointment of Ashley Green, as the nominated deputy representative for Healthwatch North Yorkshire, on the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board be approved.

CARL LES
Leader

County Hall
Northallerton

26 April 2021

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North Yorkshire County Council

County Council

5 May 2021

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies to be extended by one year in light of the deferment of the planned County Council elections to May 2022.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies were made in 2017, following the County Council elections, for a period of 4 years to the end of the current Council. The recent deferment of the planned County Council elections to May 2022 means that these appointments need to be extended by 12 months.
- 2.2 The appointments to Local Bodies are made by the Area Constituency Committees and not time limited. As such, no further action is required regarding Local Bodies.

3.0 Process for extending appointments

- 3.1 The appointments to Committees are made at Council. Therefore the County Council is asked at its Annual General Meeting on 5 May 2021 that all existing appointments to Committees previously made by Council are extended through to the end of the current Council in May 2022.
- 3.2 The majority of the appointments to Outside Bodies are made by the Executive. Those that are made by the Council are as follows (and detailed in Appendix 1):
- North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
 - North York Moors National Park Authority
 - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Business Innovation and Growth Panel
 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Education and Skills Panel.
- 3.3 The Executive will be asked to extend all of the appointments to the Outside Bodies, except those listed above, through to the end of the current Council in May 2022. The County Council is asked at its Annual General Meeting on 5 May 2021 that all existing appointments to Outside Bodies previously made by Council are extended through to the end of the current Council in May 2022.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the County Council agrees the extension of existing appointments to the Council's Committees and Outside Bodies (as outlined in section 3.0 of this report) to the end of the current Council in May 2022.

26 April 2021

Report Author: Daniel Harry

Background documents: None

APPENDIX 1 - COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Outside Body	No of Seats	Appointed By	Appointed (Members and Subs)	Currently Appointed until	Report back by/to
North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	2	Council	CC T Randerson CC D Chance	May 2021	Member/CD-BES
North York Moors National Park Authority	4	Council	CC S Parsons CC D Jeffels CC H Moorhouse CC C Patmore CC A Lee	May 2021	Member/Council
West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Business Innovation and Growth Panel	1	Council	CC P Mulligan	May 2021	
West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Education and Skills Panel	1	Council	CC P Mulligan	May 2021	
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	5	Council	CC D Ireton CC K Sedgwick CC G Quinn CC J McCartney CC Y Peacock	May 2021	Member/Council

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

Formal meetings of the authority's committees from 7 May 2021 onwards

Report of the Leader of the Council

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the current options for holding formal committee meetings from 7 May 2021, on the expiry of the current regulations specifically enabling the holding of remote access meetings and to determine the manner in which such meetings will be held going forwards.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement on 23 March 2020 about fundamental restrictions on public travel and movement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Leader of the Council stopped all formal committee meetings of the Council for the then foreseeable future, pending the introduction of legislation to allow for virtual meetings. Committee business continued via the Chief Executive Officer making urgent decisions that would previously have been made by the Council's committees under his emergency decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme, in consultation with other Officers and Members as appropriate.
- 2.2 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") came into force on 4 April 2020 and allow formal meetings of the Council, Executive and their committees and sub-committees held before 7 May 2021 to take place virtually (and to permit remote attendance at, and remote access to, such meetings). The Regulations enable the Council to hold such meetings without all, or any, of the Councillors being physically present in a room and allow for remote meetings through electronic and digital means at virtual locations using video and telephone conferencing, live webcast and live interactive streaming. Councillors need not be physically present, as long as they are able to hear and be heard (and where practicable, see and be seen by) other Councillors and members of the public attending remotely or in person.
- 2.3 On 7 April 2020 the Chief Executive Officer agreed, under his emergency delegated powers and in consultation with Executive Members (Decision Record 2020/CEO Emergency Powers/14), that a virtual meetings' regime for the Council should be introduced. The Council has published a Protocol for Remote Meetings and User Guides for members of the public on its website ([Decision Making at the Council | North Yorkshire County Council](#)).
- 2.4 All of the Council's formal, public committee meetings are currently live-broadcast, being live-streamed via the Council's YouTube page. The first remote meeting was held on 19 May 2020 and since then a total of 104 (as at 22 April 2021) formal committee meetings have been held remotely and live broadcast.

- 2.5 The 2020 Regulations are due to expire on 7 May 2021. The Government has confirmed that there is no Parliamentary time to extend or renew the Regulations before they expire or in the immediate future. On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government did, however, issue a call for evidence regarding remote meetings, which will close after 12 weeks, roughly 6 weeks after the existing regulations lapse - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence>. Through the call for evidence, the Government is seeking to understand the experience of local authorities regarding remote meetings and to invite their views on the advantages and disadvantages of making permanent express provision for remote meetings. Any new legislation introduced to expressly enable the holding of remote meetings is, however, some time away.
- 2.6 On 17 March 2021, the Association of Democratic Services Offices, Lawyers in Local Government and Hertfordshire County Council, supported by the Local Government Association, issued a claim with the High Court seeking a declaration which would allow for the continuation of local authority remote meetings beyond the 6 May 2021 on the basis that the existing local government legislation (separate to the Coronavirus legislation) could be interpreted to permit virtual meetings. The claim also included an application for the Court to expedite proceedings to ensure a decision is made before 6 May 2021. The case was heard on 21 April 2021 and the judgement is awaited, but there is no guarantee that the decision will be issued by 7 May 2021, nor that the case will be successful.
- 2.7 On 7 April 2021, the Government did, however, announce its support for the High Court claim, recognising that there was “a case to be heard” that the Local Government Act 1972 should be interpreted as allowing for virtual meetings “as the legislation was passed at a time when virtual meetings could not have been envisaged.” This support should hopefully add further weight to the case.

3.0 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS AFTER 7 MAY 2021**

- 3.1 There are 39 formal committee meetings of the Council due to be held in May, June and July alone (see Appendix 1). Of these meetings, there is the full Council on 21 July 2021.
- 3.2 As the current Regulations will not be extended and so expire on 7 May 2021, then there are a range of options as to how the Council could proceed:
- 1) return to physical meetings in person (with or without the public in attendance);
 - 2) hold meetings remotely, with the Chief Executive Officer using his emergency powers to formally take any decisions in consultation with the relevant committee (as occurred before the Regulations came into force);
 - 3) hold hybrid meetings, where some people are physically in the meeting room and some access the meeting remotely.
- 3.3 Taking each in turn, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken, as follows:

Return to meetings in person

- Strengths – enables meetings to be conducted with full interaction of all committee Members, meetings will be simpler to chair and there will be fewer ICT costs associated with support for the meetings (a live broadcast requires four members of staff and a meeting in person only one).

- Weaknesses – the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, including the need for social distancing, are highly likely to continue for some time, creating additional responsibilities regarding the holding of meetings; increased costs associated with travel, catering, venue hire, and time. At present, the only room that the Council has available which would be Covid-19 safe for a standard committee meeting of 13 Members is the Council Chamber in the Brierley Building, which can accommodate a maximum of 25 people. There may not be suitable venues available for some of the larger meetings like Council (72 Members plus officers and members of the public) and Scrutiny of Health (20 Members plus officers and members of the public). The Council could mandate a maximum number of attendees for meetings in order to observe social distancing requirements and reduce the risk of infection transmission, however this may disenfranchise some Members and members of the public.
- Opportunities – demonstrate that we are back to business as normal, at a time when schools are back, furlough periods are ending and lockdown restrictions are being relaxed.
- Threats – not all councillors and officers will have been vaccinated by early May, it will seem like a backward step in terms of the use of technology by councillors, not all councillors will be ready to return to meetings held in person which will mostly be held in Northallerton. There will be increase in carbon emissions through increase in travel.

Continued remote meetings, with formal decisions by Chief Executive Officer under emergency delegated powers

- Strengths – Logistical benefits by, for example, removing attendance difficulties in rural areas or where joint meetings are required; established technology and practice, benefits in time management, travel costs and carbon reduction. Also, minimises the risk of infection associated with a third wave of the pandemic prior to all adults being vaccinated; appears to have increased transparency, attendance and public participation in council meetings;
- Weaknesses – concerns about the level of interaction in the meetings by Members and the challenges around chairing, and the Council begins to look out of sync with the rest of the County that will have returned to work and opened up for business as usual.
- Opportunities – greater involvement of the public and the media, and continued efficient use of time by officers and Members; would allow for the outcome of the High Court case to be determined prior to holding any physical meetings.
- Threats – not a long-term solution to have the Chief Executive Officer use his emergency powers on an ongoing basis. There is an element of interpretation as to whether the Covid-19 pandemic still represents an “emergency” so as to justify the Chief Executive Officer using his emergency delegated powers.

Hybrid meetings

- Strengths – meets the requirement to return to meetings in person whilst giving the option of remote meetings for those Members who are unable or reluctant to commit to physical attendance.
- Weaknesses – this approach would need a (politically balanced) quorate to meet in person to enable lawful decisions to be made, there is a risk that people who join the meeting remotely are placed at a disadvantage during the meeting and their role may be advisory only. There are technical difficulties in having effective hybrid meetings and additional work would be required to make this more effective.
- Opportunities – this could become the model for meetings in the long term, once the approach has been tried and tested and so normalised.

- Threats – it is not clear whether the necessary technology is currently in place to enable large numbers of hybrid meetings to take place. It will also mean that officers will have to be physically present to support those members and the public who are in attendance.
- 3.4 From informal discussions with councillors in a variety of different settings regarding the operation of virtual meetings, the following themes have emerged: Members welcomed the reduction in travel time and costs associated with remote access meetings, the reduced costs associated with hospitality, travel claims and venue hire, and the reduced carbon dioxide emissions associated with travel to and from meetings; concerns that the remote meetings hinder debate and not all committee Members are actively engaged; the meetings can be very tiring and draining, particularly when they go on beyond one and a half hours; it remains difficult to chair meetings where people are not all in the same room. This is largely anecdotal and indicative but reveals that whilst remote access meetings are supported, there are some Members who would support a return to physical meetings in person and others who would not currently feel safe in physically attending meetings.
- 3.5 The Leader and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) have each sought the views of Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Council regarding the continuation of virtual meetings in the future. To date, there is general support for continuing with virtual meetings which would make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer, who would take these recommendations into account before making a formal decision on the matter.
- 3.6 The Government has recently issued guidance for the safe use of council buildings ([COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of council buildings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-council-buildings)) which actively encourages councils to move their annual council meeting to before 7 May 2021 (before the expiry of the 2020 Regulations) and to use powers to delegate decision-making to key individuals such as the Head of Paid Service and/or single Member decision-making. However the guidance goes on to state that where meetings take place in person the following steps should be followed:
1. Only those participants absolutely necessary should physically attend meetings and should maintain social distancing (2 metres apart or 1 metre with risk mitigation where 2 metres is not viable).
 2. Avoid transmission during meetings for example by not sharing pens, documents and other objects.
 3. Provide hand sanitisers in the rooms.
 4. Holding meetings in well ventilated rooms whenever possible.
 5. Use floor signage to help people maintain social distancing.
 6. Not allow the public to attend and instead broadcast the meetings online (the guidance states that the public should not be attending council meetings until after 21 June 2021).

In reality this would make it extremely hard, if not impossible, to have a full Council meeting of all councillors in one venue staying 2 metres apart. It would not currently be possible to hold a full Council meeting in any properties owned by the Council. In addition, appropriate risk assessments would need to be carried out in ensuring staff have the appropriate safeguards.

- 3.7 In line with the Government guidance and on the direction of the Chairman of the Council, in these exceptional pandemic circumstances, the date of the Council's annual meeting has been brought forward to 5 May 2021, before the expiry of the 2020 Regulations. At that time, it will not be known who has filled the two vacant posts and therefore it will be

necessary to do an updated political calculation at some point after the elections and determine which committees the new councillors will sit on.

4.0 **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Government regulations which explicitly allow remote meetings to take place and to make formal decisions at those meetings are due to expire on 7 May 2021. The Government has confirmed that the Regulations, which require primary legislation to be extended, will not be extended prior to their expiry on 7 May and has issued a call for evidence regarding the operation of remote meetings and possible future legislation. Assuming the worst case scenario that the legal claim in the High Court is unsuccessful (and the Council no longer has the ability to hold remote meetings and take virtual decisions) then there are a number of options which could be pursued for the formal, public meetings of the Council's committees.

4.2 It is anticipated that all eligible adults will have had the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by 1 July 2021. As such, it is suggested that it would make sense to continue with the remote access live broadcast meetings until at least early July 2021. In doing so, the Chief Executive Officer would be asked to use his emergency powers to make any lawful decisions regarding any matters being considered by the committees at those meetings. After July 2021, this position could be reviewed once there is greater clarity on the current court case and government's position. It may be possible that after appropriate risk assessments and with the will of members, there could be the potential to have meetings in person or in a hybrid form, depending on the progress and impacts of the restrictions being relaxed.

4.3 The suggested approach in paragraph 4.2 means that the full Council meetings in May (also the annual meeting) and July 2021 would be held remotely. There are likely to be decisions made at those meetings which are reserved to full Council and should not usually be delegated, for example:

- making any changes to the Constitution
- adopting/amending budget and policy framework or taking any decisions contrary to it
- electing the Leader of the Executive
- agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for committees, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them
- making certain appointments to outside bodies
- conferring the title of honorary alderman

However, it is arguable that the Council's Constitution is clear that "In cases of emergency" the Chief Executive Officer has power "to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee." (paragraph 4.1(e) of the Officers' Delegation Scheme); so this would not be a delegation in the usual sense but the Chief Executive Officer standing in the stead of the Council and taking the decisions the Council would otherwise take (but is currently unable to), under his emergency powers. However full Council is asked to adopt the approach of allowing virtual meetings to take place and allowing the Chief Executive to use his powers to make the decisions after taking into considering the views of the virtual meeting. This will continue to allow the views of directly elected Councillors to be at the centre of decision making for the Council.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial implications are set out in the body of this report.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

7.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report. However allowing virtual meetings to continue will reduce carbon emissions by reducing the requirement to travel to meetings.

8.0 **CONSULTATION**

8.1 Relevant Officers and Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposal

9.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 For the safe, expeditious and efficient conduct of the Council's business during the enduring Covid-19 pandemic it is recommended that full Council approve that from 7 May 2021 the Council continues to hold remote live-broadcast committee meetings, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers; that power be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to determine which committee meetings should be held virtually and which should be held physically.

10.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That Council approve that from 7 May 2021:

- a) the Council continues to hold remote live-broadcast committee meetings, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers;
- b) that power be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (i) make any decisions necessary to enable virtual meetings for members to continue (including considering the implications of the existing legal challenge once the judgement has been made),
 - (ii) determine which committee meetings should be held virtually and which should be held physically

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES
Leader of the Council

22 April 2021

Author of Report : Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

- The Council's Constitution
- The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Appendix 1 – formal committee meetings being held from May to July 2021

18 May 2021	Planning and Regulatory Functions
19 May 2021	County Council
21 May 2021	Outbreak Management Board
25 May 2021	Executive
25 May 2021	Shareholders Committee
26 May 2021	Health and Well Being Board
27 May 2021	Skipton & Ripon ACC
31 May 2021	Appeals Committee
04 June 2021	Pension Fund Committee
07 June 2021	Corporate & Partnerships
08 June 2021	Planning and Regulatory Functions
09 June 2021	ACC Richmond (Yorks)
10 June 2021	Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC
10 June 2021	Police, Fire and Crime Panel
11 June 2021	Selby & Ainsty ACC
14 June 2021	Thirsk & Malton ACC
15 June 2021	Executive
16 June 2021	Scarborough & Whitby ACC
18 June 2021	Scrutiny of Health
21 June 2021	Appeals Committee
22 June 2021	SACRE
22 June 2021	Executive
22 June 2021	SACRE
23 June 2021	Outbreak Management Board
24 June 2021	Care and Independence
25 June 2021	Young People
28 June 2021	Audit
02 July 2021	Pension Fund Committee
02 July 2021	LGNYY
05 July 2021	Appeals Committee
06 July 2021	Executive
08 July 2021	Pension Board
12 July 2021	Transport, Economy & Environment
19 July 2021	Appeals Committee
20 July 2021	Planning and Regulatory Functions
21 July 2021	County Council
22 July 2021	Police, Fire and Crime Panel
28 July 2021	Local Access Forum
30 July 2021	Health and Well Being Board

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF THE ACCESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE (INCLUDING HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT, BROADBAND, MOBILE TELEPHONY)

NY Highways

The latest addition to the County Council's Brierley Group of Companies will take over the highways maintenance contract with effect from the beginning of next month. From 1 June there will be a three-day stand down period when all new employees of NY Highways will be inducted into the company in readiness for business as usual work to commence on 4 June. Sub-contractors will be used during this short period of induction to ensure no loss of service.

I look forward with confidence to the commencement of operations by our Teckal company. We assume direct control of this very high profile service at a time of constrained budgets, when it is more important than ever to provide the very best value for money for our taxpayers.

Street Lighting – LED conversion success

Our ambitious carbon reduction scheme to replace 50,400 street lights with low-energy LED lamps has been completed more quickly and at a dramatically lower cost than expected. Originally budgeted at up to £13m and programmed over five years, the conversion project was finished by our in-house street lighting team within three years, at a cost of just over £8m.

The new lighting saves us £1.285m a year in energy and maintenance costs, and gives a full return on our investment in under eight years. The project also represents the single largest factor up until now in helping the County Council to secure its ambition being of carbon neutral by 2030.

Our street lighting engineers continue to work with and advise town and parish councils and the two national park authorities in efforts to convert their lighting to LED.

Active Travel Fund schemes

During recent months residents of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Whitby have been engaged in two rounds of consultation on the four ATF schemes valued at over £1m. During the first round of consultation 2300 responses were received with broad support for the Whitby scheme, the A59 scheme and the Victoria Avenue scheme. Over 50% of responses to the Oatlands Drive scheme were opposed. A second round of consultation engaged the public on more detailed designs that were developed following feedback in the first round.

At the time of writing this statement, the results from the second round of consultation are being collated and reviewed. A report setting out recommendations for each scheme will be presented to the BES Director and Executive members later this month.

Transforming Cities Fund Consultation Update

The County Council led bids to the Government's Transforming Cities Fund on behalf of Craven, Harrogate and Selby districts. As a result we were awarded a total of £31m to deliver Gateway schemes in the town centres of Skipton, Harrogate and Selby.

Public consultation exercises were completed during February and March and these received good levels of engagement and useful feedback, which will help to shape the proposals as the programme moves into more detailed design phases later this year. A

report and recommendations regarding key preliminary decisions will be presented to the Executive later this month.

The fund has been established to provide opportunities for improvement to city and town centre travel gateways, to upgrade provision for cycling and walking, to boost public transport and to support local economies.

Bus services

On 15 March Government published a National Bus Strategy entitled Bus Back Better. This provides us with an opportunity to draw up an improvement plan for bus services in North Yorkshire and to help bus operators recover from the impact of the pandemic. It also makes available the chance to secure some of the £3bn central government funding on offer.

The County Council currently supports bus travel by issuing 127,000 free bus passes to eligible residents under the National Concessionary Travel Scheme at a cost of approximately £7m per annum. Additionally, we spend £1.5m of our annual budget on subsidising rural bus services and providing financial support to community transport organisations.

Our public transport team looks for further, innovative ways in which we can make these financial contributions go further. As a result, a new Digital Demand Responsive service will be trialled from 1 July 2021. In the pilot area, transport will operate using timetables and routes based on demand rather than be fixed. In this way, transport would be provided in accordance with local needs. Local members have been kept informed. Full details will be published shortly.

Shared Rural Network for mobile phones

The Shared Rural Network (SRN) is a joint £1bn venture between the Government and the mobile phone operators to improve mobile phone coverage across the UK by 2025. I joined our project team in a recent meeting with Mobile UK, the organisation leading this scheme on behalf of all mobile operators. We have pledged our full support to the initiative.

Once in operation, the SRN will have a dramatic effect on 4G coverage in our county, raising it from about 60% of our geography to well over 90%. This is very good news for our residents, for our businesses, and for our visitors.

Local Full Fibre Network

The County Council's £15m gigabit fibre project is almost complete. 168.8km of fibre have now been installed under roads and footpaths of market towns throughout the county, with just 500m left to lay in Settle and Skipton. The network has connected up about 350 public buildings, and is ready to support further digital projects. We received £3m from the Y&NY LEP to fund extension of the network to six business parks, to roll-out the Internet of Things, and to provide public WiFi in 16 of our town centres. The free public WiFi in Northallerton is due to go live at the beginning of May, with other town centres to follow shortly.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

05 May 2021

STATEMENT FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT, SCRUTINY, AREA COMMITTEES, PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND LOCALITY BUDGETS

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID CHANCE

Stronger Communities

Covid-19 Pandemic Response

As we have recently passed the 12 month anniversary of the first lockdown, it is interesting to reflect on the work of Stronger Communities over the past 12 months. Members are aware that Community Support Organisations (CSOs) in conjunction with their volunteers and partners have delivered support to our most vulnerable residents. This has included the collection and delivery of shopping and prescriptions, caring for pets, offering regular social contact by telephone, and acting as a local agent for the COVID-19 Self Isolation Grant. The CSOs have also provided support to local networks and action groups (for example Mutual Aid Groups) that had come together to assist in their communities, providing information, advice and guidance to ensure that all activity was delivered as safely as possible for both the volunteer and the beneficiary.

Despite the ever-changing landscape, community support infrastructure through the CSO network has remained in place throughout the last 12-month period, and in this quarter, the team has confirmed that the model will continue to be in place until at least September 2021.

With the publication of the recovery roadmap by Government, the CSOs have been mindful of the need to support those who have been self-isolating and / or shielding over a prolonged period of time. Stronger Communities are working closely with CSOs to discuss and develop recovery activity over the next 6 months that will help build people's independence and confidence to re-engage in their communities.

Since the start of the pandemic, they have collectively supported nearly 90,000 people with regular support to an average of 3000 people every week. They have clocked up around 100,000 hours of volunteering, delivered 70,000 bags of shopping or hot meals and made just short of 50,000 welfare and befriending calls.

Financial hardship also continues to be addressed using an adaptation of the Local Assistance Fund grants. This will continue to the end of September. To date 1260 applications have been approved of which 705 were repeat applications with the average award being £92. This award is emergency support for things such as food or energy top ups.

Community and Recovery Grants

IN addition to the support for CSOs the programme has also had in place small grants programmes to support the wider voluntary sector to adapt their activities as we navigate our way through the changing restrictions. Covid Response, Recovery and Community Grants have been available throughout 2020 for projects such as digital delivery of sports and arts activities, virtual walks, adaptation of buildings or community transport vehicles and innovative food projects. 237 projects have been supported to date seeing over £165k of investment into small grass roots and community groups.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Following on from the national covid winter grant scheme supporting families with food over school holidays, the government announced a new programme for families with children eligible for free school meals that combines food and enriching activities. Stronger Communities are leading on the delivery of this programme, which has been launched with the branding of FEAST (Food, Entertainment, Arts & Sport Together) in partnership with Children's Services and the voluntary and community sector. The programme will provide activities and nutritious food and advice to nearly 12,000 children across the county over Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays. Due to national restrictions, the programme for Easter was delivered through a mix of food vouchers and activity packs; however, planning for the summer is for face to face provision. Coordination of the programme is being undertaken by three countywide charities working as North Yorkshire Together (North Yorkshire Youth, North Yorkshire Sport and Rural Arts). They will manage the programme of local delivery by inviting local clubs and community organisations to submit their proposals over the coming weeks. This not only ensures that a breadth of provision can be made across the county, but it also enables the funding to be invested directly into communities and local assets.

Broader work

Although the focus of the team has continued to be community response to the pandemic, in this quarter, we have seen the gradual re-introduction of business-as-usual projects and work-streams. This has included the forging of new partnerships and collaborative working models, learning, capacity building, mental health, transport, and food related activity.

Legal and Democratic Services

By mid-April 2021, we had held 102 live broadcast meetings of the Council's formal, public committees. The way in which the team works and in which our councillors' work has radically changed and it is remarkable how we have moved so quickly and effectively from holding meetings in person to remote access live broadcast meetings. A way of doing business that would once have been exceptional, has now become the norm. The benefits of these remote accesses, live broadcast meetings in a county as large and rural as North Yorkshire are significant, with reduced travel costs and travel time, reduced carbon dioxide emissions and more openness and transparency. I am hopeful that the Government will allow lawful, remote access meetings to continue in the longer term and give local authorities the discretion to decide when to hold meetings in person and when to hold them remotely.

The School Admissions Appeals Team are starting a second bulk appeals season using remote hearings, as opposed to meeting in person. Earlier in the year, the Government Regulations enabling this were extended through to September. Early indications are that this will be another busy bulk appeals season with appeals being heard through to the end of July for secondary and primary school places. The appeals hearings would not be able to take place without our volunteer panel members whose commitment and support is hugely valued. They have made the transition from meeting in person, to remote meetings using MS Teams and spend many a long day hearing the appeals.

North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement

Resettlement in the UK has tentatively recommenced, following a freeze on resettlement throughout most of 2020. During that time, the conditions for refugees living in their countries of first asylum deteriorated further, particularly in Lebanon due to its political and economic turmoil.

North Yorkshire has done its bit recently by resettling five families (24 persons) across Hambleton and Richmondshire districts. Thorough preparations were put in place by the international, regional and local resettlement agencies in the weeks leading up to the families arriving, to ensure that their arrival in the UK, their subsequent 10 days quarantine period and the weeks to follow would be as safe and smooth as possible. Thanks in part to County Council staff in our EAL team, nearly all the school-aged children were in school within six days after their quarantine period. In common with the more established adults, our Adult Learning and Skills Service is providing Zoom based English language classes for the new adult learners. This will continue to be the case until the classes can go back to face-to-face teaching.

We have seen a new dynamic of existing refugee families helping to support the new arrivals. This has not only allowed the new arrivals to feel more settled, but in turn has led the existing families to reflect on how far they themselves have progressed since arriving in the UK.

In relation to employment, for the refugee adults who have lived in North Yorkshire for longer, there has been a net increase of five part-time jobs and three full-time jobs between March 2020 and March 2021. This is despite the challenging economic situation. Of those in full-time jobs, three clients are self-employed. They have managed to continue to operate their businesses (barbers shops and a food shop) in between the various lockdowns.

A number of the adults not yet in employment have done further training, chiefly online courses. Some have previous experience of working in the construction industry, but an issue has arisen because of the COVID-19 restrictions, due to a number of training providers related to this sector of the economy, remaining closed over the past year. However, links will be re-established as soon as practicable with a view to commencing these courses.

For the children, because of the prolonged closures of schools and settings during the past year, opportunities to consolidate their understanding of the English language reduced substantially and there is now a lot of catching up for them to do. More of the children were in school during the third lockdown however and some have achieved special commendation awards over the past year. In addition, a child who arrived in North Yorkshire in 2016, with no English, has secured a university place to study Pharmacy from September.

July 2021 will mark the fifth anniversary of the first Syrian refugee arrivals in North Yorkshire. A qualified adviser employed by the Refugee Council is helping those families to complete the application form for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK. Indefinite Leave to Remain is currently not an automatic right for refugees that we have resettled to date. Instead, the Home Office will review each case before making a decision as to whether an individual has a right to permanent residency in the UK or not. The conditions in the refugee's home country will be taken into account amongst other factors.

County Councillor Locality Budgets

This year, Members will be able to make recommendations from Monday 17 May 2021, with the closing date for recommendations being 31 January 2022. Each Member will be able to make recommendations totalling £10,000 and the arrangements are as in previous years. I will write to Members with further information shortly.

A report on the operation of Locality Budgets in 2020/21 will be presented to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 June 2021.

NYCC equality and diversity statement

As one of the largest employers in the county and one of the main providers of local services, we are committed to providing equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination, harassment, intimidation and disadvantage. We are also committed to achieving the highest standards in service delivery, decision-making and employment practice.

Diversity in our communities and workforce brings many strengths to the county and to the council, and we welcome and celebrate this.

Over the last few months, as part of work to increase the visibility and profile of these important subjects, we have set up a number of staff networks and started some really productive conversations about diversity and inclusion.

We are now reviewing our corporate equality and diversity policy statement and would really like to hear your views. We are inviting everyone, including all Members, to read our draft equality and diversity policy statement and complete a short survey at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultation-our-draft-equality-and-diversity-statement>. The consultation started in early April and will run until 10 May. The final draft will be brought to the full Council meeting in July for decision.

Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Citizens

The Government has announced a bespoke immigration route for BN(O) status holders from Hong Kong follows the imposition by the Chinese Government of a national security law on Hong Kong that restricts the rights and freedoms of the people in Hong Kong and constitutes a clear and serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Broadly, once living in the UK, they will have a right to work and study, with their children (under age 19) having the same rights as those with permanent residence in the UK, to attend school and further education. We do not know how many people will choose to take advantage of the opportunity and they will be free to settle anywhere in the UK.

We do want to welcome and support those who choose to settle in the North Yorkshire. The Government funded welcome hub for the Yorkshire region will be managed by Migration Yorkshire, a long established partnership of local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber including the County Council. As an upper tier local authority we will also have access to funding to provide targeted support to BN(O) status holders who need additional English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and/or destitution support.

DAVID CHANCE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

Covid-19

Health & Adult Services continue to play a lead role in responding to the ongoing pandemic and the following are key points to note:

- The consultation on our proposed 7 day week operating model continues with a good level of engagement from colleagues. Weekday coverage has reduced to 0800-1800 as demand has reduced. Weekend cover ends at 1730. This will be stepped up as required.
- The discharge to assess model that has been introduced by central government is in place, but needs to be funded. Funding to provide up to 6 weeks care outside the home to the end of June, and up to 4 weeks care to the end of September has been confirmed and is welcome, but there remains a need for longer term certainty over both requirements and funding.
- The directorate is currently liaising with the Department of Health & Social Care regarding their guidance for visits out of care homes to try and ensure that any trips out from a care home do not necessitate a 14 day isolation period.
- The Council have distributed a range of support grants to care providers from central government to support with costs in relation to covid including funds for infection prevention control and to support rapid testing of workforce and visitors.
- A review of designated settings in light of the reducing numbers of people hospitalised and subsequently being discharged with covid is now complete. The Council and NHS partners continue to have designated discharge capacity for the County Council area for anyone who is covid positive on discharge who requires a residential or nursing home placement.
- Reflecting the national picture, we have much reduced number of people self-isolating in care settings, and low levels of outbreaks.

NHS White Paper

- Work is ongoing to help shape our response to the white paper, and the potential impact on the councils operations. There will be an Integrated Care Partnership for North Yorkshire and York, as well as one for Bradford & Craven. The council continues to be represented at both the Humber Coast & Vale Integrated Care System (ICS), and the West Yorkshire & Harrogate ICS.

Extra Care Programme

- Schemes that opened in 2020 in Scarborough and Great Ayton are both fully occupied.
- 3 further schemes in development – Filey, Bentham and Skipton - will all open this year bringing the total number of schemes to 28.
- It was disappointing that a scheme in Bedale was refused planning, but we will continue to work with providers to explore options for the area.

- Acquisition of a site at Whitby hospital is progressing for development of an Extra Care scheme, and we will continue to seek Extra Care solutions for the Harrogate and Malton areas.
- We are developing new models of Extra Care focussed on supporting people with higher care needs as well as smaller scale schemes to support rural communities

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF COUNCILOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

Covid-19

Testing

North Yorkshire has continued to work hard to provide accessible COVID testing. We have set up additional local test sites in Malton and Catterick Garrison to deliver both PCR and lateral flow testing. We also continue to have a regular programme of mobile testing units that provide PCR testing across the County.

Lateral flow tests are widely available across North Yorkshire for anyone to use on a regular basis. Kits are available for collection at our local test sites and through local pharmacies, as well as through education settings and many workplaces. We have also been the first council in the country to pilot a mobile distribution unit for lateral flow tests, travelling to our more rural areas, in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care. For people unable to access this route, tests can also be ordered online or by calling 119 for home delivery.

Surge Testing Update

In recent months, NYCC has seen surge testing for variants of concern (VOC) deployed in a number of Local Authorities. This has included Local Authorities that border North Yorkshire, Middlesbrough, Leeds and Stockton. Fortunately, to date NYCC has not had to deploy surge testing; however, the risk of a VOC appearing in North Yorkshire is a constant and real threat. At the time of writing surge testing has again been deployed across three London Boroughs as a result of the discovery of the South African variant.

Members can be reassured that NYCC and its partners have planned for such an event and have already been on standby on a number of occasions due to the surge testing in bordering Local Authorities detailed above. NYCC has a surge testing response plan. In March, NYCC held a virtual exercise involving key strategic personnel on how the Authority would respond to delivering surge testing in an urban area and a sparse rural area.

Outbreak Management

Cases have significantly reduced since the peak in January and we are making good progress in line with the national road map. However, we must urge caution to ensure cases do not rise again and still adhere to regularly washing hands, wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance and allowing fresh air to circulate. This does make a difference.

Vaccination

The directorate continues to support the vaccination programme for front line care workers and continues to work with providers to encourage team members who have not yet taken up the offer of a vaccine. The directorate is currently collating the County Council's response to the government consultation regarding compulsory vaccinations for staff working in care homes for older people.

Drug Treatment: Universal Grant - Drug Treatment, Crime and Harm Reduction

North Yorkshire County Council received an invitation on 11 March 2021 to submit an application for a Section 31 Local Authority Grant to expand and strengthen drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity in 2021/22. We received confirmation on 9 April that we have been successful. The value of the non-recurrent revenue only Grant is £315,000, and must be spent within 2021/22.

The Public Health Team held planning meetings with a range of partners including the adult specialist community drug and alcohol service (North Yorkshire Horizons), North Yorkshire Police, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Housing Teams in Scarborough and Harrogate and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Drug Treatment: Inpatient Detoxification Grant - Medically managed inpatient detoxification

North Yorkshire County Council received an invitation on 11 March 2021 to submit an application to Public Health England for a Section 31 Local Authority Grant to expand and strengthen inpatient detoxification provision in 2021/22. Applications could only be submitted from a Consortium of two or more Local Authorities.

The North Yorkshire County Council Public Health and Procurement teams led planning meetings with Leeds City Council, Calderdale Council and Barnsley Council; as well as Humankind who provide the commissioned drug and alcohol service across all aforementioned Local Authorities. The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Public Health England Team also supported these meetings.

The combined value of the Consortium Grant is £354,000, and must be spent within 2021/22. The North Yorkshire allocation is £62,000.

Suicide Prevention and homelessness

There has been funding for grass roots community projects issued across Harrogate and Craven with a total of 7 organisations benefiting from the round one funding. We also have a funding opportunity for organisations to work alongside MIRT to enhance the Postvention support offer for those bereaved by suicide and this will include specialist counselling support.

A HeadFirst MH and suicide prevention training site was launched in 2020 and as a result 229 people have accessed virtual MHFA and Suicide prevention training and a further 102 have accessed a self-harm resource.

We are working with HC&V ICS and chairing the work on self-harm an organisation in Harrogate 'Just B' Harrogate Hospice has been funded to coproduce the design of a non-clinical support service for individuals who self-harm and their carers. This work will inform a partnership between NYCC, SBC, Beyond Housing, TEWV, NYP and other agencies to provide dedicated units and intensive and community support to people who are currently homeless or likely to be made homeless due to a range of social and long term health needs. The project will be called REACH – Reducing Exclusion for Adults with Complex Housing needs. Currently staff recruitment is underway and housing support units are being identified. We have an anticipated start date of May/June 2021 and this will be funded for 3 years. Post 3 years the hope is to develop a purpose built facility to support people who are homeless and have complex needs.

Update on Wake Up North Yorkshire - final stage and planned evaluation

Phase 3 of the Wake Up North Yorkshire campaign launched on March 15th. It continues to encourage people to build healthy relationships with alcohol. The campaign will until the end of April and includes new videos of our local North Yorkshire residents who share their stories of building safer drinking habits. The campaign features paid social media, including Facebook and Instagram, together with radio ad slots on Greatest Hits radio – partners, organisation and individuals also invited to share posts and campaign videos on social media using the hashtag #WakeUpNorthYorks.

The strong, simple brand 'Wake Up North Yorkshire' acts as both a call to action, encouraging people to 'wake up' and reflect on their drinking habits, and a positive message that you can start the day feeling better if you drink less the night before.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS)

Economic Development

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has successfully delivered the £145m Growth Deal it agreed with government. In addition it has delivered £7.7m of the £15.4m Get Building Fund award. Both programmes have fully achieved their MHCLG targets.

In addition the Business Growth Hub engaged with over 13,000 businesses throughout the year, exceeding all its BEIS targets. Against this success, government is undertaking a review of the role of LEPs nationally and is due to report before the summer recess.

Waste Management

Covid restrictions and national lockdown provisions have had a significant impact on the volume and type of waste generated in North Yorkshire. The Council has received 8,800 tonnes more municipal waste (+3%) in 20/21 compared to 19/20. Behind this headline, there have been big changes in waste flows reflecting how society has responded to the global pandemic. For example, Household Waste Recycling Centres reopened following their temporary closure in April and May 2020 with new site rules to maintain social distancing to keep people safe. Despite such restrictions, residents made an additional 61,000 visits.

Planning Services

Although work has been somewhat more limited over the past year due to COVID-19, work towards the adoption of our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan with the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority has continued. The production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications has been finalised and the statutory assessments to accompany the Plan have been completed. The Authorities are duty bound to consult with interested parties on the Schedule of Main Modifications to the Plan and this public consultation will likely be in the coming months with the expectation of adoption of the Plan later this year.

Growth and Heritage Services

Officers continue to support recovery from Covid through the work of the internal local economy workstream including Buy Local and communication on Government initiatives.

Government Funding: The Community Renewal Fund, announced in March's budget, is being administered by the Economic Growth team with a potential £3 million largely revenue funding per District. A call for projects was opened on 01 April 2021 and closes on 13 May. All information is on the NYCC website including FAQ and live webinar sessions www.northyorks.gov.uk/CommunityRenewalFund. Both Scarborough Borough and Richmondshire Districts have been identified as 'priority places' which will increase their chances of receiving funding.

There has been national publicity including national daily newspapers on a high status Roman villa and bath-house never before seen in Britain discovered beneath a building site in Scarborough. An excavation was carried out at the Keepmoat Homes site in Eastfield after Historic England suggested there was the potential for Roman or Iron Age remains to be found there, but the extent and significance of the discovery has surprised experts.

A large complex of buildings was revealed, including a circular central room with a number of other rooms and a bath-house leading from it. Experts believe they are the foundations of a 'high-status' Roman villa, some sort of religious community or perhaps a combination of both.

[Remains of 'high-status' Roman villa and bath-house never seen before in Britain discovered beneath building site in Scarborough | Yorkshire Post](#)

[Remains of a 'high-status' Roman villa discovered in Scarborough | Daily Mail Online](#)

NSIPs

The Council is engaged with four Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) all in the early stages of the pre application process. The basic timelines are as follows:

	Basic Description	Expected DCO Submission
Drax – BioEnergy Carbon Capture	Creation of Carbon Capture Storage facility at the Drax Power Station site to service the Bio-energy generators. Full details are not known yet but this will effectively be new buildings on the site. Drax have applied for this type of work in the past.	Nov / Dec 2021
Highways England – A66 Improvements	This entails 10 separate highway improvement schemes. 2 are within the North Yorkshire boundary: Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor and a second scheme proposed at Scotch Corner.	Spring 2022
Power Grid – Yorkshire Green Energy Project	Increasing capacity of overhead lines between York and Selby – Some but limited on the ground infrastructure. The exact route is not yet known.	Autumn 2022
Power Grid – Humber Low Carbon Pipelines Projects	The project is to install a Carbon Capture pipeline to carry to the carbon away from Drax and other facilities in the area and store it underground in the North Sea. This is linked to the Drax application and is brought forward by a consortium of energy providers and carbon producers. This is an unusual and exciting project for the area, use this link to the site Home Zero Carbon Humber	Spring 2023

Timescales: expected DCO submission dates are included as an indication of timescales but also to show that the applications are staggered with longer lead in times for some. This should allow for staff resourcing.

NYCC expects to enter into a Planning Performance Agreement with all 4 applications allowing the County and District Councils to recoup funds for some or all of our staff resource in these cases.

ANDREW LEE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

05 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF CLLR GREG WHITE

Library and Information Services

Re-opening

I am pleased to say that 41 of our libraries are now open for business as from 12 April; most are still operating on reduced hours and of course with all Covid-secure measures in place (hand sanitising, face coverings and limits on numbers in at any one time plus books are still being quarantined on return). Customer reaction has been overwhelmingly positive with 20,911 'real' book issues, 5,125 customers and 1,353 PC sessions over the first four days. The digital library remained popular with 6,118 e-books borrowed and 10,652 newspapers/magazines read over the same period. This is a credit to the hard work of all the staff and many volunteers delivering our library service.

I know Members were aware that the previous supplier of books closed for business during the first lockdown. I think everyone will be pleased (if not amazed) that the service has successfully received and distributed over 40,000 new books since January. The team at HQ and the van drivers have been very busy – and a nice welcome as customers return.

Staying with the Covid-recovery roadmap the service is currently assessing how face-to-face events and activities can be held safely once these are allowed again. Many customers have enjoyed using the Select and Collect/Book bundle service so we will be continuing to offer this, as will a blended (online/physical) events programme. Plans are underway for the safe delivery of this year's Summer Reading Challenge – with the environmental theme perfectly suited for outdoor events (weather and space permitting).

Annual Report

I am sure Members have seen the Annual Report by now, however I would like to provide some highlight statistics from 2020-21 given the effort everyone involved with our library service has put in to keep delivering to customers. 559,000 books were issued, 311,000 e-books with 8,665 new members and 276,535 visitors – the last two figures particularly impressive when you consider the doors were only 'open' for under 5 months. There is some powerful evidence of the role of libraries from the **Customer Survey** undertaken.

In March the service surveyed those using the Select and Collect offer to assess the impact and possible future demand. The results are impressive and demonstrate the value of libraries in these challenging times:

- 93% said the library had helped them cope with lockdown
- 95% said the library had helped improve their sense of wellbeing
- 92% said the library had helped them feel less isolated

Lockdown 2

This last period of lockdown saw 75% of our libraries open with some or all permissible services. Many were particularly appreciative of having access to IT. Online events proved popular being attended by over 3000 people and we continued to engage with our Home Library users delivering 1084 well-being bags. One event of particular note saw NYCC Libraries team up with the local business 'Books Up North' to host one of this year's Women's Prize for Fiction longlisted authors – Claire Fuller.

Another 'first' saw NYCC Libraries pilot a virtual classroom visits and the service is delighted with how the event went. The 30 primary school children were treated to a pre-recorded tour of the library space at Scarborough, a story read to them by one of our outreach librarians and the event ended with a rather lengthy Q&A session! We are now planning a second session (with some technology upgrades) with a view to rolling this out to other libraries in the future. This will hopefully be a welcome addition to libraries events programme especially in our more rural areas.

Library makeovers

I am pleased to tell Members that our community library groups have been busy over the past few months. Colburn, Barlby and Sherburn library groups have funded and managed either full or partial refurbishments. Work at Barlby includes an extension as well as internal improvements. I would like to say thank you to all these groups for their hard work.

ReBoot

Libraries across NY are acting as both collection and distribution points for Project ReBoot – a total of 78 usable devices have been donated with 28 distributed to individuals within communities. (94 donated in total) In addition, libraries have delivered 149 devices to schools.

Reading Friends

Earlier this year the service successfully bid for £10k funding from the Reading Agency. The funding has helped us to establish two pilot 'Reading Friends' groups – Call and Chat: a telephone-based group aimed at isolated older people and their carers, and Page Turners: a virtual group aimed at bringing together teenagers and young volunteers across the county to get involved in their local library and share their love of reading. Both are in early stages of development so if successful (and subject to funding and volunteers to lead) could be rolled out across the county.

Reading Well collections

Arts Council England recently funded the purchase of Reading Well titles in digital format. These are now available on Overdrive and are being prominently promoted on the platform. For a list of titles see <https://northyorks.overdrive.com/collection/1175810>

Coroners

Approval has now been given by the County Council to submit a business case to the Chief Coroner seeking to merge the two North Yorkshire Coroner areas with the York coroner area. The submission is dependent on the City of York also approving the submission.

Upon receipt of proposal from both authorities, the Chief Coroner will carry out a consultation on the proposals and will then decide whether the case for merger is made out. It is therefore likely to be some months yet before the proposals can be finalised.

Registrars

Registrars continue to be under considerable pressure, notwithstanding the decrease in Covid cases. The issue presently is the demand for ceremonies and the consequent need to give formal notice of intention to marry / form a civil partnership. Many ceremonies were postponed from 2020 so demand is very high and this is impacting on the availability of appointments. It is likely to be some months yet before the service will completely return to operating normally.

Records Office

The Record Office welcomed back onsite visitors in April after a prolonged closure enabling researchers once again to experience the excitement of consulting original documents to explore the past.

Whilst the search room was closed, staff were busy behind the scenes. Over 200 boxes of records, ranging from medieval deeds to modern parish council minutes, were appraised and catalogued and more than 25,000 entries added to the online catalogue. Staff also supplied thousands of digital copies of documents to enable researchers and Record Office volunteers to continue working from home.

The Record Office's Lottery funded Resilient Records project is now drawing to a close. This project has given staff the opportunity to explore new and innovative methods of widening participation with the collections, reaching out to groups who have not traditionally connected with archives, including young people, older people, people with dementia, people with low mental health, those at risk of isolation, and BAME groups. The learning from the project will be used to design and lead further interactive, digital sessions with groups from around the County. The first of these - a reminiscence session delivered in partnership with Selby Carers Count - was successfully delivered last month.

May is Local History Month and the Record Office will be working with colleagues in the Library service to promote and celebrate the study of local history. A social media campaign will focus on the theme of the High Street, highlighting historic images, maps and records of local businesses. The recent "Made in North Yorkshire" campaign will be the subject of an online talk, featuring the stories of 10 men and women from history who embody the values of the county and its shared heritage, and who have helped to make North Yorkshire what it is today.

Customer – Digital and Customer Service Centre

The CSC continues to deliver high performance for business as usual services return to pre-Covid levels with all service levels achieved except for a decline in social care performance due to an increase in Social Care demand tracking at 18% higher than the same period last year. The average time a customer is waiting to be answered is currently tracking at 2min 46sec.

As we return to pre-Covid levels in demand for all other services in the Customer Service Centre we have also seen a sharp increase in new accounts created in our customer on-line portal. In March we saw an increase of 3,323 new accounts taking the total number of live customer accounts to 97,196.

Last quarter we launched residential parking permits as an on-line offer and at the end of March 88% of all applications for this service had been completed on-line.

In Q4 the Customer Service Centre also completed 18,093 support calls to Care Homes, these were either daily, weekly or chase calls where online surveys had not been provided for 3 days. We have now moved to all Care Home providers to an on-line survey as the infection rate has fallen. The customer Service Centre is still making weekly care calls to all Care Homes and chasing those Care Homes who have not completed the online survey.

The Customer Service Centre and have made 573 successful contact tracing calls. 95.88% of all contacts sent from the national system have either been attempted 3 times by phone or

have been sent a text if contact could was not successful over the phone. We are now working to review the contact tracing service with the launch of a new national system in June. Contact Tracing is expected to continue until March 2022 at present.

Technology

In March we had an external audit for our ISO 20000 certification which I am pleased to say we passed. It was carried out by the British Standards Institute to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of the international ISO 20000 standards in delivering a service management system that supports the effective delivery of services to the organisation and its customers.

Embedding the ISO 20000 standards continues to support our work on: improving customer satisfaction, productivity and ensuring continuous service improvement.

Digital Workplace

Building on the successes of the Modern Council Programme we are continuing to ensure our technology supports flexible and collaborative working through the introduction of Office 365. Office365 includes a suite of products and this move will provide us with the tools we need to embrace a modern digital workplace and transform the way we work together.

MS Teams is now available on all devices via the Software Centre for laptops and tablets and is on desktops for Citrix users. As of April 2021, there have been 4,320 active users in MS Teams and the number of Teams collaboration spaces have doubled since Q3 to 320 Teams sites created. The most active Team collaboration spaces have been within CYPS and Central Services as well as topics surrounding Covid. Across all active MS Teams sites there are 1400 active channels, where posts are being shared and reacted too.

Yammer

Yammer is an internal business-networking platform, providing a space for work conversations such as sharing and responding to updates, posting ideas and questions that may benefit part, or all, of the organisation as well as being a virtual corridor for conversations to take place, encouraging a sense of community and supporting well-being. On average, there are 1,300 active users logging into Yammer every month with approximately, 5000 messages are read and responded too each month across the different community pages. There are 760 subscribed members to many of the Yammer Community that are now available.

Public WIFI and Internet of Things

A £3m investment has been approved to provide digital technology to support recovery and growth for communities and businesses across North Yorkshire.

North Yorkshire County Council along with NYnet will implement three projects to enhance connectivity, particularly in rural areas, following the award of funding from the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership as part of its allocation from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

These include providing public Wi-Fi in up to 16 market towns to help people to access local and national public services and economic opportunities, introducing "smart places"

technology into rural areas, and providing ultrafast fibre broadband to six business parks, helping to boost productivity.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

Finance Updates

A response to the Government's consultation on the future of new Homes Bonus has been submitted. The response emphasised our belief that NHB is arbitrary and driven largely by factors outside of the direct control of the local authority; that it is not a sustainable, fair or appropriate way to fund public services; and that our favoured option would be to end the New Homes Bonus scheme and recirculate this top-sliced funding back through the existing local authority funding mechanisms. We await the Government's decision on the scheme.

On the technical finance front CIPFA have consulted on proposed changes to the Prudential and Treasury Management codes. These changes are aimed at curtailing commercial investment activities following some high profile examples of councils' exposure to significant risk. The County Council has never borrowed to invest and I am pleased to say that our approach has been careful and considered and compliant with the proposed new rules.

Another update of note includes changes to the dates for approval of our statutory accounts. Following the Redmond Review into oversight of local audit and transparency of local authority reporting the Government's response includes the temporary extension of the deadline for approval of the accounts for 2020/21 and 2021/22 - from 31 July to 30 September.

Procurement

The Council continues to deliver on a range of actions linked to the impact of COVID-19 on procurement and supply chains. The required PPE has been secured to cover usage requirements into 2022, and is stored and distributed as required enabling front line Council staff to be equipped with the correct PPE they need at the right time. In terms of wider supply chain resilience, the Supply Chain Resilience Board (SCRB), initially set up to cover the COVID-19 crisis period, has been extended until at least September 2021 and meets fortnightly to take a proportionate approach and identify suppliers that most need financial support to secure and stabilise the Council's key suppliers. Our work in this area of supply chain resilience has been nationally recognised and has been well valued by numerous companies.

We are also awaiting post-EU reforms on procurement and contracting. It is envisaged that new regulations will take effect from January 2023. At this stage it is not clear how much change there will be but there will need to be education and training on use of the new regulations and any flexibility they will deliver for the Council.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

I am pleased to advise that the County Council was successful in bidding for £1.9 million of funding from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, a scheme designed to fund the decarbonisation of heat and increasing energy efficiency. The money obtained by the County Council will be used to fund programmes of window replacement at both schools and corporate buildings. This funding is very welcome as it will not only increase energy efficiency (by 5-10% in those areas where windows are replaced) but it will also address backlog maintenance issues that would otherwise be required to be addressed utilising other funds, including the annual schools capital allocation.

The window replacement works will be required to be undertaken before 30 September as a condition of the grant. This had added some pressure to the delivery of the County Council's capital programme which is already affected by Covid. I am pleased to advise, however, that the programme includes some significant projects including the completion of the new school at Middle Deepdale, Scarborough

GARETH DADD

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Children & Families

The Children and Families Service has continued to provide robust support to families, with the majority being done face to face throughout the pandemic. As with previous lockdowns we had initially seen a drop in contacts at our front door during this most recent period. However, this has returned to numbers which we would normally expect. We have seen some indications of increased poverty and anxiety within communities in regard to issues which are being presented.

Performance remains strong. Despite the obvious challenges presented over the past 12 months due to Covid-19 and the frequently changing restrictions, the service continues to ensure that families receive the right service at the right time. Despite the wide-scale closure of schools during a majority of Quarter 4, Children's Social Care continues to receive a relatively stable volume of referrals, at 1,088 in Quarter 4 compared to 1,074 in Quarter 3. Reflective of the Service's commitment to ensure that children and families receive the right service at the right time, 2020/21 has seen sustained low rates of repeat referral, at 15.7% - down from the already low (good) 16.1% seen in 2019/20.

Whilst the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has increased this Quarter, from 325 at the end of Quarter 3 to 344 at the end of Quarter 4, this remains within our expected range. Repeat Child Protection Plan rate remains high at 27.1% in 2020/21 but the proportion of repeat Child Protection Plans within 12 months of a previous plan has reduced from 30.9% in 2019/20 to 26.4% in 2020/21. This indicates that repeat plans are more likely to be due to changes in circumstances outside of the service's control than the premature cessation of previous plans.

The number of Children in Care continues to reduce, down from 439 at the end of Quarter 3 to 433 at the end of Quarter 4. Whilst the number of children in care is reducing, it is worth noting that Immunisations and Dental Checks are still proving a challenge due to Covid-19 restrictions. The service continues to work closely with health partners to ensure that young people are able to access dentists and receive their appropriate immunisations.

Government Programmes - Partners in Practice/Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

During 2020/21 we have delivered 180 days of Sector Led Improvement work to authorities rated as inadequate or requiring improvement under the **Partners in Practice programme**, meeting the target agreed with the Department for Education and allowing us to draw down the full grant agreed. There has been a particular surge in support in regard to Fostering including help with service reviews, restructuring and child placements. We have secured a further grant to provide an additional 180 days Sector Led Improvement work during 2021/22 and will focus support in a variety of areas such as Ofsted Preparation, Data Quality and Leaving Care as well as continuing to provide support in regard to No Wrong Door, Fostering, Early Help, MAST, Virtual Schools and Youth Justice.

In relation to the Covid-19 Extension of the PIP programme, we have, this quarter, successfully delivered on a research project about family time. This has been conducted in partnerships with the University of East Anglia using an additional grant secured from DfE. The research has been piloting an early icebreaker conversation between birth family and foster carers to facilitate more positive relationships and communication about the children. The work has included gaining feedback from children, young people and their families and carers about family time, what works for them and how we can carry on using digital methods post Covid-19. The final report will be produced at the end of April and the work to facilitate better quality family time will continue focusing on discrete areas including family engagement.

North Yorkshire's role within the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Project continues. We are actively working with Middlesbrough, Rochdale, Warrington, Norfolk, Redcar & Cleveland, supporting them to implement their own models of our innovative No Wrong Door approach. Although Covid-19 has prevented face-to-face work, North Yorkshire's Central Delivery Team continue to provide effective support for implementation and training through creative use of virtual approaches. Three local authorities have successfully been supported to launch their own No Wrong Door model, with the rest to follow by the end of 2021.

Medium Term Financial Strategy & Beyond 2020

The Children and Young People's Service has continued to meet its saving target. Delivery of robust performance, whilst maintaining service levels throughout the covid pandemic, has been a significant challenge. Restructures across some of the main areas of the Directorate prior to covid will enable the Directorate to operate effectively across universal, preventative, targeted and acute service responsibilities, with a locality focus. The Directorate continues to face financial pressures in high needs budget including support for children with special education needs and disabilities and SEN Transport costs.

Although this information appears in my Statement to Council is should be noted that both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service have joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET SANDERSON

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 MAY 2021

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Covid-19 – impact on schools and early years

I am pleased to say that the return to school following the Easter break has gone very well and attendance in schools is now almost at average levels seen before the pandemic, with average attendance at approximately 93 per cent across all schools in the county. We are also pleased to report that of the 1,100 educational settings in North Yorkshire, including schools, academies, colleges and early years providers, we have just 32 pupils or staff who have tested positive for coronavirus in the last 28 days. Secondary schools are underway with their planning for GCSE and A level assessments. They are working with tight deadlines to secure evidence to make accurate grade judgements. The high attendance rates will support this process.

The fact that the overwhelming majority of pupils in North Yorkshire are now back in school is great news for children and young people, not just for their education and learning, but also their wellbeing and emotional development.

Covid Winter/Local Grant Scheme

The local authority has continued to support vulnerable families through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme over two weeks at Christmas, one week at February half-term and a further two weeks at Easter. We are grateful to schools and early years providers in assisting the local authority in ensuring that support has reached the families that need it with up to c.19,000 families or individuals benefitting from this scheme (funding provided to the local authority by the Department for Work and Pensions). A continuation of the scheme through the Covid Local Support Grant has been confirmed for the summer-term holiday break.

From Easter, the local authority has worked to implement the “Food. Entertainment. Activities. Sport. Together” (FEAST) programme of enriching activities and nutritional advice for children and young people entitled to free school meals. Working alongside a consortia of partners including North Yorkshire Youth, North Yorkshire Sport and Rural Arts, a range of website resources have been made available in addition to the sourcing and distribution of over 11,000 activity bags containing age-appropriate creative ideas and resources for children and young people.

Primary Admissions

Ninety-five per cent of families (94.91% percent) of primary age children in North Yorkshire have secured their first choice of school for their child. Of all families in the county who requested a primary school place for their child this September, just over 98 per cent (98.29 per cent) received an offer from one of their top three preferences of school. This is very good news for North Yorkshire families and it is pleasing that so many families continue to gain the first preference from their choice of schools and that the percentage remains consistently high.

The service works hard with all North Yorkshire schools to ensure they deliver the highest standards of education so that families who are not given first preferences can still send their children to good schools. We wish those children starting primary school in September a happy and exciting start in their new school.

School organisation changes

The new school proposals for both Knaresborough and Northallerton are progressing. Applications from a number of Academy Trusts who wish to operate the schools were assessed in February and March. The LA has made recommendations for Trust appointments to the Regional Schools Commissioner whose final decision is expected on or around 6 May 2021.

The contractor appointment process for the Northallerton construction project is underway and the target opening date remains September 2022.

The Manse Farm, Knaresborough development site is however on a slower than expected trajectory for the residential and infrastructure aspects, in part we understand due to covid impacts on construction. As a result the developer is unable to complete the transfer of the school land to NYCC ownership to enable construction to start in summer 2021 as was planned. The decision has therefore been taken not to proceed with contractor appointment at this time, and the school's target opening date has been revised to September 2023.

On 9 March 2021 the Executive determined the closure proposal for St Hilda's Catholic Primary School, Whitby. The school closed on 9 April 2021.

On 23 March 2021 the Executive Member for Education and Skills determined the closure proposal for Kell Bank CE VC Primary School near Masham. There were no objections received during the representation period. The School will close at the end of the current academic year.

School funding

We have lobbied the DfE for a number of years now for a fairer distribution of school funding across England. Despite the DfE's intention to move towards a 'hard' national funding formula, we remain concerned over the financial sustainability of small, rural schools – particularly small secondary schools. We continue to argue that the costs of running rural schools should be fully reflected in the national funding formula; the local authority has engaged with DfE over the current simplistic way of calculating sparsity and the breadth and depth of financial support to support very rural schools.

We also continue to argue for reform of the national High Needs funding formula to better reflect actual demand in the number of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY BOARD

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

The scrutiny function was created to act as a check on and balance to the executive and it is a statutory requirement for all authorities operating executive arrangements.

There has been one meeting of Scrutiny Board since my last statement to Council.

The meeting of Scrutiny Board on 4 March 2021 focussed upon the scrutiny of the Q3 Performance and Finance Management Report, ahead of the members of the Board attending the Executive on 9 March 2021. Some of the issues raised at the Executive meeting by members of the Scrutiny Board are highlighted below:

- The increase in elective home education during the pandemic and what role the Council has in supporting home education
- Whether the changes to the OFSTED programme of inspections over the past few years means that it is increasingly difficult to know how well some of our schools are performing
- The support that is being put in place for children with Education Health Care Plans
- What is being done to help reduce the backlog in criminal court cases in both the Youth Court and Crown Court, which have arisen due to the pandemic. It was noted that the delays in the administration of justice are detrimental to both the accused and their alleged victims and families.
- The difficulties that are being experienced across the county with access to NHS dentistry and in particular for Looked After Children
- The role that the Council has to play in supporting the community and voluntary sector in the long term, as many organisations have struggled financially and have been forced to use reserves in 2020/21
- How the Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership can work to support businesses, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises in adapting to trading in a post-covid and post-Brexit world.

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 4 March 2021, members also discussed how to approach the scrutiny of the final report of the Rural Commission and the implementation of any actions or recommendations. The final report is due to be published in June 2021 and it is certain that there will be areas of interest for all of the Council's scrutiny committees.

Members of Scrutiny Board are next due meet on 21 May 2021. At that meeting, the Executive Q4 Performance and Finance Management Report will be scrutinised. Further consideration will also be given to: the progress being made with the scrutiny of the Council and local NHS response to and recovery from the pandemic; and the long term plans for holding committee meetings, whether that is in person or via remote access.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN
Chairman of Scrutiny Board
14 April 2021

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Independent Care Sector and the Impact of Covid-19

1. At our meeting on 4 March, Mike Padgham, Chair of the Independent Care Group (York and North Yorkshire) and co-opted member of the committee, gave us an update. Mike has been involved with social care for over 30 years. He explained, from his perspective, the impact Covid-19 has had on the independent care sector.
2. Before the pandemic, the sector was facing many challenges:
 - A 'perfect storm': rising demand, falling funding, greater inspection, dire staff shortages, rising fees.
 - Care homes closing, homecare contracts being handed back.
 - 1.4m people with unmet care need.
 - Up to a quarter of care homes at risk.
 - Social care funding restrictions.
 - Estimated 20,000 staff vacancies on any one day in the England.
 - Increasing difficulty for homecare providers to respond effectively in rural areas.
3. As a result of the pandemic, care businesses are having to cope with:
 - Stress on staff/management.
 - Exacerbated staffing shortages.
 - Further financial strain.
 - Difficulties in getting insurance.
 - Fall in morale.
 - Fears for the future for the care sector.
 - Need for social care reform.
 - Reduced occupancy levels resulting from a lack of confidence and homes not accepting new admissions.
4. In his view, the whole care sector has survived by a combination of a massive effort by social care staff, excellent partnership working, government support and plain dogged determination. In particular, Mike praised the North Yorkshire County Council's response.
5. He shared his personal perspective on what a recovery might look like, and what might secure a more sustainable future for social care. His ideas ranged, for example, from a cap on social care costs, a minimum wage for social care work through to a new model of social care delivery based on catchment areas.
6. In the months ahead, these insights will help broaden our understanding of how our partners and we respond to the published White Paper Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all.

Extra Care Housing

7. North Yorkshire has a proud record on Extra Care Housing. We have one of the largest Extra Care programmes in the country, recognised as an exemplar of good practice and effective delivery.
8. Since 2015/16, the Extra Care programme has generated cashable savings of £1.59m with an additional £1m savings in progress linked to other schemes.
9. The vision of wanting people to live longer, healthier, independent lives and enable people to make the choices that are right for them remains as relevant now as it was at the outset of the programme.
10. We are consolidating and building upon the success of previous years, with a new wave of extra care schemes to set the pace for extra care living into the middle of this century. Two of the latest to become active being Fry Court in Great Ayton and Webb Ellis Court in Scarborough. By 2023 the ambition to see Extra Care in all key towns will have been met, the programme will have delivered over 30 schemes and approximately 2000 units of high quality, purpose built accommodation with support.
11. This has proven to be a well-spent investment with buildings that are well designed, environmentally sustainable and integral to our towns and villages.

Care Market Update

12. At our last three meetings, we have looked in detail at the Health and Adult Services directorate's response to the impact of Covid 19 on the Care Market.
13. We continue to be impressed at the comprehensive and professional nature of the support and leadership offered by Richard Webb, his management team and both portfolio holders, and the commitment and dedication of the directorate as a whole.

Future work

14. At our next meeting, we will review:
 - **Living Well** - experience over the last year and reflections on the impact of the pandemic.
 - **Direct Payments** - revisiting a review of how NYCC is ensuring that Direct Payments enable more choice and control over the support people receive and how Direct Payments help to meet their social care needs.
 - **User participation** - how we have worked with user representative groups during the Covid response

COUNTY COUNCILLOR KARIN SEDGWICK

2 February 2021

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Since my last statement to Council in February 2021, the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once on 19 April 2021.

At the meeting, the Committee received a number of annual updates, which included a detailed progress update on the implementation of the Workforce Plan. We were pleased to note a slight improvement in the number of staff with protected characteristics; a drop in sickness absence; and the commencement of a re-introduction programme for furloughed staff. We again suggested the possible development of a future apprenticeship opportunity associated with Autism Plus, and the provision of staff training on dealing with people with Dementia. We also expressed concern about delays in teacher training arising as a result of the pandemic, the effect of which is likely to be felt in future years.

Finally, we were pleased to note the steps being taken to assist and support staff in their development of new working arrangements post Covid, and as Chair of the Committee, I wish to place on record the Committee's thanks to all staff for going above and beyond throughout the pandemic.

We also received an update on the resettlement of people in North Yorkshire under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme. The progress update detailed the delays caused by the pandemic and the steps taken to support refuge families across the region through a difficult year. The committee were pleased to note the resilience shown by those families and recognised the significant contribution and commitment of key staff in supporting them.

In an update on the County Council's Risk Register, our attention was drawn to the addition of two new risks - Recovery from the impact of the Coronavirus; and Local Government Reorganisation. We were reassured that once a decision regarding the Local Government Reorganisation was known, work would commence to consider the individual service risks associated with the transition to the new local government arrangements. We were particularly pleased to note that work was now underway to formulate risks registers for both North Yorkshire Highways and the Brierley Group.

Finally, the Committee received an update on the Council's Corporate Volunteering Project which detailed the impact of COVID on its delivery, with nearly all regular NYCC volunteering services either halted or significantly reduced during the lockdowns. We questioned the sustainability of the County Council's reliance on volunteers, recognising the older age demographic and queried the steps being taken to promote volunteering among younger people.

Finally, noting the development of online processes for the recruitment and management of volunteers, we expressed concern that some older volunteers may be put off by having to use online processes, and were reassured that other methods were also available for those who preferred them.

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North Yorkshire County Council

5 May 2021

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman's Statement

Committee – 14 April 2021

- Air Quality Strategy:

The committee received the County Council's draft countywide Air Quality Strategy – Protecting North Yorkshire's Air Quality Strategy 2020-2045 - and the consultation results. The strategy complements the council's wider climate change agenda and its aspiration to become carbon neutral as close as possible to 2030.

The majority of those who responded to the public consultation agreed with the overall aims of the strategy but whilst some felt that the strategy did not go far enough others voiced concern about the financial costs of delivering the actions.

The strategy is clearly a substantial document and one that the committee supports in its approach.

Some Members on the committee made suggestions for further actions to be included in the action plans and we probably reflected the spectrum of public responses in terms of what we consider achievable.

It is important to bear in mind that there is also great potential for private sector investment and not just the County Council acting alone. The strategy's success will therefore, depend upon leveraging in external funding. For example, there is a need for more electric vehicle charging points across the county and that will come with private sector investment especially in relation to the tourist/visitor economy.

An aspect that we asked for further investigation is how the County Council can ensure that it takes more account of the impact that proposed developments will have on air quality when it considers planning applications directly or as a consultee. More scrutiny might be required of the environmental impact assessments in this regard. Where possible, in relation to the impacts on air quality, the planning process needs to be part of the answer not part of the problem.

- Rural Bus Services:

We had a wide-ranging discussion about road passenger related rural transport in the county including funding, policy and strategy. Inevitably, our discussion centred on the sustainability of bus services and community transport in the county arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It comes as no surprise that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive impact on local bus services due to sharp falls in passenger numbers. The County Council and the Department for Transport have provided a lifeline to bus operators during the pandemic by providing them with much needed income to survive. However, despite this there are indications that post-pandemic, bus patronage could be up to 20% lower than pre-pandemic, due to changing working and shopping patterns.

Linked to the future sustainability of bus services are radical changes proposed by the Department for Transport about how bus services will function in the future, arising from its recently launched national bus strategy for England: ‘Bus Back Better’.

We were keen to explore the implications of the national bus strategy further. This is especially as the current arrangements in the county of subsidising services that are not viable, is looking less sustainable. There will be reduced funding from government if we keep the status quo. Of the two options for change, a franchise model would allow the County Council to take control of all the bus services in the area but it would take on the revenue risk. The enhanced partnership option would allow the council to work with the operators to put new contracts in place but the revenue risk would stay with the operator. The County Council has until 9 June to confirm what our proposed approach will be and will then be required to produce an action plan by October. We have asked to have sight of the response at our next mid cycle briefing on 7 June before submitted to government.

We received a public statement from a member of the public wishing to emphasise the importance of retaining and expanding rural bus services. With the new national bus strategy and devolution, we can be more confident that this will be possible rather than relying on the current arrangements and having had to make difficult financial decisions over the past few years about the level of bus subsidy that is affordable for us.

Committee – 12 July 2021

We plan to have the following items presented to our next committee meeting on 12 July 2021.

Rural Commission (North Yorkshire)	To discuss the findings and recommendations of the Rural Commission.
Climate Change Assessments	To receive a report on the climate change assessment requirements for inclusion in reports.
Active Travel	To discuss the implementation of Active Travel schemes in the county including the impacts on managing traffic congestion and promoting healthier lifestyles.
Review of North Yorkshire County Council’s 20mph Speed Limit Policy	To receive an update on the progress of implementing the Committee’s recommendations arising from its review of the Council’s 20mph speed limit policy.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley
Chairman
 Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 County Hall
 Northallerton

19 April 2021

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny of Health Committee has a responsibility to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County. A key part of that responsibility is requiring NHS bodies to consult health scrutiny on proposals for substantial developments or variations to the local health service provision. One of the powers that the committee has is, in specific circumstances, to refer contested proposals for change to the Secretary of State for Health.

The committee met formally and in public on 12 March 2021 using Microsoft Teams for a live broadcast meeting. At that meeting, committee members received detailed presentations on: the NHS response to the pandemic, including the progress being made with the vaccination programme; further information on the extent of hospital acquired covid-19 infections, management of waiting lists for routine treatments and elective surgery, and staff sickness absence in the NHS locally; the transfer of hyper acute stroke treatment from Scarborough to York and Hull and the response times and outcomes linked to hyper acute stroke provision; and the development of the Whitby hospital site and the impact that will have upon services provided there.

Outlined below are some areas that the committee has been looking at in-depth.

Scarborough Hospital

The committee continues to scrutinise the changes to hyper acute stroke services. Those people who exhibit the symptoms of a stroke will bypass Scarborough and be taken directly to York or Hull for specialist treatment. Prior to the committee meeting on 12 March 2021, the committee was provided with a briefing note by the overview and scrutiny team which gave an overview of research into the 'golden hour'. The golden hour and its relevance to the changes to hyper acute stroke services had been debated at some length at previous meetings. The conclusion of the briefing note stated "There is no specific evidence to suggest a scientific basis to the presumption of a 'golden hour' within which hyper acute stroke patients should be treated in order to reduce the potential for death or disability....more targeted care is of greater benefit than assuring a one-hour window of opportunity for treatment." This supports the explanations that have been provided to date by NHS commissioners and the experience of patients where services have undergone similar changes, like that at Harrogate Hospital.

The committee received an update on progress with the modernisation of the Scarborough Hospital site and the capital investment of £47 million to develop new urgent, emergency and critical care facilities. The committee heard that the Full Business Case will be submitted by the end of August 2021. Once signed off, then then it is anticipated that construction will start in late 2021 or early 2022 and that it will take 2 years. At this point, then the NHS locally will start a formal programme of consultation and engagement with people who use the hospital, building upon that which they have done to date with key stakeholders. A further update will be provided at the committee meeting on 17 December 2021.

Re-development of Whitley Hospital

The committee has scrutinised the plans for the re-development of the Whitley Hospital site for the past five years. The hospital plays a key role in the delivery of health services, particularly

outpatient and diagnostics, in the east of the county and links in with larger hospitals like the James Cook, Scarborough and York. The construction began on the site on 23 March 2020 just as the first national lockdown commenced. The work then re-started in June 2020 and should now be completed by 29 June 2021. A total of £13.1 million has been invested in this work. The committee members and colleagues who attended from the Scarborough and Whitby and the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committees welcomed the work that has been done and the commitment that has been made to the long term future of the hospital.

The recent developments at Whitby and Scarborough hospitals demonstrates the key role that the county's smaller hospitals have to play in the delivery of services and the recognition that not all services can or should be centralised. I am hopeful that this is something that the Integrated Care Systems and Partnerships will pursue further as they look to deliver health services at a local or neighbourhood level.

NHS pandemic recovery

The committee is undertaking an ongoing review of NHS response to and recovery from the pandemic and what this has meant for the delivery of NHS services. Members were pleased to hear that some routine elective procedures and some outpatient appointments have been restarted and that fast track appointments have been put in place for cancer assessments and treatment. Clearly, there is a large backlog of elective surgery and routine treatments, which will pose a real challenge to the NHS, which has been working at full capacity for over a year now. Commissioners and providers have committed to prioritise all assessments and treatments according to clinical need and to ensure that patients are kept fully informed of what action will be taken. In addition, work is underway to see what options there are for support in the community for those who are in discomfort and who will be waiting for a long time before they receive the treatment that they need.

The committee also received further information on how primary care services have been working during the pandemic. Previously, members had raised concerns about difficulties in accessing face-to-face appointments. Also, that many people who had health needs may have been deterred from seeking the services that they needed during the pandemic, leading to surge in demand once lockdown restrictions area eased. The committee heard that all GP practices are covid-safe and that the number of appointments (face to face, by telephone or by video) available are rising in number and now at 2/3 of the pre-pandemic level. The telephone consultations and secure video consultations that are available may better suit some people.

Over the next year, the committee will follow up on the longer term consequences of the pandemic, including: long covid; the increase in prevalence of mental health stress; and the impact upon pre-existing health inequalities.

Committee meeting on 18 June 2021

The next meeting of the committee will be at 10am on 18 June 2021. At this time, the items for consideration at that meeting are as follows: the development of mental health services in the county, with a focus upon the rectification of the in-patient wards at Roseberry Park, the progress with the Selby Community Hub, the development of enhanced community services and the response of the Tees Esk and Wear NHS FT to a recent CQC report; an update on progress with the implementation of proposed changes to hyper acute stroke services at Scarborough Hospital; the local NHS response to pandemic, including progress with vaccination and the NHS recovery plan; Covid-19 prevalence data; an overview of the NHS White paper and what this means for health services in the county; and a further update on access to NHS dentistry.

Regarding access to NHS dentistry, the committee will receive further information from NHS England about the contractual arrangements that are currently in place and what opportunities there may be for a national review of them and also an update on progress with the procurement of services to fill some of the gaps in provision that have emerged recently.

Mid Cycle Briefing on 23 April 2021

The next meeting of the Mid Cycle Briefing will be at 10am on 23 April 2021. This meeting will focus on developing lines of enquiry for matters that are to be brought to the formal meetings of the committee and developing the committee work programme. At this time, the items that will be considered at the meeting are: the regional review of hyper acute stroke services; the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT response to the recent CQC inspection; Local Plans and the use of s.106 funding to support the development of health services in a housing growth area; and the York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS FT response to January 2020 CQC inspection of Scarborough Hospital.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN ENNIS
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee
19 April 2021

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

5 May 2021

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Traded Services Review

1. The committee has gone on record with its view that reduced access to youth work provision, including outdoor activities, safe spaces and contact with trusted professional youth workers may have a significantly adverse effect on young people's physical and mental health.
2. Therefore, when the Executive looked at potential short-term solutions to address the financial shortfall facing the Outdoor Learning Service due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, the committee reviewed the issue. We were happy to support the Executive's decision that, rather than mothballing, both sites be protected as soon as possible.
3. The Executive also approved a strategic review being undertaken; one with the ambition of ensuring a long-term sustainable operating model is developed and established. Recommendations resulting from the strategic review will be presented to the Executive later in the year, but I am pleased that the committee will have the opportunity as early as its June meeting, to understand the key issues that review must address, and how it will go about its work.

Portfolio Holder Statement

4. In recent meetings, we have looked at the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on vulnerable children and families. In my last statement, I stressed that as a scrutiny committee we would seek reassurance that the county council was doing all it could to meet everyone's needs.
5. We have been helped in this by receiving presentations from both portfolio holders – Cllrs Janet Sanderson and Patrick Mulligan.
6. Patrick covered general issues around CYPS and schools budget, schools and online learning and the challenges to come around supporting schools to reopen. In particular, he highlighted his views that:
 - Schools had adjusted well to the changed definition of the attendance of vulnerable children.
 - Placing a requirement upon schools to provide remote learning had improved service across the whole county, especially in remote rural areas.
 - It was too early to comment upon the then recently announced £700m package for further elements of the recovery support package so children and young people can catch up on missed learning and development due to the pandemic. In principle, he believed the idea of a Covid recovery grant – one that helps pupils catch up is a welcome approach. The expectation was that funding would go directly through the school route.

7. Getting the testing regime right would be extremely challenging, especially for secondary schools but, overall, he sensed there was high level of confidence that the return to schools had been prepared for well.
8. Janet covered the general impact of the pandemic on children's social care - what has been achieved, what has been learned, how we now understand and manage risk. The key priority had to be maintaining delivery of a service rated outstanding. Janet explained how proud she was that officers, given the opportunity to explore innovative service delivery, had done this – at least in part - by constantly adapting to virtual and remote working.
9. There were many examples of where through innovative and creative working, across boundaries and with partners, we are supporting families and the staff who work with them in a flexible way.
10. Coping with the demands of the pandemic on children's social care has had significant financial implications, but flexibility of service provision has most likely been crucial in mitigating those effects and managing risk.

Looking Ahead

11. At our next meeting, in addition to the Traded Services item mentioned earlier, we will review progress on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy. On each occasion we have looked at this, we have been pleased with how much has been achieved.
12. Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. In 2019, the committee concluded that the directorate had a good understanding of the issues associated with EHE, and robust procedures and practices.
13. I therefore took note of the mention within the Executive Monitoring document Best Start in Life, of the increasing numbers of parents who had opted for EHE:
 - At the end of the quarter that there were 806 children in EHE - up from 709 at the end of Q2.
 - There were 30% more children in EHE (187) at the end of December this year compared to last year.
 - 48% indicated that Covid -19 was a factor in their decision to home educate their children.
 - 62 families stated that their child to resume school-based education once the family feel it is safe to do so
14. I shall be inviting the committee to review the circumstances around these figures.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET JEFFERSON

21 April 2021