



# QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, 21 July 2021

**Summons, Agenda, Minutes  
and Reports**



## **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

You are summoned to attend the Meeting of the County Council. This meeting is being held remotely using Teams on **Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 10.30 am**, at which the following business will be transacted.

Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee. Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5 May 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with other Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members.

The meeting will be available to view once the meeting commences, via the following link - [www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings)

### **BUSINESS**

**1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 May 2021**

To move that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 May 2021, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**(Pages 7 - 12)**

**2. Apologies for absence**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Chairman's Announcements**

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

**5. Statement by the Leader of the Council**

**(Pages 13 - 14)**

## **6. 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](mailto: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 Friday, 16 July 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.

## **7. To consider the report and recommendations of the Executive and make decisions on them**

- Formal Meetings of the Authority's Committees.
- Amendments to the Constitution.
- Equality and Diversity Statement
- Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies.

**(Pages 15 - 20)**

## **8. Formal Meetings of the Authority's Committee**

County Council to review arrangements for holding formal meetings of the Authority's committees.

**(Pages 21 - 26)**

## **9. Report and recommendations of the Allocations Committee**

This follows the 6 May 2021 by-elections and subsequent changes to the political balance of the Council.

**(Pages 27 - 34)**

## **10. To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/2021**

A review of the work of overview and scrutiny in 2020/21 and looking ahead to work that will be done in 2021/22.

**(Pages 35 - 46)**

## **11. Statements of Executive Members, in the order set out below, followed by the Statements of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Executive Members:**

**11(a) Executive Member for Stronger Communities - County Councillor David Chance**  
**(Pages 47 - 50)**

**11(b) Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Health Integration - County Councillor Michael Harrison**  
**(Pages 51 - 54)**

- 11(c) **Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Supported Housing - County Councillor Caroline Dickinson**  
(Pages 55 - 58)
- 11(d) **Executive Member for Open to Business - County Councillor Andrew Lee**  
(Pages 59 - 60)
- 11(e) **Executive Member for Customer Engagement - County Councillor Greg White**  
(Pages 61 - 66)
- 11(f) **Executive Member for Finance and Assets and Special Projects - County Councillor Gareth Dadd**  
(Pages 67 - 68)
- 11(g) **Executive Member for Children's Services - County Councillor Janet Sanderson**  
(Pages 69 - 74)
- 11(h) **Executive Member for Education and Skills - County Councillor Patrick Mulligan**  
(Pages 75 - 78)
- 11(i) **Executive Member for Access - County Councillor Don Mackenzie**  
(Pages 79 - 80)

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:**

- 11(j) **Scrutiny Board (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)**  
(Pages 81 - 82)
- 11(k) **Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Derek Bastiman)**  
(Pages 83 - 84)
- 11(l) **Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Stanley Lumley)**  
(Pages 85 - 86)
- 11(m) **Scrutiny of Health Committee (Chairman: County Councillor John Ennis)**  
(Pages 87 - 90)
- 11(n) **Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Janet Jefferson)**  
(Pages 91 - 94)
- 11(o) **Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman: County Councillor Karin Sedgwick)**  
(Pages 95 - 96)

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 20 July 2021, the person to whom the question has been put may respond in writing, and this is then circulated to all Members.

**12. Notices of Motion**

There are no Notices of Motion.

**13. Council Procedure Rules 10 Questions**

RICHARD FLINTON  
Chief Executive Officer

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

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## North Yorkshire County Council

### County Council

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Wednesday, 5th May, 2021 commencing at 10.30 am.

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

Apologies: Lindsay Burr, John Ennis, David Goode, Mel Hobson, Andrew Jenkinson and Mike Jordan.

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

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#### **177 Election of the Chairman of the County Council**

It was moved and seconded that County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE be elected Chairman of the County Council to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.

**The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried with 58 for, none against and no abstentions.**

**Resolved -**

That County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE is elected Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.

County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE then made his declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman of the County Council.

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**County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE in the Chair**

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The Chairman thanked the Council for his election and it was then moved by him and seconded:

“That this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor Jim Clark as Chairman of the County Council for the last two years and places on record its thanks to his consort for their unfailing support given during his term of office.”

Leaders of other political groups spoke in support.

**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 this Council places on record its appreciation of the exceptional service rendered to it by County Councillor Jim Clark as Chairman of the County Council for the last two years and also places on record its thanks to his consort for their unfailing support given during his term of office.

If the meeting was being held in person, then we would now present County Councillor Jim Clark with a Past Chairman's badge and a gift for his consort, as a token of appreciation of the Council for all the work that they have done over the past two years. However, being a remote access meeting it is not possible to do this now and so arrangements will be put in place after today.

County Councillor Jim Clark responded expressing his thanks to all those who had supported him during his time in office.

**178 Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 February 2021**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 17 February 2021, 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 59 for, none against and no abstentions.**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council on 21 February 2021, having been printed and circulated, are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**179 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Lindsay Burr, John Ennis, David Goode, Mel Hobson, Andrew Jenkinson and Mike Jordan.

**180 To elect a Vice-Chairman of the County Council**

It was moved and seconded that County Councillor Margaret Atkinson be elected Vice-Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.

**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 County Councillor Margaret Atkinson is elected Vice-Chairman of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.



County Councillor Margaret Atkinson then made her declaration of acceptance of office of Vice-Chairman of the County Council and thanked the Council for her appointment.

### **181 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **182 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 channel.

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

The Chairman noted it was with great sadness that we learned of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021. His Royal Highness dedicated decades of his life to royal duty, serving the nation at the Queen's side. He often visited North Yorkshire as part of his royal engagements and also in support of the military in the county. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme that he set up and led for many years has had a lasting impact upon the lives of many young people in the county.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman conveyed sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Chairman noted the untimely death of County Councillor Geoff Webber on 11 March 2021. County Councillor Webber was first elected to the County Council in 1993, serving until 2001. He was then re-elected in 2009, serving until 2013, and again in 2017. He was also a Harrogate Borough Councillor until 2011. At the County Council he was the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and a member of many committees, working groups and consultative bodies of the Council.

County Councillor Stuart Martin MBE gave a personal statement and made a number of announcements relating to work that he was doing in his role as Chairman.

### **183 To elect a Leader of the Council**

It was moved and seconded that County Councillor Carl Les be elected as Leader of the County Council to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.

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

**Resolved -**

That County Councillor Carl Les be elected as Leader of the County Council, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2022.

### **184 Statement by the Leader of the Council**

County Councillor Carl Les made a statement and answered questions, under Council 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 12956 to 12957).

County Councillor Carl Les confirmed the number and appointment of Executive members, the Deputy Leader and the allocation of portfolios and delegation of Executive powers and functions. No changes were made.

**185 Public Questions or Statements**

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

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

Formal Meetings of the Authority's Committees from 7 May 2021 onwards

A full report was included in the main agenda.

Appointment to Committees and Other Bodies

The recommendation at paragraph 4.1 of the report (page 12960 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

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

**Resolved -**

That Ashley Green be the nominated deputy representative for Healthwatch North Yorkshire on the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

The recommendation at paragraph 4.0 of the report (page 12962 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded.

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

**Resolved -**

That the extension of existing appointments to the County Council's Committees and Outside Bodies (as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report page 12964 of the Minute Book) to the end of the current Council in May 2022 be agreed.

County Councillor Stuart Parsons noted an error in the appendix of the report, detailing Council appointments to outside bodies, and asked that it be rectified. County Councillor Stuart Parsons is the representative on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and County Councillor John McCartney is the representative on the North York Moors National Park Authority.

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

The recommendation at paragraph 10.0 of the report (page 12971 of the Minute Book) was moved and seconded, having been amended to include a formal review at the meeting of the County Council on 21 July 2021.

**The vote was taken using the voting application in Microsoft Teams. The motion was declared carried, with 60 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.**

**Resolved -**

That it be approved 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.
- (c) that the Council reviews this position at the meeting of the County Council on 21 July 2021.

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

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

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, made a statement, a summary of the key points of which had previously been circulated and which appears in the Minute Book (pages 12974 to 12975) and answered questions.

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 12976 to 12979).

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 12980 to 12981).

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 12982 to 12984) and answered questions.

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 12986 to 12987).

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 12988 to 12992).

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 12994 to 12995).

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 12996 to 12997).

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 12998 to 12999).

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 (pages 13000 to 13013).

**190 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion were received within the deadline.

**191 Council Procedure Rule 10 Questions**

There were no Council Procedure Rule 10 questions.

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 2021

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

#### **Covid**

Just when we thought that the light at the end of the tunnel was in fact the end of the tunnel, the new Delta variant sees greatly increasing rates of transmission, and transmissions in cohorts that previously seemed less affected. The high levels of vaccine take up in the county are reducing the link between the virus and hospitalisations and deaths. The number of people in hospital at the moment, given the level of transmission is comparatively low but it is rising and we cannot be complacent at this important time.

However as both the Prime Minister and the new Secretary of State Sajid Javid have stated we need to learn how to live with Covid, and the roadmap out of lockdown has been amended and as I write this we await confirmation of the next steps.

As I said at the very start of this pandemic, and have often repeated, I'm very pleased that I live in North Yorkshire, with the strong spirit of working together, and within the county I recognise again the work that our officers are doing, the health professionals, the emergency services, businesses, the military and especially our volunteers. We are grateful to them all.

#### **Covid scams**

One of the saddest things about the pandemic is the ingenuity of criminals to take advantage of people in distress. I would urge all of us, if we haven't done so already, to get our parish councillors, and residents in general to sign up to North Yorkshire Community Messaging at [alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](mailto:alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk) where warnings about the many scams are posted.

#### **Climate Change**

The Executive will be considering a draft carbon reduction plan for the Council on 13 July. Progress on development of the plan was slowed by the Covid response but work has now been undertaken on understanding our carbon footprint, developing a pathway tool and identifying realistic potential options to significantly reduce our footprint. These have all informed the content of the draft plan. We have also established a measure of cost-effectiveness (£ per ktCO<sub>2</sub>e removed) to enable business cases to be assessed.

A Beyond Carbon programme within the Council's change management governance structure has been established to oversee the main strands of the plan and a one-off £1m fund for pump-priming and development of business cases has been committed in the Council's 2021-22 budget.

We have developed and incorporated a climate change impact assessment tool into the council's decision making process, so that carbon emissions and other environmental considerations are taken into account when decisions are made.

Whilst the actions identified in the plan focus on the County Council, we and other local authorities will not be able to tackle every aspect of carbon reduction nor achieve net carbon neutrality without government support and action through legislation and fiscal

measures. Significant changes in national infrastructure will also be required, for example increases in generation, distribution and/or storage of electricity.

With regard to the emissions we have direct control over, we are not starting from scratch. We continually explore opportunities to reduce emissions and we have a track record of taking appropriate opportunities within existing budgets and additional investments where there is a business case, for example our programme of installing LED street lighting. However, it is likely that future work will be more complex and expensive.

We recognise that actions that reduce carbon emissions in one area can result in increased emissions in other areas, for example having more staff working at home may reduce our direct carbon footprint, but the net impact will depend on individual circumstances including changed energy consumption at home and reduced travel. These can be complex issues and the net impact of a decision should be explored in the relevant climate change impact assessments.

### **Rural Commission**

An innovative approach, set up by the County Council, supported by the County Council, but independent of the County Council.

Can I thank the Dean of Ripon, the Very Reverend John Dobson DL, and his fellow Commissioners - Sir William Worsley, Professor Sally Shortall, Martin Booth, Chris Clark, Dr Debbie Trebilco, Jean MacQuarrie, and Heather Hancock - for the work they have undertaken to gather opinions and evidence, to distil it, and come up with recommendations to tackle numerous problems that have troubled rural communities for years. It has been most useful to have fresh eyes look at these problems, and join up the thinking into one report.

We should also recognise and thank the many people and organisations that provided the evidence, and The Yorkshire Post for covering the issues so comprehensively. This report isn't just for the County Council to consider – it includes organisations within the County like our District Councils, and National Parks – and organisations that are outside the County, often nationwide, and including central Government.

Some of the recommendations will be challenging – this was not set up to give us or anyone a pat on the back, although it is pleasing to see that the Commission does recognise work that the County Council has done, and that the pursuit of devolution is the right thing to do - and we need to play our part in evaluating them, and deciding how best to deliver the desired outcomes. There is a clear role for Overview & Scrutiny here, and I have invited Scrutiny Board to meet with the Executive and Management Board to progress this at pace.

### **Future meetings**

This issue will be discussed elsewhere on this agenda. Our dilemma is that both face to face and virtual meetings have advantages and disadvantages, in equal measure. Virtual gives us savings, in cost, travel time, and carbon. F2F is what we are more used to, and gives us more personal interaction, and importantly allows us to exercise our duty to make decisions ourselves. The SoS, Robert Jenrick said at the recent LGA conference that the call for evidence seemed to show that overwhelmingly councils wanted decision making powers to extend to virtual meetings, and if his officials concluded that following scrutiny of the evidence, he would seek Parliamentary time to debate this. Clearly that won't happen before Parliament returns from summer recess.

CARL LES

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide County Council with details of reports received, decisions by the Chief Executive Officer under emergency delegated powers in consultation with Executive Members and any subsequent recommendations to County Council since the last meeting of the County Council on 5 May 2021.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee.
- 2.2 Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5 May 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue as informal meetings of the Committee Members, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members. The Council further resolved to review this approach at its July meeting.
- 2.3 The meeting of the County Council on 21 July 2021 will be held remotely. As such, it will be an informal meeting with any decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, taking into account the view of the full Council.

#### **3.0 DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS**

- 3.1 The following sections provide details of decisions made by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers in consultation with the Executive Members and recommendations to County Council by the Executive since the last meeting of the County Council on 5 May 2021. The meetings were held on the following dates: 25 May 2021 (Q4 Performance Monitoring); 8 June 2021; 22 June 2021 and 13 July 2021. All of the informal meetings were live broadcast and the recordings of the meetings are available via the following link - <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings>
- 3.2 **25 May 2021 Executive (Q4 Performance Monitoring) Informal Meeting**  
The Executive Members met on Tuesday 25 May 2021. It was an informal live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair plus 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 Paul Haslam, Derek Bastiman, John Ennis, Janet Jefferson, Stanley Lumley, Andy Paraskos and Annabel Wilkinson.

Apologies: none received.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Q4 Performance Monitoring and Budget Report
- Proposals for Changes to Public Highway as part of Transforming Cities Fund Programme
- Appointments to Outside Bodies.

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

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 25th May, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

The Chief Executive Officer considered the reports, additional information provided at the meeting and the views of the Executive Members, and resolved to implement the recommendations of the Executive, using his emergency decision making powers.

The link to the decision records that were published to record these decisions is as follows - [1 May 2021 - 31 May 2021 | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

### 3.3 **8 June 2021 Executive Informal Meeting**

The Executive Members met on Tuesday 9 March 2021. It was an informal live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair plus County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Amendments to the Council Constitution
- Levelling Up Fund Bid Submission
- 0-19 Healthy Child Section 75 Agreement - Consultation Feedback and Approval to move to a Partnership Model
- Submission of North Yorkshire Project Applications to UK Community Renewal Fund
- Schools Condition Capital Programme 2021/22.

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

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 8th June, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

The Chief Executive Officer considered the reports, additional information provided at the meeting and the views of the Executive Members, and resolved to implement the recommendations of the Executive.

The link to the decision records that were published to record these decisions is as follows - [1 June 2021 - 30 June 2021 | North Yorkshire County Council](#)



### 3.4 **22 June 2021 Executive Informal Meeting**

The Executive Members met on Tuesday 22 June 2021. It was an informal live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair plus County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillors Paul Haslam.

Apology: County Councillor Don Mackenzie.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Equality and Diversity Policy Statement
- Proposal to Change the Category of Danby CE Primary School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided from 16 September 2021
- Grant of Leases to NY Highways Limited
- National Bus Strategy
- Filey Road Park and Ride, Scarborough - Option Agreement
- Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report - Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee.

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

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

The Chief Executive Officer considered the reports, additional information provided at the meeting and the views of the Executive Members, and resolved to implement the recommendations of the Executive.

The link to the decision records that were published to record these decisions is as follows – [1 June 2021 - 30 June 2021 | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

### 3.5 **13 July 2021 Executive Informal Meeting**

The Executive Members met on Tuesday 13 July 2021. It was an informal live broadcast meeting using MS Teams and OBS software. County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair plus County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Andrew Lee, Don Mackenzie, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillors Philip Broadbank, Paul Haslam.

Apology: County Councillor Michael Harrison and Patrick Mulligan.

Substantive agenda items were:

- Carbon Reduction Plan
- Formal Meetings of the Authority's Committees
- Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel
- Support for the Tour de Yorkshire 2022
- North Yorkshire Integrated Sexual Health Service (Appendix 1 confidential paper).

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

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 13th July, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

The Chief Executive Officer considered the reports, additional information provided at the meeting and the views of the Executive Members, and resolved to implement the recommendations of the Executive.

The link to the decision records that were published to record these decisions is as follows – [1 July 2021 - 31 July 2021 | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

#### **4.0 MATTERS FOR APPROVAL/INFORMATION AT COUNTY COUNCIL**

4.1 The Chief Executive Officer considered the reports, additional information provided at the informal meetings and the views of the Members, and resolved to recommend the following to County Council for its consideration:

#### 4.2 Amendments to the Constitution

This item was considered at the informal meeting of Executive Members on 8 June 2021, where Members recommended to the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, that he recommend the following to County Council:

- (a) The proposed amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) The proposed changes to the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules in the Constitution as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report;
- (c) The proposed addition to Council Procedure Rule 13(h) in the Constitution as set out in paragraph 5.5(a) of the report.

Links to report and Appendices: [Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 8th June, 2021, 11.00 am | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the proposed amendments to the Constitution be considered by County Council Members and recommended to the Chief Executive Officer for approval under his emergency delegated decision making powers.

#### 4.3 Equality and Diversity Statement

This item was considered at the informal meeting of Executive Members on 22 June 2021, where Members recommended to the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, that he recommend the revised Equality and Diversity Statement to County Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the revised Equality and Diversity Statement be considered by County Council Members and recommended to the Chief Executive Officer for approval under his emergency delegated decision making powers.

4.4 Formal meetings of the Authority's committees

This matter is included in the main agenda for consideration at item 8.

4.5 Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies

This item was considered at the informal meeting of Executive Members on 25 May 2021, where Members recommended to the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, that he approve:

- (a) An amendment to the name of County Councillor Michael Harrison's Executive Member portfolio post to – Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Health Integration, including Health & Wellbeing Board and Extra Care;
- (b) The extension of existing appointments to the Outside Bodies, to the end of the current Council in May 2022;
- (c) The appointment of County Councillor Caroline Goodrick and County Councillor Helen Swiers (as a Substitute) to the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Board;
- (d) Two Executive Members appointments – County Councillor Michael Harrison to Humber Coast & Vale Integrated Care System, and County Councillor Caroline Dickinson to West Yorkshire & Harrogate Integrated Care System.

County Council is also asked to note the following appointments that have been made to the Police Fire and Crime Panel by member authorities of that panel:

- (e) Councillor Darryl Smalley has been appointed by the City of York Council with effect from 27 May 2021.
- (f) Councillor Patrick Mulligan has been appointed by Craven District Council with effect from 16 June 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The following appointments be noted:

- (a) An amendment to the name of County Councillor Michael Harrison's Executive Member portfolio post to – Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Health Integration, including Health & Wellbeing Board and Extra Care;
- (b) The extension of existing appointments to the Outside Bodies, to the end of the current Council in May 2022;
- (c) The appointment of County Councillor Caroline Goodrick and County Councillor

Helen Swiers (as a Substitute) to the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Board;

- (d) Two Executive Members appointments – County Councillor Michael Harrison to Humber Coast & Vale Integrated Care System, and County Councillor Caroline Dickinson to West Yorkshire & Harrogate Integrated Care System;
- (e) Councillor Darryl Smalley has been appointed the new City of York Council representative on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel with effect from 27 May 2021;
- (f) Councillor Patrick Mulligan has been appointed the new Craven District Council representative on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel with effect from 16 June 2021.

County Councillor Carl Les  
Leader  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton

13 July 2021

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### **Formal meetings of the authority's committees from 21 July 2021 onwards**

#### **Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present options for holding formal committee meetings from 21 July 2021 onwards to County Council and then make a proposal to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers.
- 1.2 Where an option includes the continuation of virtual informal meetings, County Council to consider making a recommendation for the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers that not attending a physical meeting in person for a 6 month period (as opposed to continuing to attend virtual informal meetings) will not disqualify a county councillor under the automatic vacation of office provisions set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee.
- 2.2 Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5 May 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue as informal meetings of the Committee Members, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members.
- 2.3 The report which went to the meeting of the County Council on 5 May 2021, outlined a number of options for how formal, public meetings of the Council could be held following the expiry of the government regulations enabling lawful remote access meetings to be held.
- 2.4 At the meeting on 5 May 2021, County Council specifically resolved that:
  - 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.

### **3.0 COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 19 MAY 2020 and 6 MAY 2021**

3.1 A total of 106 remote access, live broadcast meetings of the Council's committees were held from 19 May 2020 to 6 May 2021. The benefits associated with holding remote access, live broadcast meetings have previously been discussed but some headline figures are as below, comparing the years 2019/20 (meetings in person at County Hall, Northallerton) and 2020/21 (remote access meetings):

- An overall reduction in mileage claimed by councillors of 131,338 miles
- An overall saving in travel claims of £55,221
- An estimated saving in terms of time not spent travelling to and from meetings of 5,013 hours or 668 working days
- An overall saving in carbon dioxide emissions associated with reduced travel estimated to be 36.774 tonnes per annum.

3.2 In addition, there has been a total of 6,597 views of the 106 meetings on the Council YouTube site. This equates to an average of 62 views per meeting.

### **4.0 COMMITTEE MEETINGS BETWEEN 7 MAY AND 21 JULY 2021**

4.1 There are 36 committee meetings scheduled to be held between 7 May 2021 and 21 July 2021. All of these meetings have been or will be held as remote access, live broadcast informal meetings of the committee's Members. They are informal but held in public with the public still able to attend and ask a question or make a statement. Any formal decisions required are then taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, taking into account the views of the committee Members and all relevant information. All such decisions are published on the Council website and circulated to all County Councillors and senior officers. Even where call in would not normally apply, in a spirit of openness and transparency, all of the decisions taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency powers will be open to call in.

4.2 The majority of local authorities have returned to holding some meetings in person as of 7 May 2021.

### **5.0 MEETINGS TO BE HELD AFTER 21 JULY 2021**

5.1 The Government regulations which explicitly allowed remote meetings to take place and permitted formal decisions to be taken at those meetings expired on 7 May 2021. The government call for evidence on remote access meetings closed on 17 June 2021. At this stage, there is no confirmation of, nor any timeframe for, the introduction of primary legislation to enable lawful remote access meetings of the Council, Executive and their committees.

5.2 It is anticipated that all adults will have had the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by 1 July 2021 and that all over-40s will have had their second dose by mid to late July 2021. There are concerns about Covid-19 transmission rates, in particular with the emergence of

new variants such as the 'Delta variant'. Also, the need for people to have two doses of the vaccine to have the fullest protection against new variants.

- 5.3 On 12 July 2021, the Government indicated that the vast majority of lockdown restrictions would be eased as of 19 July 2021. The requirement for social distancing, wearing of masks and restrictions on large gatherings will no longer apply and individuals will be expected to make informed decisions about how they protect themselves and manage any risk of infection. It is anticipated that the existing guidance on safe working and safe use of council buildings will be updated.
- 5.4 The Council has a requirement as an employer to ensure a safe working environment and also a 'duty of care' to those people accessing Council properties for meetings or other purposes. As such, local risk assessments will need to be undertaken and measures may be put in place. This may include a continuation of some aspects of the lockdown guidance in 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/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-council-buildings) that advises that the following steps would be taken:
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.
- 5.5 If there is still to be some element of social distancing throughout July and beyond then it would only be practicable to hold formal public meetings of the Council's committees in the Council Chamber in the Brierley Building, Northallerton.
- 5.6 Consideration would need to be given as to how the November 2021 meeting of the County Council will be held.
- 5.7 When considering meetings to be held after 21 July 2021, there are a number of options, as outlined below:
1. Carry on holding the remote access, live broadcast informal meetings with any formal decisions required by those committees subsequently being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, taking into account the views of the committee Members and all relevant information. This option assumes that the government will introduce new regulations that enable lawful remote access formal committee meetings to take place at some point later this year. At that point, the use of emergency delegated powers in this context would cease.
  2. Carry on holding remote access, live broadcast informal meetings, with decision-making by the Chief Executive Officer, as per option 1, whilst also developing a timetable for a return to all formal committee meetings being held physically in public by the end of the calendar year. This option assumes that the government will not introduce new regulations permitting lawful remote access committee meetings to take place in this calendar year.
  3. As per option 2, with an accelerated return to meeting in person (September 2021) for those committees that regularly make formal decisions, such as the Executive and the

Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee. This then significantly reduces the reliance upon the Chief Executive Officer using his emergency delegated powers.

4. Return to meeting in person for all formal, public committee meetings as of 22 July 2021, a return to the pre-pandemic position.
  5. Return to meeting in person for those public meetings of the Council, Executive and their committees where formal decisions are made, as of 22 July 2021. All other committees, such as the Area Constituency Committees and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, to continue to meet informally using remote access indefinitely. This may need to be reviewed where such a committee has to make a formal decision.
- 5.8 There are financial implications associated with the different ways that meetings are held. A meeting in person will incur travel costs, an opportunity cost associated with time spent travelling, an environmental cost, costs for the provision of a meeting room, and IT costs for the recording and/or broadcasting of the meeting. By contrast, the costs associated with a remote meeting are limited to staffing required to facilitate a live broadcast meeting.
- 5.9 Any option which includes the continuation of virtual informal meetings will require Full Council to give its agreement that not attending a physical meeting in person for a 6 month period (as opposed to continuing to attend virtual informal meetings) will not disqualify a county councillor under the automatic vacation of office provisions set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. This is required as, since 7 May 2021, the meetings that have been attended by Members have been informal and so do not count towards their attendance record. As such, it is proposed that matters pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic and any consequential decision to continue with virtual informal meetings would be considered an approved reason for any Member's failure to attend meetings of the Council for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance. This would not then count towards the operation of the automatic vacation of office provisions set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. Therefore, Members will not automatically lose their position by not attending physical meetings in person (as opposed to virtual informal meetings) during this period.

## **6.0 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ON 13 JULY 2021**

6.1 The Executive Members considered the options listed at paragraph 5.7 at their meeting on 13 July 2021. A number of issues were highlighted as part of their discussions, as summarised below:

- The ability to continue with remote access live broadcast meetings after 7 May 2021 has been extremely helpful in enabling the Council to continue with its business.
- It is recognised that there are benefits to holding face to face meetings. In particular, how the committee functions and members interact during a contentious discussion or debate. As such, some meetings could be held in person, where appropriate and subject to agreement by the Leader and the Chief Executive Officer.
- New regulations are expected, if and when the necessary legislative time is made available, that will give local authorities the choice as to how they hold their meetings. At that point, a review of how meetings are held would be useful.
- There have been a number of advantages to working remotely and having live broadcast meetings (reduced travel time, reduced mileage claims, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, and greater openness and transparency).



- For the purposes of openness and transparency, it would make sense to continue with the live broadcast of committee meetings. For those held informally and remotely, this can continue to be done using MS Teams and the Council YouTube site. For those held in person, this would require some investment in new technology to enable filming and uploading.
- Review the position in September 2021, taking into account Covid-19 transmission, infection and hospitalisation rates in the county.
- Need to ensure that a dispensation is put in place so that County Councillors attending informal remote access meetings of the committees, which do not count towards their attendance figures, are not punished for having low attendance.

6.2 The Executive Members concluded that considering the benefits of remote working and the ongoing concerns about rising Covid-19 infection rates that remote access live broadcast committee meetings are continued with a formal review being undertaken in September 2021. The detailed recommendations are as specified at the end of the report.

6.3 After taking into account the report, views of the Executive Members and all relevant information, the Chief Executive Officer agreed, at the informal meeting on 13 July, to recommend the proposals set out in section 12.0 of this report to full Council for consideration.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 CONSULTATION**

10.1 Relevant Officers and Group Leaders have been consulted on how we hold committee meetings.

## **11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 With the effective roll out of the national vaccination programme, the easing of the national lockdown and no clear indication if or when regulations will be put in place to enable lawful remote access committee meetings to be held by local authorities in England, it is necessary to consider the options for holding formal, public committee meetings going forwards.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 That Council recommend to the Chief Executive Officer to consider under his emergency delegated powers:
- 12.2 The adoption of Option 1, as outlined in para 5.7 of the report. That is to carry on holding the remote access, live broadcast informal meetings with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members.
- 12.3 The continued use of remote access, live broadcast informal meetings is reviewed in September 2021 with a further report being considered at the Council meeting on 17 November 2021.
- 12.4 That the meeting of the County Council on 17 November 2021 is held as a remote access, live broadcast meeting.
- 12.5 That the power be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in Consultation with the Leader to determine which committee meetings should be held virtually and which could be held physically. As such and during this period, a face to face meeting could be held. This to be reviewed in September 2021 with a further report being considered at the Council meeting on 17 November 2021.
- 12.6 Full Council to give its agreement that not attending a physical meeting in person for a 6 month period (as opposed to continuing to attend virtual informal meetings) will not disqualify a county councillor under the automatic vacation of office provisions set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

Report Author:

Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

### 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.

13 July 2021

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

#### Allocations committee report

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of Council the outcome of the deliberations of the Allocations Committee and make recommendations, for changes to the allocation of seats on and appointment to committees subject to proportional representation, to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has the power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee.
- 2.2 Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5 May 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue as informal meetings of the Committee Members, with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members.
- 2.3 The Allocations Committee is made up of the Group Leaders. It met on 7 July 2021 to consider the impact of recent changes to the political make-up of the Council and what this meant for proportional representation. County Councillors Carl Les, Stuart Parsons and Bryn Griffiths attended the meeting. County Councillor Eric Broadbent sent apologies.

#### **3.0 CHANGES SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON 14 FEBRUARY 2020**

- 3.1 The changes to the political make-up of the Council that have since occurred since the last meeting of the committee, following two by elections on 6 May 2021, were as follows:
- The Conservatives retained the Ribblesdale Division (Elected - Cllr David Staveley)
  - The Conservatives gained the Harrogate Bilton Nidd Gorge Division from the Liberal Democrats (Elected - Cllr Matt Scott).
- 3.2 The number of County Councillors by political party is now as below:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Council seats</b>	<b>Change</b>
Conservative	54	Gained 1
NY Independent	8	
Labour	4	No change
Liberal Democrat	3	Lost 1

Unaffiliated (RH)	1	No change
Unaffiliated (AS)	1	No change
Unaffiliated (AJ)	1	No change
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	

3.3 The changes outlined above had an impact upon the allocation of seats in Council committees under proportionality.

#### 4.0 **ANALYSIS**

4.1 The Allocation Committee at their meeting on 7 July 2021 considered the following analysis of the changes in proportionality.

4.2 The analysis suggested that allocation of seats on committees was not in balance, as summarised below:

PARTY	SEAT ENTITLEMENT	ACTUAL
Conservative	84.75	81
NY Independent	12.56	14
Labour	6.28	6
Liberal Democrat	4.71	6
Independent RH	1.57	2
Independent AS	1.57	2
Independent AJ	1.57	2
TOTAL SEATS	113.00	113

The analysis was broken down further by 'Scrutiny and Audit' and by 'Ordinary' committees, as follows (see paras 5.3 and 5.4 for the definition of the committees):

- The Conservatives are under-represented by 1.75 seats on Scrutiny and Audit committees and under-represented by 2 seats on Ordinary committees (total under-representation of 3.75 seats).
- The North Yorkshire Independents are over-represented by 0.89 seats on Scrutiny and Audit committees and over-represented by 0.56 seats on Ordinary committees (total over-representation of 1.44 seats).
- Labour are under-represented by 0.06 seats on Scrutiny and Audit committees and under-represented by 0.22 seats on Ordinary committees (total under-representation of 0.28 seats).
- The Liberal Democrats are over-represented by 0.96 seats on Scrutiny and Audit committees and over-represented by 0.33 seats on Ordinary committees (total over-representation of 1.29 seats).
- Each of the three unaffiliated Independents are over-represented by 0.43 seats (collective over-representation of 1.29 seats).

The complete calculation is attached in Appendix 1.

#### 5.0 **POLITICAL BALANCE GUIDANCE**

5.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 introduced a requirement that certain appointments should be proportionate to the political composition of the Council.

- 5.2 The Council or the Committee must give effect to principles set out in the statutory provisions. The principles are:
- 1) All the seats must not be allocated to the same political group.
  - 2) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group (if any) that holds the majority of seats on the Council.
  - 3) Subject to 1) and 2), in the case of ordinary committees, the number of seats on the ordinary committees which are allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.
- 5.3 Please note that “Ordinary Committees” of this Council are: Chief Officer Appointments and Disciplinary Committee; Employment Appeals Committee; Pension Fund Committee; Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee; (Transport) Appeals Committee and Standards Committee.
- 5.4 Scrutiny committees and Audit are not “ordinary committees”.
- 5.5 This means that it is necessary to add up the total number of seats on all the ordinary committees. If a group represents, for example, three quarters of the membership of the Council, it is entitled to three quarters of the total number of seats on all ordinary committees.
- 5.6 This means that on some ordinary committees a group may have more members than the application of the next principle would justify. It provides an allowance for the fact that calculating the proportion will not usually lead to whole numbers.
- 5.7 The duty on the Council is to give effect to these principles *so far as reasonably practicable*. This recognises that there cannot be an exact application of the rules.
- 5.8 Co-optees are ignored in calculating political balance except for any co-opted member with voting rights appointed to a committee with education functions under section 13(5) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - see section 15 of that Act.

## **6.0 ADDITIONAL LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 It is expected, although not required, that every County Councillor, who is not on the Executive, has a place on either an overview and scrutiny committee or on the Audit Committee.
- 6.2 During the period of this Council it has been the practice to allocate 1 seat on Scrutiny and Audit committees and 1 seat on Ordinary Committees to each of the unaffiliated Independents. This is practice rather than a requirement.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATION OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 In considering the proportionality calculations and analysis, the Allocations Committee recommended that the following changes be made to the allocation of seats on committees:
- A Conservative Councillor takes up the existing Conservative vacancy on Transport Economy and Environment and OSC (previously held by Cllr Welch) – no change to calculation
  - The North Yorkshire Independents give up a seat on Transport Economy and Environment OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat

- The North Yorkshire Independents give up a seat on Care and Independence OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat
- The Liberal Democrats give up a seat on Care and Independence OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat.

7.2 This then means that the final position is as follows:

PARTY	SEAT ENTITLEMENT	ACTUAL
Conservative	84.75	84
NY Independent	12.56	12
Labour	6.28	6
Liberal Democrat	4.71	5
Independent RH	1.57	2
Independent AS	1.57	2
Independent AJ	1.57	2
TOTAL SEATS	113.00	113

7.3 It is important to note whist every effort is made to achieve a complete proportional allocation of seats, this is not always possible.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 CONSULTATION**

11.1 Relevant Officers and Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposal.

## **12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 introduced a requirement that certain appointments should be proportionate to the political composition of the Council. The changes to the political balance that resulted from the two May by-elections necessitated a review of the proportional allocation of seats. The Allocations Committee met on 7 July 2021 and considered the analysis, the options for achieving a proportional allocation across all committees and decided that the recommended allocation was the most appropriate.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION**

13.1 To bring to the attention of Council the following outcome of the deliberations of the Allocations Committee and make recommendations, for changes to the allocation of seats on and appointment to committees subject to proportional representation, to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration under his emergency delegated powers.

13.2 The following changes are recommended:

- A Conservative Councillor takes up the existing Conservative vacancy on Transport Economy and Environment and OSC (previously held by Cllr Welch) – no change to calculation
- The North Yorkshire Independents give up a seat on Transport Economy and Environment OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat
- The North Yorkshire Independents give up a seat on Care and Independence OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat
- The Liberal Democrats give up a seat on Care and Independence OSC and a Conservative Councillor takes that seat.

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

Report Author:  
Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

13 July 2021





## Political Balance Calculation

		Conservative			NY Independent			Labour			Liberal Democrat			Independent RH			Independent AS			Independent AJ		
	SEATS	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF	PROP	ACT	DIFF
Care and Independence	13	9.75	8	-1.75	1.44	2	0.56	0.72	1	0.28	0.54	1	0.46	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	1	0.82
Children and Young People	13	9.75	10	0.25	1.44	2	0.56	0.72	1	0.28	0.54	0	-0.54	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18
Corporate and Partnerships	13	9.75	10	0.25	1.44	1	-0.44	0.72	1	0.28	0.54	1	0.46	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18
Scrutiny of Health	13	9.75	10	0.25	1.44	1	-0.44	0.72	1	0.28	0.54	0	-0.54	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	1	0.82	0.18	0	-0.18
Transport, Economy & Environment	13	9.75	9	-0.75	1.44	2	0.56	0.72	0	-0.72	0.54	1	0.46	0.18	1	0.82	0.18	0	-0.18	0.18	0	-0.18
Audit	8	6.00	6	0.00	0.89	1	0.11	0.44	0	-0.44	0.33	1	0.67	0.11	0	-0.11	0.11	0	-0.11	0.11	0	-0.11
<b>TOTALS SCRUTINY</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>54.75</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-1.75</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-0.01</b>
Chief Officer Appointments and Disci	8	6.00	5	-1.00	0.89	1	0.11	0.44	1	0.56	0.33	1	0.67	0.11	0	-0.11	0.11	0	-0.11	0.11	0	-0.11
Employment Appeals Committee	4	3.00	3	0.00	0.44	0	-0.44	0.22	0	-0.22	0.17	1	0.83	0.06	0	-0.06	0.06	0	-0.06	0.06	0	-0.06
Pension Fund	8	6.00	6	0.00	0.89	1	0.11	0.44	0	-0.44	0.33	0	-0.33	0.11	0	-0.11	0.11	1	0.89	0.11	0	-0.11
Planning and Regulatory Functions C	11	8.25	7	-1.25	1.22	2	0.78	0.61	1	0.39	0.46	0	-0.46	0.15	1	0.85	0.15	0	-0.15	0.15	0	-0.15
(Transport) Appeals Committee	4	3.00	3	0.00	0.44	0	-0.44	0.22	0	-0.22	0.17	0	-0.17	0.06	0	-0.06	0.06	0	-0.06	0.06	1	0.94
Standards	5	3.75	4	0.25	0.56	1	0.44	0.28	0	-0.28	0.21	0	-0.21	0.07	0	-0.07	0.07	0	-0.07	0.07	0	-0.07
<b>TOTALS ORDINARY</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-2.00</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-0.22</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.44</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>84.75</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>-3.75</b>	<b>12.56</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>4.71</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.43</b>

**Key:**

SEATS – the number of seats that are available on each committee

PROP – the proportional allocation of seats based upon the number of County Councillors in different parties, as of today

ACT – the actual number of seats that have been previously allocated, based upon the number of County Councillors in different parties, as of the previous calculation

DIFF – the difference between the currently allocated seats and what should be allocated taking into account the changes to Council membership and the subsequent required proportionality

The task is to ensure that the number of seats in the ACT column is the same as the number of seats in the PROP column (taking into account rounding to whole numbers).

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

#### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of the County Council the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 is provided at Appendix 1, on behalf of the Chair of Scrutiny Board, Councillor Derek Bastiman, and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry.
- 2.2 The report highlights key activity by the council's Overview and Scrutiny function over the period from May 2020 to the beginning of April 2021 in its role of holding the Executive to account and ensuring that value is added to the Council's ongoing work to improve outcomes for customers and communities.
- 2.3 Clearly, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted upon the ability of scrutiny committees to meet formally at the beginning of this reporting period and this is reflected in the report. However, the report also highlights that each committee was able to adapt its approach to maintaining a level of overview of the work of each directorate – with support from senior officers – through the use of more informal remote gatherings with committee members and senior officers. Following the commencement of live broadcasted meetings for all committees around September 2020, committee meetings have been held in public. The areas of work undertaken or reviewed by each committee in the report is therefore reflective of both the informal and formal meetings convened across the financial year.

#### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The financial implications are set out in the appended annual report.

#### **4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The legal implications are set out in the appended annual report.

#### **5.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The climate change implications are set out in the appended annual report.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The chairs of the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees have been consulted on this annual report.

#### **7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The annual report on overview and scrutiny at the Council is a review of work done in the previous year and an outline of work to be done in the forthcoming year. It is not

a report that requires a decision. The report is taken to the July meeting of the County Council to keep all members and the public informed of the role of the Council's scrutiny function.

**8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 County Council is asked to note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21.

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

Daniel Harry  
Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

DP – July 2021

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

**Cllr Derek Bastiman, Chairman of the NYCC Scrutiny Board and Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**



**2020/21**

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

## Foreword by County Councillor Derek Bastiman Chair of Scrutiny Board



As Chair of the Scrutiny Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2020/21 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The circumstances of the last year have been exceptional and challenging for all. It has been important for Members involved in overview and scrutiny to ensure we have been supportive of the efforts of frontline services in their response to the pandemic, whilst also continuing our role as 'critical friends'.

On reviewing the achievements of the last year, I am confident that we have struck this balance well and have also risen to the challenges of operating remotely. While it may not have been possible in the spring/early summer of 2020 to hold scrutiny meetings in public, committees quickly adapted to holding informal meetings or seeking briefings from the directorates; focussing work programmes around ensuring that the response to pandemic was being co-ordinated effectively. As soon as mechanisms were in place for us to meet in public – via live broadcasted meetings – we embraced that new challenge and worked with senior officers to ensure that some of the broader work of scrutiny could continue more formally.

Between 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (once the Regulations enabled remote 'public' meetings) and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, there have been 13 live broadcasted meetings of the council's scrutiny committees, plus another 20 meetings of the Area Constituency Committees. Viewing figures for all of these meetings have ranged from around 15 to well over 100 views for some meetings; well in excess of the average public attendance normally expected for scrutiny committees pre-pandemic. I must commend colleagues, officers and partners for their respective roles in making this possible.

You will note from the report that each committee will be continuing scrutiny of the response to the pandemic, how this may have changed the way that our services operate and how local communities will be supported to 're-shape' through their recovery. I have no doubt that the shadow cast by Covid-19 – but also the opportunities it has presented for doing things differently – will dominate our work programmes for some time to come.

I would like to record my appreciation to all of the Scrutiny Board Members for their contribution during this past year; their unfailing commitment and enthusiasm during these difficult circumstances has ensured the continued strength of overview and scrutiny work. This is clearly a shared endeavour though and I would also like to express my gratitude for the support we have received from officers within the directorates and also our partners for continuing this productive relationship with the scrutiny process during such a challenging period.

I commend this report to the council.

## **Introduction**

At the start of the first national lockdown on 23 March 2020, all formal public meetings of the Council's committees were suspended. Government regulations then came into effect on 4 April 2020 enabling remote meetings to take place and to make formal decisions at those meetings. Over the period May to August 2020, a number of the Council's formal, public committee meetings were held as live broadcast meetings, but not all. Live broadcast meetings of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees recommenced in September 2020.

During the 5 months that the Council's overview and scrutiny committees did not formally meet in public, informal meetings and briefings were held with either the full committee or with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Group Spokespersons. This enabled an ongoing dialogue about the Council's response to the pandemic and also for non-pandemic related issues on policy and service development to be addressed.

An update has been provided, below, on some of the key topics considered by each of the thematic overview and scrutiny committees, along with an outline of key areas of work for the year ahead.

## **Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The committee's focus over the last 12 months has included:

- Traded Services Review – supporting the Executive decision to work to protect the outdoor learning service centres at Bewerley Park and East Barnby – next steps, to engage in the strategic review of the services, with the aim of supporting long term sustainability.
- Progress against the SEND Strategy.
- Reviewing the County Council's proposals for deployment of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.
- Reviewing the successes to date within the Coastal Opportunity Area around raising aspirations and prospects for children and young people and recognising the challenges that remain to fulfilling those goals.
- Impact of the pandemic on young people, particularly those more vulnerable, and the pressures on youth organisations.
- Receiving presentations from both portfolio holders regarding how schools have adapted to meet the challenges of the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on children's social care.
- Update on the work of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Looking ahead to the next year, key areas of focus for the Committee will include:

- Implications of the increasing numbers of parents who have opted for Elective Home Education as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Traded Services Review.
- Progress on the SEND Strategy.
- Safeguarding Children Partnership – reviewing how successfully all partners are addressing young people's emotional and mental health wellbeing, plus exploring the advantages and need for greater transparency in the most difficult and sensitive cases.
- Educational attainment performance across our schools.

- School place planning – shaping future education provision. Update on the overall picture, both current and forecast, in terms of pupil numbers in North Yorkshire schools and report on the issues and challenges for school place planning.

## **Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Over the last 12 months the committee has been:

- Maintaining an overview of the impact of Covid-19 on the care market and how the directorate has responded.
- Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on the independent care sector, how the whole care sector has survived the crisis and supporting the committee's understanding of what a more sustainable future for social care might look like.
- Reviewing the success of the Extra Care Housing scheme in North Yorkshire.
- Reviewing the directorate's Local Account for North Yorkshire, setting out how services have supported people across the county, how public money has been invested and what the aims are in 2020/21.
- Looking at how social prescribing is being deployed through primary care networks to use a holistic approach to supporting individuals' needs and also enabling them to take greater control of their own health.
- Developing our understanding of the council's new 'Supported living Model', which aims to bring about better outcomes for vulnerable people and more housing options for people with disabilities, as well as savings in care costs.

Looking ahead, the committee's work programme will include:

- Living Well – reviewing experience over the last year and reflections on the impact of the pandemic.
- 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.
- Examining how NYCC has worked with user representative groups during the Covid-19 response.
- Revisiting the market intervention in Supported Living.
- Suicide Prevention and Audit – Update on prevalence and related issues; how the committee can support the suicide prevention agenda.
- Support for carers – support provided to adult carers of adults in North Yorkshire, including reference to contract for the provision of the Adult Carers Service and Young Carers Support and Advice.

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

Over the last 12 months the committee has been:

- Understanding the support being given by the County Council for apprenticeships, particularly during the pandemic.



- Reviewing the County Council's refreshed Plan for Economic Growth.
- Reviewing the outcomes of the evaluation of the Highways Maintenance Contract and providing appropriate challenge around aspects of some of the results, with a view to ensuring that there continues to be further improvement in the service.
- Looking at support from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to struggling businesses during the pandemic and considering the LEP's five-year Economic Plan.
- Commenting on safety improvements undertaken by Highways England on the A64 and continuing to press for the dualling of the A64 as a means of securing the longer-term economic health of the county.
- Reviewing road casualty figures for the county for 2019 and provisional figures for 2020.
- Commenting on the council's draft Air Quality Strategy 2020-2045.
- Exploring the implications of the pandemic for the sustainability of rural bus services, including the national bus strategy "Bus Back Better".

Over the next year, the committee will look to:

- Discuss the findings and recommendations of the Rural Commission.
- Receive a report on the climate change assessment requirements for inclusion in reports.
- Discuss the implementation of Active Travel schemes in the county.
- Review progress made following the committee's review of the council's 20mph speed limit policy.
- Receive an update on the performance of Allerton Waste Recovery Park.
- Consider an update on the work of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the impacts of Brexit on the local economy now that UK has left the EU.

## **Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Over the last year, the committee has:

- Reviewed progress around property services and the rationalisation of NYCC's property portfolio, albeit with attendant delays resulting from the pandemic.
- Developed its understanding of the threat to the council's operations posed by cybercrime and the measures in place to counteract this threat.
- Sought an update on improvements to the Parish Portal and we will continue to seek updates around work on the Members' dashboard.
- Received bi-annual updates from the Community Safety Partnership and also considered the implications of national lockdowns in relation to increases in calls to domestic abuse helplines.
- Considered the recent inspection report of the Youth Justice Service – as a result wrote to the Ministry of Justice with concerns about the operation of a 24-hour reception at Young Offender institutions. The committee also sought reassurance from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner regarding tackling County Lines gangs.

- Received annual updates on: the council's alternative investment framework; the council's Corporate Volunteer Project; the North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Programme and implementation of the council's Workforce Plan.
- Undertook a scrutiny review on a proposal to ban the release of all types of sky lanterns on property and land owned by North Yorkshire County Council.
- Kept a watching brief on the governance arrangements for the Brierley Group.

Looking ahead, the Committee's work programme will include:

- Update from the PFCC on progress with implementation of collaborative working between the Police and Fire and Rescue Service.
- Performance update from Youth Justice Service.
- Overview of progress with achieving the Council's Equality and Diversity objectives & update on the development of an Action Plan by Management Board Task Group.
- Progress update on implementation of Council Plan Priorities & an overview of the development of a refreshed Council Plan.
- Performance update on the Brierley Group.

## **Scrutiny of Health Committee**

Over the last year, the committee has:

- Scrutinised proposed and actual changes to Stroke services, Oncology and Urology at Scarborough Hospital.
- Considered the implications of significant structural issues to the future delivery of services from Airedale Hospital; resulting in the committee writing to local MPs and the Secretary of State to urge that capital funding is directed to the hospital.
- Considered the NHS response to the first wave of the pandemic, how this changed the way in which services were delivered and what lessons were learned.
- Reviewed proposed changes to the Healthy Child Programme.
- Considered developments in community and in-patient mental health services.
- Considered progress made with the Covid-19 vaccination programme in the county.
- Reviewed progress on the re-development of Whitby Hospital.
- Monitored the implementation of improvement plans put in place by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in response to CQC inspections.

Looking ahead, the committee's programme of work will include:

- Maintaining an overview of progress with the development of new urgent, emergency and critical care facilities at Scarborough Hospital following a £47 million capital investment;
- Continuing to review the local NHS response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including progress with vaccination and the NHS recovery plan.

- Scrutinising the development of the Integrated Care Systems and Partnerships that will play an increasingly prominent role in the commissioning and provision of health services in the county.
- Examination of how health services respond to changes, e.g. population growth, brought about through local authority planning systems – and how the funding for this works.
- Ongoing monitoring of the changes to the use of the primary care estate, following changes in practice resulting from the pandemic; with a particular focus upon closure of satellite sites and the consolidation of services in one main practice;
- Monitoring of CQC inspection reports and any action plan resulting for services provided to the people of North Yorkshire
- Reviewing the NHS White Paper and its implications for health, social care and scrutiny.
- Reviewing access to NHS dentistry in the county.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Overview and scrutiny functions are also supported through the following bodies:**

- Scrutiny Board – this is made up of the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees, along with the Champions for Young People and Older People, and enables co-ordination across all five thematic overview and scrutiny committees.
- Police, Fire and Crime Panel - which scrutinises the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. There is also a Complaints Sub-Committee which meets on an ad-hoc basis. The County Council is the host authority for the Panel and the Panel is supported by the County Council's scrutiny team, along with officers providing guidance from Legal, Communications and Finance.
- Corporate Parenting Group – this is not a formal committee but acts as an informal advisory group to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Children's and Young Peoples Services, the Executive and County Council. The group performs a role consistent with statutory guidance for local authorities to promote the health and well-being of looked-after children.

### **North Yorkshire Scrutiny Officers' Network**

This group is an informal information-sharing group for overview and scrutiny officer leads across the county. Over the last year, the network has considered issues such as local authorities' scrutiny focus on the response to the pandemic and Covid-19 recovery within the local economy; scrutiny of the changes to Scarborough Hospital; and scrutiny of local climate change and carbon dioxide emissions reduction plans. The network has also provided a key forum for the sharing of information and ideas, in particular around setting up and managing remote access committee meetings.

### **Call-In**

There have been no Call-Ins at the County Council this year.

## **In-depth reviews**

Extended pieces of overview and scrutiny can be undertaken, where a more in-depth analysis of the issues is required. Over the past 12 months, the following pieces of work have continued to progress.

### **20mph speed limit policy task group**

This task group was developed through the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at the council's current policy regarding the introduction of 20mph speed limits. The groups' final report and recommendations were submitted to the Executive on 24 November 2020. The recommendations included:

- updating NYCC's policy to be more explicit in considering 20mph limits around schools;
- taking a wider view than purely historical accident statistics when determining suitability for a 20mph limit; as such widening the policy to include driver education, supporting alternative modes of transport and shaping the built environment.

The committee will now continue to monitor progress against the implementation of its recommendations.

### **Single-Use Plastics**

The Transport, Economy and Environment Committee has also been leading on a piece of work – via a task group - relating to reducing the unnecessary use of single-use plastics in the county. The group received a briefing last year from staff in procurement and property services on the NYCC supply chain and initiatives undertaken to reduce use of single-use plastic. The group also examined the policy statements, commitments and action plans of other local authorities that have taken the lead to date on reducing their usage. A report went to the Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, which set out a number of recommendations for the council, including:

- Producing a concise policy statement with high-level commitments to reduce single-use plastics in its buildings and in its supplier chain.
- Having a senior officer 'champion' on the council's Management Board to promote reduction of single-use plastics;
- Progressing work to understand the scope to amend, or include new standard contractual terms and conditions to embed a commitment to reduce single-use plastics amongst its suppliers.

The full report is available online at <https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk> (see Executive/23 March 2021).

## **Other Approaches**

### **Work with Area Constituency Committees –**

The council's six Area Constituency Committees (ACCs) have continued to work closely with the overview and scrutiny committees and particularly with the Scrutiny of Health Committee. Building upon the work that the Skipton and Ripon ACC has done in leading the scrutiny of the re-development of the Castleberg Hospital at

Giggleswick, the following proposed development to local health services have been referred to the local ACC:

Richmond (Yorks) ACC – the development of the Catterick Health Campus  
Thirsk and Malton ACC - project that is being set up across health and social care to look at developing primary care and ancillary services in and around Easingwold.

The Scarborough and Whitby ACC is also taking an active role in reviewing proposed and actual changes to services at Scarborough hospital and also the development of services at the Whitby hospital site.

### **Joint Scrutiny**

The West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to meet to review the development of the Integrated Care System for West Yorkshire, which includes Craven population and which has implications for the Harrogate population. It is anticipated that similar arrangements will be put in place for the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care System over the next year.

### **Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee**

In December 2009 the County Council issued a Statement of Intent to play its part in contributing to the national target set in 2008 of an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with at least a 34% reduction by 2018-22. In 2019, the County Council committed to produce its own carbon reduction plan with the ambitions of beating the government's goal of 2050 and to aspire to achieve net carbon neutrality by as close as possible to 2030. To take this work forward, a sub-committee was formed comprising Members of the council's 5 overview and scrutiny committees. The remit of the sub-committee was to:

- review existing work by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from its own activities and service provision;
- identify possible actions that could be taken to further reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from the Council's own activities and service provision; and
- refer the findings and resulting recommendation(s) from this scrutiny review to the Executive.

Further to two meetings of the Sub-Committee and some additional officer research commissioned by them, the council is in the process of developing its carbon reduction plan and embedding use of a climate change assessment tool which will ensure that climate impacts are fully considered within council decision making. The Sub-Committee have looked at 'quick win' and longer term projects for the council. Some proposals, such as a campus boiler replacement programme, will be taken forward; others will need to be fully costed and assessed. Further work to realise the council's objective for 2030 will be taken forward through each of the scrutiny committees, with the Transport Economy and Environment Committee acting as the lead.

### **Notice of Motion**

In 2020/21 two Notices of Motion were reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny. These were:

- Support for all NHS Hospital Trusts in the county to provide free on-site parking for NHS staff at their work place. Additionally, to invite the Trusts to consider how parking policy and grants for using sustainable travel options for NHS staff could best achieve longer-term carbon reduction and sustainable travel.
- A ban on the release of all types of sky lanterns on property and land owned by the County Council and a resolution to ask all parish and town councils in the county to pass a similar motion. Additionally, for the County Council to engage with business communities, landowners, schools and individuals to encourage them to sign up to this initiative.

## **How to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny**

Further information on Overview and Scrutiny is available on the North Yorkshire County Council website - [Overview and scrutiny | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

Or contact the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry  
E: [daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) or T: 01609 533531.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Where these are conducted via live broadcast, they may be viewed at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings/](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings/)

Committee papers are available from the North Yorkshire County Council website as follows - <http://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/>

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 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**

Stronger Communities through the Community Support Organisations (CSOs), in conjunction with their volunteers, partners and networks continue to provide support to our most vulnerable residents where required; this includes 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. Immediate support requests for shopping and prescriptions have decreased this quarter, with demand for befriending, information, advice, and guidance increasing.

In line with the Government's recovery roadmap, the CSOs have continued to review and develop their transitional activity, in order to build the confidence of those who have been self-isolating or shielding and to support them in re-engaging in their communities. In May, the CSOs supported 2,838 individuals, undertook 94 accompanied shopping trips and 677 people participated in other activities that aim to build their independence. They have also continued to support the roll out of the vaccination programme, with a contribution of 3,231 volunteer hours to clinics, and completed 96 journeys to appointments.

The Stronger Communities team is aware that staff and volunteers in CSOs are in regular contact with a wide range of people, with a variety of support needs. With this in mind, in June, we had two offers, both of which were made free to CSO volunteers and staff.

1. Champion Health - a simple online wellbeing / mental health self-assessment tool. This licence is in place for a year and unlimited use is available to anyone with a NY postcode.
2. Mental Health Awareness Training – 4-hour Mental Health Awareness training course for volunteers and those in co-ordinating / managing roles within CSOs.

All courses are fully booked and there is a waiting list to cover another two courses; this will equate to 60 individuals trained living / working or volunteering in North Yorkshire contributing to encouraging mentally healthy communities and workplaces.

##### **Covid-19 Related Work**

###### Community and Recovery Grants

In addition to the support for CSOs, the programme has kept a small grants programme in place this quarter, to support communities as they continue to respond to the pandemic, and adapt their activities in line with the varying levels of restrictions. Since April, around £35,000 has been allocated to 38 community groups and / or projects that support the re-opening of Covid compliant support and social groups and developing digital activities, for example virtual walks.

## Sustainable Food Support

Members will be aware that the County Council was awarded £532,000 via the Defra Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies Grant last financial year. £277,000 of this funding was awarded to 48 groups and / or projects last financial year to support and expand the direct provision of food for those people and families experiencing financial hardship. These projects have now been monitored and evaluated, and this quarter, further funding has been secured. This will be used to review how some of those food support options could be maintained or developed in a sustainable way on a longer-term basis, linked to social care and prevention work.

## Financial Hardship

It has been confirmed that the Covid-19 Grant scheme (running under North Yorkshire's Local Assistance Fund) for those self-isolating is due to continue until September when the Scheme will be reviewed. As shielding advice from the government has now ended the criteria of the Scheme has been revised and the number of applications allowed within a rolling 12-week period has been reduced to two from 1 April 2021.

To date 1,308 applications have been approved, of which 716 were repeat applications, with the average award being £97. This award covers emergency support for food or energy top ups.

The use of the Scheme has been reducing month on month and May saw a decrease in applications of 62% compared to April. In May/June:

- There has been a reduction in applications received and approved through the Fund. Three Districts made no application at all this quarter (Craven, Richmondshire and Ryedale).
- Noticeably, 16 of the CSOs made no application to the Scheme this quarter reiterating decreased demand on the Scheme.
- Food remains the primary award type received.
- 'Long term health condition' continues to be the prevalent circumstance / group of people the Scheme is supporting.

We are hopeful in continuing to see a reduced need and demand for this Grant Scheme as Covid-19 measures reduce and the vaccination rollout continues.

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Stronger Communities continue to lead on the delivery of this programme, which has been launched with the branding of FEAST (Food, Entertainment, Arts & Sport Together) in partnership with Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and the voluntary and community sector. Coordination of the programme is being undertaken by North Yorkshire Together who are currently preparing for the summer holidays by inviting proposals from locally based clubs and community organisations to deliver enriching activities (Covid restrictions permitting). The activity sessions will be available to all children and young people in North Yorkshire, but will be free to families eligible for benefits related free schools meals.

To make sure eligible families know about the programme we will be sending every child currently receiving free school meals a pack with information about FEAST and a booklet with ideas for activities and things to do over the summer holidays. There will also be online resources available that all families can enjoy, which North Yorkshire Together will be promoting throughout the summer.



## Reboot North Yorkshire

Work on Reboot North Yorkshire continues to progress. The collaborative project led by the County Council formed to address digital inequalities and to increase digital inclusion by getting as many people online as possible. The initial focus was to help supply school children with vital equipment to enable them to access lessons, which has subsequently been broadened to everyone in the county who needs help to get connected. Work has commenced on starting to enlist the support of our local communities and voluntary sector groups as Community Partners to allow a network of community Reboot Projects to grow and develop across the county.

Reboot North Yorkshire continues to work closely with Citizens Online and their Digital Champion Coordinator for North Yorkshire, who will now be in post until March 2022.

## Broader work

The re-introduction of business as usual projects and work streams continues to increase, and the Stronger Communities team continue to strengthen local community assets and infrastructure. This includes encouraging collaborations between voluntary organisations and community groups as well as stabilising, and / or building capacity within them if required. The Programme has provided specialist support to assist 13 VCSEs (voluntary, community and social enterprises) with work areas such as restructuring their organisations, re-modelling their services and providing additional capacity for fundraising over the past year, and this work area is steadily increasing.

Members will be aware that the Stronger Communities Programme is subject to a 5-year independent evaluation. Evaluation of the CSOs has now been encompassed within this, alongside continuing to develop the Programme's ten-year strategy, People, Place and Power. Discussions on a strand of this Strategy, building on existing infrastructure and the creation of 'Community Anchor Organisations' in localities have been accelerated by the needs presented by Covid-19 and the mobilisation of the CSOs. This quarter, two events have taken place in conjunction with the CSOs, and Health and Adult Services (HAS) in order to exchange learning, but to also start exploring potential options for strengthened working relationships in the future.

## **Legal and Democratic Services**

A total of 106 remote access, live broadcast meetings of the Council's committees were held from 19 May 2020 to 6 May 2021. The benefits associated with holding remote access, live broadcast meetings have been significant. Comparing the years 2019/20 (meetings in person at County Hall, Northallerton) and 2020/21 (remote access meetings), the Council saw:

- An overall reduction in mileage claimed by councillors of 131,338 miles
- An overall saving in travel claims of £55,221
- An estimated saving in terms of time not spent travelling to and from meetings of 5,013 hours or 668 working days
- An overall saving in carbon dioxide emissions associated with reduced travel estimated to be 36.774 tonnes per annum
- An average of 62 views per meeting on the Council's YouTube site.

A response from the Council to the call for evidence on local authority use of remote access meetings, issued on 25 March 2021 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, was submitted in early June. Whilst highlighting the benefits of being able to hold remote access committee meetings in a county the size of North Yorkshire, the need for local authorities to be able to decide for themselves how they hold their meetings was emphasised.

Since the 7 May 2021 and the expiry of government regulations which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the Council's committees have continued to meet informally using MS Teams. As resolved at the meeting of County Council on 5 May 2021, any formal decisions required are then taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency delegated powers, in consultation with the committee and taking all relevant information into account. All such decisions are published on the Council website and circulated to all County Councillors and senior officers.

The School Admissions Appeals Team are on track to complete all of the bulk admission appeals for primary and secondary schools by the end of the summer term. The bulk appeals have all been held remotely using MS Teams. Parents and carers have been firmly in support of the use of technology to enable them to join meetings remotely. The current Department for Education regulations that enable the appeals to be heard remotely lapse in September 2021, at which point the appeals hearings will return to in-person meetings at venues across the county.

### **County Councillor Locality Budgets**

The seventh year of the scheme started on 17 May 2021 and the last date for the receipt of recommendations will be 31 January 2022. Members will be able to make recommendations totalling £10,000 and the arrangements are as in previous years.

This year County Councillors are particularly encouraged to focus on projects or activities that respond to local needs and community initiatives arising from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of climate change, and/or that promote the Council's Stronger Communities programme.

99 recommendations have been made to date, amounting to £107,067 (14.87%) of the allocated funding.

**David Chance**

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### STATEMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

#### **Operating Model for Adult Social Care**

A new operating model for adult social care has been implemented following extensive planning and consultation. Working closely with our health and care partners these new arrangements should ensure that we can continue to support our residents and meet longer term social care expectations emerging from central government. These arrangements:

- Ensure we meet the requirements of the Hospital Discharge Policy this includes –
  - 7 day working
  - Operational hours between 8am-8pm
  - Implementation of the Discharge to Assess model across the county
- Introduce a 7 day community service along with discharge teams (Community Teams and Discharge Hubs)
- Create dedicated occupational therapy teams across the county
- Formalise the introduction of a Vale of York locality

#### **Discharge Pathway long term funding**

The challenges posed by a lack of a long term national funding solution for adult social care is demonstrated by new discharge expectations, and the funding provided to meet these expectations. Guidance issued from central government has confirmed that the current hospital discharge fund can no longer be used to support activity to avoid hospital admissions, and alternative NHS funding should be provided. However, because this NHS funding is capped, a forecast overspend to ourselves and local health organisation core budgets is between £0.8m and £1.5m.

We have asked for clarity from the national team about support to manage this potential overspend, as well as clarity from ICS leaders about the place level (North Yorkshire CCG/Vale of York CCG) allocation, so that we can more accurately describe our financial position. Whilst mitigating actions have been taken to reduce spend we are escalating nationally the inconsistencies in current policy and funding, as well as requesting clarification so that we can effectively plan for winter.

#### **Care market intervention in Selby**

The Council exercised its powers under the Care Act in June to ensure services were maintained for people in the Selby area when one of our framework home care providers went into liquidation. The service was brought in-house at short notice and we offered employment with NYCC for a number of staff members.

The effort from our own team to facilitate this change at was outstanding, and all care hours were ultimately covered either by staff that were retained, by existing Council colleagues or by outsourcing to alternative providers.

An options appraisal is being prepared to determine the most appropriate way forward for this service given the locality market pressures and low availability of domiciliary care in the area, as these short term arrangements are not sustainable in the longer term.

### **Reeth Project**

A 2 year pilot with Herriot Hospice Homecare has been launched to address the problem of a lack of care homes, domiciliary care and limited access to local social and health community facilities.

Demand for care in the area is predicted to increase due to an ageing population, and this pilot will develop a block contract for the provision of home care in the area, moving away from task and time to one where we commission to an outcome based specification for provision of care for people within a maximum 10 mile radius of the Reeth Medical Practice.

This should increase the availability of rural and super rural care packages, with better collaborative working having a positive impact on service delivery.

### **CareRooms**

In partnership with City of York Council, NYCC has successfully secured pilot funding from the Better Care Team to trial a new and innovative initiative called CareRooms. The 6 month pilot starts in July and covers the City of York and Selby District, and provides a safe, comfortable place for people to recuperate from hospital in a community setting by transforming people's spare rooms into secure spaces for hospital patients ('Guests') who are discharged into the individual's ('Hosts') home. As well as providing a suitable place to recuperate, the arrangements are intended to offer friendship, companionship and some background support with pre-prepared meal delivery.

CareRooms has achieved excellent outcomes when trialled in other authorities – creating capacity in the care system, facilitating timely hospital discharge, promoting friendship, companionship and the capacity to recover and recuperate from treatment in a home environment. There is also potential for financial savings for health and care partners.

### **Enhanced Care and Housing Offer (ECHO) Project**

Broadacres Housing Association has started work on a state of the art £2.3 million project to provide seven two-bedroom specialist bungalows for people with complex needs in North Yorkshire. The homes in Brough St Giles, near Catterick, will be let to people with complex needs, including autism and learning disabilities, with support staff living in one of the homes providing 24-hour-a-day care and support to the residents.

The project is being supported by NHS England, who are providing a grant of £1.89 million towards the cost of the scheme, as well as Richmondshire District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The homes should be available next summer.

### **Bereavement Support for staff**

Conscious that staff working throughout the pandemic have experienced higher levels of deaths in their work settings, as well as any impact that the pandemic has had on them personally, we have worked in partnership with MIRT to offer emotional support to all care home, reablement and Extra Care teams. Two 90-minute group sessions have been delivered, with three more planned. These sessions, as well as alternative telephone support options, will be offered throughout 2021 and beyond as required.

### **Safeguarding Week 2021**

Partners from the Adult Children and Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire, York and East Riding came together recently to deliver a virtual Safeguarding Week Conference. Developed for both professional and public audiences, the conference offered a packed schedule of sessions delivered by speakers, all of whom are experts in their field. The professional sessions covered key safeguarding areas and were designed to stimulate discussion, share best practice, spark innovation and support continuing professional development.

Key themes and topics included domestic abuse, financial fraud and scamming, staying safe online, exploitation, mental capacity, homelessness, hidden harm and self-neglect. We also used the campaign to celebrate the great collaborative work of those across the county and highlighted the great spirit of our communities coming together to keep those most at risk safe, particularly during the pandemic.

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### STATEMENT OF COUNCILOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

#### **Outbreak Management**

Over recent weeks, cases have increased across the County, reflecting the picture we are seeing across the rest of the country. The majority of cases are in younger people, especially those aged between 10 and 34. The dominant strain across North Yorkshire and the rest of the UK is now the delta variant, which is more transmissible than the alpha (or Kent) variant. We are now seeing sustained community transmission of COVID across all districts, although there is some fluctuation of the individual district rates themselves with around half of the districts above and half below the national average. We are also seeing spread within individual households, which reflects the increased infectiousness of the delta variant.

For the last few weeks outbreak management has predominantly focused on educational settings. The public health team continues to work collaboratively with school leaders and Public Health England to ensure people with the virus and their contacts isolate and are tested to reduce the risk of further spread.

The key messages for preventing the spread of infection remain the same for delta variant as they were for alpha: washing hands regularly, keeping socially distanced from people not in your household or bubble, wearing face coverings in public indoor areas and crowded outdoor spaces, socialising outside wherever possible or in well-ventilated areas. If you must be inside, make sure you receive your two doses of vaccine. These measures still apply even if you have had both vaccine doses – vaccinated individuals may have better protection but we are still seeing occasional cases even in those who are fully vaccinated, and even though they may be less unwell they can still pass on to others who may not have been vaccinated or may be more clinically vulnerable.

#### **Testing**

In line with the increasing rates across the County, we have seen an increasing number of people access local PCR testing. To support with this, from 30<sup>th</sup> June all our Local Test Sites reverted back to just doing PCR tests from 8am-8pm, rather than doing PCR testing in the morning and lateral flow test collection in the afternoons. PCR tests can also be accessed through our local Mobile Testing Units, for which we have maintained very good provision across the whole of the County even when rates were low, or can also be ordered online.

A targeted communications campaign has been launched locally to encourage everyone to take part in routine lateral flow testing twice a week. In recent weeks this has been particularly important in relation to schools testing, given the burden on new cases has largely been in younger people. The vast majority of pharmacies across North Yorkshire are now collection points for lateral flow testing kits, which can also be ordered online or by calling 119.

In addition, the next phase of local authority supported testing will focus on trying to increase uptake of lateral flow tests among those demographic groups and communities who have been less likely to engage so far but who would potentially benefit the most.

## **Vaccination**

All adults in the UK are now eligible for COVID vaccination. Vaccination is the most effective means we currently have to prevent the spread of COVID infection, so a significant amount of work has gone into ensuring that everyone eligible gets both doses of vaccine. This is particularly important in light of the delta variant, where the protection after a single dose is decreased and both doses are needed to provide the maximum benefit.

The public health-led COVID Vaccination Assurance Group continues to monitor uptake of COVID vaccination across the county. Targeted work has been undertaken through NHS colleagues with key groups, including homeless individuals, carers, and targeted workplaces. Walk in clinics have also been organised in line with the national 'Grab a Jab' campaign, particularly targeted at young people and any others that have not yet received their first dose.

## **Adult Weight Management Service Government Grant Fund**

North Yorkshire County Council have been allocated one-off Government Grant Funding, via Public Health England, to expand the service offer. We will be utilising this funding through additional one-to one provision for those who require further support to the universal group activity. The funding will also be used to pilot bespoke/outreach programmes for specific target groups to understand better specific needs of our local residents who may not have historically accessed the service.

Our providers will be working hard to understand particular needs of people with learning disabilities, long-term conditions, people living with challenges associated with mental health, ethnic minority communities, men and younger adults. The learning from this work will ensure we make the necessary service improvements within the universal offer.

## **Adult Weight Management Service Communications campaign**

To support increased referrals into the service, particularly from those who may not have chosen the service option previously, we have launched an exciting communications campaign. The campaign includes a media release, radio adverts during the month of June, social media activity, and countywide branded assets including posters for display. The North Yorkshire County Council webpage has also been refreshed and updated [www.northyorks.gov.uk/stepup](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stepup) and a video has been compiled to tell the stories of some of the clients who have benefited from the service <https://youtu.be/TX2yIE-yEJs>

## **Mental health and Neurodiversity in Workplace Settings**

North Yorkshire was successful in receiving European funding for "Thrive at Work" a programme focusing on Neurodiversity and mental health in workplace settings. The project has two aims:

1. Equip managers to positively and effectively manage staff where it concerns mental and physical health, disabilities and neurodiversity and support those with disabilities to aim higher and progress within the workplace.



2. Support for small and medium businesses to understand the health, wellbeing and disability landscape of their organisations and create a positive workplace culture towards mental and physical health, disabilities and neurodiversity.

NYCC is a key partner in a local consortium at both a strategic and delivery level. We have been able to capitalize on our role as a large anchor institution to match fund the bid (which was an application condition). Consequently, £900,000 of European funding has been brought into the county, with beneficiaries including the community and voluntary sector. We are currently working with the legal team to ensure robust due diligence.

### **Green homes funding**

North Yorkshire County Council has been successful, on behalf of a consortium with four District and Borough Councils in North Yorkshire, in securing £2.4m to upgrade energy inefficient homes and reduce fuel poverty and seasonal ill health. This includes insulation to improve their energy efficiency and installing air source heat pumps. We are also hoping to bid for further funding to extend this work in the future.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 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 York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) continues to deliver the £15.4m Getting Building Fund investment which remains on track for completion.

In addition, the LEP has continued to innovate and deliver its careers advice online. A recent series of size sector focused events attracted a total of over 25,000 views with over 2,400 watching each event live. This innovation is incredibly important in a county as large as North Yorkshire if we want to ensure our young people across the whole geography have access to the same high quality careers advice across a broad range of industries.

#### **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.

#### **Waste Management**

Preparations are underway to ensure Household Waste Recycling Centres are operating efficiently, effectively and have the capacity to meet increased demand from residents when national restrictions are removed. The waste service has responded to government consultations proposing major reforms to the waste management sector and continues to work with partners to set out how to meet new obligations and deliver best value to residents through new waste management arrangements.

#### **Growth and Heritage Services**

##### **Community Renewal Fund**

As the Lead Authority for the Government's Community Renewal Fund in North Yorkshire the County Council has been responsible for inviting and shortlisting funding applications prior to submission to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. Overall the Council received 66 applications and has shortlisted 28 projects with a total value of £8.4m. The limits put on the funding programme by MHCLG meant that the Council was unable to submit more projects for consideration but is continuing to work with applicants to develop proposals further with a view to exploiting future funding opportunities.

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government has indicated that the final decision as to which applications will be approved for funding will be made at the end of July

or beginning of August. The Community Renewal Fund is a revenue fund and successful projects are required to be completed by the end of March 2022.

There has been recent media coverage of our North Yorkshire archaeology.

#### **More 4 Documentary - The Heck Iron Age Harness (see picture below)**

The Heck Iron Age harness was found a couple of years ago by a metal detectorist. A geophysical survey strongly suggested that the finds had come from a ploughed out square barrow. A TV production company, 'Tuesday's Child,' is working with the British Museum, on a show covering responsible metal detecting. The County's archaeologist was been filmed with the local detectorist to explain how significant the find was. This should air on More4 in the Autumn.



#### **Malton Roman Finds**

When Norton Community Primary School was expanded during 2016 to 2017, archaeologists discovered important finds relating to Roman Norton and Malton including a complete Roman cremation burial of a second to third-century Roman soldier, presumably stationed in the nearby fort at Malton and another burial containing two goose heads. Other finds included jet jewellery, complete copper bracelets and fragments of a ceramic cockerel, potentially linked with the god Mercury.

The most valuable finds have been deposited in Malton Museum however roman finds from the extension of Brooklyn House at Norton have now been distributed to local schools in the Ryedale area too.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/primary-school-creates-its-own-museum-roman-finds-uncovered-school-grounds>

A publication covering the Brooklyn House finds at Malton has now been produced. *'Life, Death and Rubbish Disposal in Roman Norton, North Yorkshire: Excavations at Brooklyn House 2015-16'* by Janet Phillips and Pete Wilson, available to read at North Yorkshire's libraries in Malton, Norton and Pickering and at the County Council's Historic Environment Record in Northallerton.

#### **Bedale Aiskew and Leeming Bar Relief Road Booklet**

The County's archaeologists have been working with Highways to circulate information on the archaeological findings from excavation works at the Bedale Aiskew and Leeming Bar Relief road. The production of a booklet with a foreword from Councillors Les and Weighell is close to completion and will be printed shortly.

ANDREW LEE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2021

### STATEMENT OF CLLR GREG WHITE

#### Library and Information Services

##### Re-opening

I am pleased to say that all our libraries are open with over 25% at pre-pandemic hours. Covid-secure measures remain in place with the exception that we are no longer required to quarantine items on return. Customer reaction continues to be positive and use of our digital library remains steady. Again, this is a credit to the hard work of all the staff and many volunteers delivering our library service.

At the time of writing evaluation on how full face-to-face events and activities can be held safely is being considered on a case-by-case basis. Later in this report I will highlight some of the activities being undertaken, but I think I am safe in predicting that the future is *phygital* – a blend of physical and digital.

##### Hidden Disabilities

I am extremely pleased to say that the hidden disabilities sunflower lanyard scheme has been extended across all libraries in North Yorkshire. The aim is to enhance the library experience for customers with hidden disabilities, such as autism, dementia, visual or hearing impairment and anxiety.

Customers can pick up a free sunflower lanyard in the library. The lanyard acts as a discreet sign that they may need extra time or support when using the library. Staff and volunteers have had awareness training and are happy to assist.

The sunflower design is recognised by numerous organisations, including many shops, airports and supermarkets. Using the same design means customers can use their lanyard with organisations across the UK in the knowledge that the community will recognise its meaning.

##### Summer Reading Challenge

Members will recall the success NY Libraries have enjoyed with the annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year Wild World Heroes aims to educate youngsters on what we can do to make a difference to the environment and stand up for the planet. To take part children need to sign up at their nearest library to get a map of a place called Wilderville, read their chosen books to receive stickers and make Wilderville a better, greener place to be. There are more free incentives to collect along the way with a certificate and medal completing the challenge.

Children can choose from a range of books at the library or download them as an eBook from the catalogue. Although there are new books about wildlife and looking after the planet, they can choose any six books to take part in the challenge.

A programme of online events for families will also support the challenge, including a cartoon workshop, a story hunt, finding out why rubbish isn't rubbish and how to be a North Yorkshire Rotter. More details of the events and great reading recommendations will be posted on the @nycclibraries Facebook page and local library pages.

The service is also hoping to visit some of the Holiday and Food Summer programmes to promote the challenge and encourage library membership.

## **ReBoot**

Libraries across NY continue to act as both collection and distribution points for Project ReBoot – a further 45 devices have been distributed to individuals within communities. Plans are underway to deliver support sessions for those unsure about clearing data from donated devices as well as those receiving – once restrictions allow.

## **Reading Friends**

As I reported last time, earlier this year the service successfully bid for £10k funding from the Reading Agency 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. I am pleased to say that funding has been obtained to continue Call and Chat for a further 12 months. Page Turners are having a break during the summer but will start again in the autumn.

## **Other activities/events**

It has certainly been a busy time for libraries.....

### **Under 5s week and Buzzy Bees Honey Hunt reading challenge**

Early June saw North Yorkshire libraries keeping the little ones entertained with events including the launch of Buzzy Bee's Honey Hunt, a free scheme that rewards young children who borrow books from the library with cards, stickers and a certificate. As well as joining the Honey Hunt, all children under five who visited the library to borrow either four books or a staff selected book bundle received a free goody bag including crafts and musical instruments. Over 200 joined in the first week with to date 437 members.

Under 5s week included a series of free online events including bedtime stories with storytellers in PJs and dressing gowns, Folktales and songs from Hoglets Theatre Company and lullabies and songs with Thula Mama

### **Local and Community History Month**

As always local history proves a popular topic and a great conversation starter even when online. North Yorkshire libraries encouraged residents to discover and enjoy their community heritage as part of Local and Community History Month in May. Inspired by this year's theme The High Street, historic resources such as maps and newspapers from were shared on social media. A full report will be circulated to all members but the to reach 138,052 people and have 28229 engagements from just over 20 posts is very impressive -and who knew that Morrisons supermarket opening in the International Centre in 1982 was a great conversation starter with 39 shares, 97 comments, over 25,000 people reached and over 5000 engagements.

### **Safely socially distanced**

The service is continuing to hold events online – many plans for 'in-person' put on hold when restrictions were extended to 19 July including most planned for the summer holidays. Not everyone has suitable outside or sufficient indoor space to comply with current restrictions so just a couple of other libraries who have been trialling bookable events:

- Harrogate had Elizabeth and Leonard playing to a 'sell-out' crowd (of under 5s) and a Harrogate Theatre performance of 'Finding Folk' with Phoebe Ophelia. (Elizabeth and Leonard are still providing online musical rhymetimes for our libraries so you don't need to live in Harrogate to hear them.)
- Filey Library has been hosting outdoor storytimes with volunteer Robert moving from his shed to a gazebo in the library garden.

- Scarborough have been holding live storytimes in the library and bravely live-streaming on social media; plus hostings Andys Mans Club (suicide prevention group)
- Ingleton hosted an outside Storytime and Sports event with 27 children attending. One mum said that her son, born in January 2020, had missed out on all the toddler and playgroups, and this was the first time he was able to get out and play with other children.

Apologies to anyone missed!

### **Rewind songwriting**

North Yorkshire Libraries are excited to be sharing a brilliant new music playlist. Between March and May, six young songwriters (aged 12 – 19) from across North Yorkshire met online for weekly songwriting clinics with Leeds musician Rich Huxley to share the music they like, learn and practice their songwriting skills. Songwriting is recognised as a brilliant way for young people to express themselves and to share their ideas. The finished recordings which are available to hear via the library youtube channel.

### **KIT Theatre**

Most people believe that wardrobes are very ordinary objects. Most people are wrong...Wardrobes can be things of magic and adventure, as the children of Scarborough have been discovering this summer thanks to an Arts Council Grant. Years 3 and 4 pupils at Gladstone Road Primary, St George's RC Primary and St Peter's RC Primary have been on an exciting adventure where they have helped and met local heroes from Scarborough's past. This project was in partnership with Scarborough Museums Trust and further sessions held at Eastfield Library.

### **The 'Thousand butterfly' project – Easingwold.**

In late 2019, Easingwold Community Library successfully applied to North Yorkshire's Stronger Community fund for money to run a volunteer led project called 'Inspire the Child' Originally planned as encouraging children from the small rural schools around Easingwold into the library following the Covid outbreak it was amended to create an art installation outside the Easingwold Community Library. The '1000 butterflies' was born!

Seen as an opportunity to draw people together during lock down and social isolation the community were asked to decorate plywood butterflies with the option of writing a message of love and hope on the other side. In parallel with the '1000 butterflies'; another project was started by the library 'knit and natter' group who, of course, couldn't meet. Hundreds of colourful butterflies were knitted or crocheted by a host of local people and these too have fluttered back to the library. And placed outside the library around and under the magnificent Willow tree. They look truly wonderful with many special heartfelt messages recorded on them! The youngest participant was aged only 2 and the oldest was aged a grand 92! It is clear that the butterflies had helped to combat 'loneliness' during the lockdown.

### **Registrars**

Registrars continue to cope with exceptional demand, mainly created by the easing of restrictions on ceremonies. Bookings are high for the rest of the year as couples re-plan their ceremony dates. It is anticipated that this demand will remain above average for several months yet.

Registrars have also had to cope with a fundamental change in how marriages and civil partnerships are recorded (from May 4<sup>th</sup>), a change to how notices of marriage and civil partnership for EU citizens are taken (from 1<sup>st</sup> July as a consequence of Brexit) and starting the same day, a temporary liberalisation of the law to allow ceremonies to be held outside at licenced venues. These changes have added considerably to the workload.

All this, together with other challenges, has placed great demands on the staff of the service, who are to be congratulated and thanked for the tireless work to meet the needs of their customers

Coroners are continuing to reduce the backlog of cases, with the Chief Coroner monitoring the position closely. Three more Assistant Coroners have been appointed to assist in this work.

After further discussions with the Ministry of Justice, it has been decided to delay slightly the submission of the business case to request the merger of the three existing coroners areas. It is anticipated this will now be submitted in August 2021.

## **Records Office**

May was Local History Month and whilst it was not possible to hold the annual Archives at Dusk open evening, a social media campaign was launched in partnership with the Library service with the theme of the High Street. Historic photographs, maps and related documents were shared via twitter and Instagram, resulting in the generation of 25,725 impressions from the Record Office twitter account and a reach of 4250 on Instagram. Also for Local History Month, an online talk was given by our graduate trainee about our recent 'Made in North Yorkshire' campaign celebrating the lives of great North Yorkshire sons and daughters. With a wider potential audience than would have been possible with a traditional talk, this event reached over 250 people.

The Record Office has been continuing to work with new audiences and has collaborated with the Ignite Bright Sparks group at North Yorkshire Youth to deliver training in heritage skills to young people. Many of the group attended the Activity Day run by the Record Office at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre in March 2020, and were involved with the historic research which was undertaken into the former brickworks on site, as part of the Resilient Records project. They were keen to find out more about the archival and conversation processes that go on behind the scenes at the Record Office and to explore the skills required for heritage-based careers. Initially, a digital session was held to introduce the young people to the archive and its resources, and to explore the work and techniques used by our conservator to repair fragile and unique historic documents. This was followed by a hands-on session at Carlton Lodge during which the young people had the opportunity to gain skills by undertaking some basic conservation work for themselves, making repairs to historic paper with wheat starch glue

## **Customer**

### **Digital Workplace**

We continue to ensure our technology enables our workforce to be both productive and support flexible/collaborative working utilising Office365 across a range of devices. The Office365 suite of products provide us with the tools we need to embrace a modern digital workplace and continue to transform the way we work together. Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) is now our main collaboration space that enables colleagues to stay organised, work together and have conversations in a centralised place.

The decommissioning of Skype for Business has commenced. This means Skype will no longer be accessible for internal users through the Skype client. Over the last few months, we have seen a decline in end users choosing Skype as their default communication tool and beginning to utilise the features MS Teams.

Using a feature called Teams Live, T&C have continued to support the Council and Councillors to broadcast and record their meetings to the public via the web, as well as host



live webinars to staff; feedback has been very positive and over 600 colleagues watching the webinars in their own time.

## **Customer**

106,771 customers in North Yorkshire now have access to a customer account.

In June we launched 3 new services on-line and in the CSC. Customer can now report lost and stolen Blue Badges and Age and Disabled Bus Passes and request a replacement. 80% of customer have used this service to replace a Blue Badge and 60% for Age and Disabled Bus Passes.

Customer has also been working with North Yorkshire Disability Forum to improve accessibility to North Yorkshire Services. Improvement have been made to the website and the CSC has now become the accessibility hub for North Yorkshire. The CSC was also joined on-line by members of the North Yorkshire Disabled Forum to deliver training and support to the CSC team

In June the CSC has seen an increase in the volumes of contact tracing requests coming from the centre government team. This increase aligns with the increasing infection rates and continues to grow week on week. In June we received 420 requests compared to 89 in May.

The CSC continues to support customers who are self-isolating and require support. In the last 3 months the CSC has received 375 calls from customers needing support

## **Cyber Security**

We continue to proactively monitor for cyber threats through the use of security software and acting on intelligence received from trusted partner organisations e.g. National Cyber Security Centre (NCSN), Yorkshire & Humber Warning, Advice & Reporting Point (YHWARP) and Regional Organised Crime Unit (YHROCU).

Phishing emails continue to be a threat and whilst the perimeter defences stop the majority it is possible for the odd one to get through. In the main these appear to be from trusted accounts which are compromised and highlighted by the receiver. Once notified we carry out proactive remediation to remove as many of the emails as possible whilst also blocking the links they contain to reduce the impact they may have on the network.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

#### **Update on Covid Funding**

As the country begins to move out of restrictions there are still lots of areas where additional spending and support is being provided by the County Council. This includes, but is not restricted to, support such as that to care settings; hospitals through discharge arrangements; outbreak management; and contract tracing. Many of these arrangements are scheduled to continue to September 2021 and may well continue beyond should that prove necessary.

Our latest assessment is that we will have additional spending / income pressures of circa £40m in 2021/22 and that is being matched by £39m of extra funding from government with any shortfall falling to the County Council. It is, of course, early in the financial year and much can change so we will watch the situation closely but safe in the knowledge that the County Council is in a strong financial position, unlike the councils of Croydon and more recently Slough who have been issued with s114 statements. We will undoubtedly have to deal with many more financial challenges as we recover from Covid and additional government funding reduces but we are well placed.

#### **Post EU Changes to Procurement**

The Government is developing reforms for public procurement (set out in its Green Paper on Transforming Public Procurement) which will deliver a new regulatory regime that better meets the needs of the UK. The County Council has been closely involved working with the Cabinet Office on consulting and developing the new regulations. The intention is for a simplified regime for public procurement that allows public sector spend (around £290 billion) to support national and local outcomes.

It is envisaged that the new public procurement regulations will come into force in the second half of 2022. The County Council is taking steps now to be ready to implement the new regulations as soon as they become law.

EU State aid rules no longer apply to subsidies granted in the UK. The UK now has the freedom to design a domestic subsidy control regime that reflects UK interests and circumstances. The Subsidy Control Bill, introduced before Parliament in June 2021, provides the framework for this new UK-wide subsidy control regime.

This should enable councils to deliver subsidies to deliver on priorities such as levelling up and achieving net zero carbon, as well as supporting the economy's recovery from coronavirus. As is the case now, all subsidies will remain subject to World Trade Organisation rules.

#### **Supply Chain Resilience**

Four local authorities in Yorkshire with a combined spend of over £1.4bn per year have joined forces with local organisation, Go4Growth, to emphasise the importance of developing the local business marketplace and support for the voluntary sector. Starting in April this year the County Council along with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and Barnsley Council made a commitment to help smaller organisations to be able to enter or grow in the public sector. Each of us have recognised the need to provide more support and guidance for these organisations who find the reality of finding and securing work in the public sector disproportionately harder than their larger competitors.

The collective ambition is to ensure we attract and work with a diverse range of organisations and the programme will ensure businesses have skills they need to work in our local and regional areas and beyond. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) are the lifeblood of our local economy. As we recover from the pandemic and adjust to post-EU arrangements, there has never been a more important time to support local businesses. This initiative builds upon the work we have done to support local businesses such as “Buy Local” and underlines how important our local supply chains are for our local communities and high streets.

### **School Resource Management Advice Contract**

Following a competitive bidding process, I am pleased to announce that, from September 2021, NYCC will be one of only two organisations supplying School Resource Management Advice to the Department for Education. The contract award is part of a flagship programme in supporting schools and academies across the country achieve excellent resource management through integrated curriculum and financial planning. This is a great achievement reflecting the quality of the team and the quality and experience of school resource management deployments over the last few years. It further demonstrates the local authority’s reputation for sound financial management and delivering high quality services.

GARETH DADD

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 2021

### STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

#### **“Celebrating You” event**

A “Celebrating You” event was held on 7 July for Children and Families service staff with over 200 colleagues attending this virtual event, hosted by York University on Zoom. I would like to congratulate the winners on behalf of the Council. Categories included Outstanding Partnership, Team of the Year and the Director’s Choice Award.

Recipients of the awards had been nominated by their colleagues for going above and beyond. This event is in recognition of the extraordinary lengths staff and teams have gone to during the last 14 months of the pandemic whilst continuing to provide an outstanding service to children and their families.

#### **Looked After Children Members’ Group**

I am pleased to report that the [2021 Annual Report of the Group is available for download here](#). The report reflects our work as “corporate parents” over the past two years and I would urge Member colleagues to take time to read the document. A covering statement from the group is attached as an Appendix to this statement.

#### **Children & Families**

The Children & Families Service has continued to support our most vulnerable families throughout the latest phase of the pandemic. Across the first quarter of 2021/22 we have seen stable and consistent demand at the front door in terms of the number of contacts received by the Customer Resolution Centre. However, we have seen an increase in the number of referrals to Children’s Social Care, with 1,280 received in the quarter. This represents a marked increase in comparison with the long-term quarterly average of 1,025 referrals per quarter. This may suggest an increase in the number of families presenting to services in need of greater levels of support than previously.

Despite the challenges faced by the service, performance remains strong and sector-leading in many respects. Our rate of re-referrals to Children’s Social Care remains outstanding, with provisional data for Q1 2021/22 suggesting a rate of 16%. Over 99% of Children & Family assessments were completed within the statutory 45 working day timescale in Q1 2021/22, placing North Yorkshire among the very best performing LA’s nationally. On average, the service was completing assessments in 17 working days in this quarter, ensuring families receive the right service and support in a timely manner.

There were 384 children with an open Child Protection Plan at the end of the quarter, up from 344 at the end of Q4 2020/21. Although this is the second successive quarter to see an increase, the number of children with an open Child Protection Plan remains within our expected range. Repeat Child Protection Plan rate fell from 27% in Q4 2020/21 to 14% in the first quarter of 2021/22.

The number of Children in Care reduced for the fourth successive quarter, 433 at the end of Quarter 4 2021/22 to 410 at the end of Q1 2021/22. This is the lowest number of children in care for at least 3 years. 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. Positively, we are starting to see an improvement in the proportion of children with an up to date dental check, which rose from 58% at the end of March to 66% at the end of June.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the service was subject to a Focussed Visit by Ofsted in June, looking specifically at services for children in need of help and protection. Whilst the formal outcome of the visit will not be published until late July, informal feedback from the inspection team was overwhelmingly positive, and the work by staff across the service to support children and families shone through.

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

North Yorkshire's role as part of the DfE's Strengthening Families Protecting Children (SFPC) programme continues to develop. We have been actively working with 5 authorities to implement No Wrong Door hubs and I am pleased to report that a total of 5 hubs are now live across 4 local authorities (Middlesbrough, Norfolk, Rochdale and Warrington) supporting them to implement their own models of our innovative No Wrong Door approach, whilst we are supporting Redcar and Cleveland as they prepare to "go live".

The Central Delivery Team continue to work closely with all 5 'host' authorities to ensure the successful embedding of the innovative No Wrong Door Model and we are already starting to see the positive impact on culture, practice and outcomes for young people, at this early stage, through case studies from our host local authorities.

The Department of Education have launched a revised Sector Led Improvement Programme beginning July 2021. Following a successful year of delivering support, North Yorkshire County Council have secured further funding to continue providing Best Practice support to Local Authorities with an Ofsted rating of Inadequate or Requiring Improvement within Children and Families Services. The demand is particularly high for Fostering Support, along with No Wrong Door and Early Help Services.

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy & Beyond 2020**

The Directorate continues to closely monitor the financial impact in some of the demand-sensitive budgets including high need and SEN transport where costs have risen as a result of increases in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring Education, Health and Care Plans. Demand pressures on placements budgets alongside potential market volatility remain financial risks. In addition, the impact of covid restrictions prevented the Outdoor Learning Service from providing a residential offer throughout 2020-21 and into 2021-22. A strategic review of the long-term options for a financially sustainable operating model for the Outdoor Learning Service is currently being undertaken.

The Directorate continues to implement plans to meet the savings target in 2021-22.

Although this information appears in my Statement to Council it 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

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING GROUP

#### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

##### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There can be no more important responsibility than supporting those children and young people entrusted into our care. The attached report is a detailed account of the work the group has done over the last two years to ensure that NYCC is improving the lived experiences of those young people.
- 1.2 The report was delayed coming to you because of the Covid19 pandemic. Meetings of the group were paused as we all came to terms with the impact of restrictions and lockdown. It was essential that we, as members, gave officers and the wider service the space and time to adapt and maintain the high standards in social care we have seen.
- 1.3 We started to meet again remotely with reduced business, and informally, in September this year. We have continued to meet since, focusing very much on the impact of the pandemic on looked after young people and how we support them. The reassuring and heart-warming examples in the report are just a selection of the innovative ways the service has responded to all the unprecedented challenges.
- 1.4 The group is routinely supplied with a rich data picture about our children in care, which helps us assess performance. Other information sources include the Annual Report of the Virtual Head, quarterly statistics on stability of placements, educational attainment, fostering, missing children, offending, health assessments, the Annual report of the Independent reviewing Officer, and so on. It is a credit to staff that all this robust information has still been made available to us during this testing time.
- 1.5 We believe the detailed report ([can be downloaded here](#)) shows that elected members have access to the necessary tools and information in order to make informed judgements on the quality of care and support the council provides.

##### 2.0 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Looked after Children Strategy 2018-2021 “We care because you matter” and The Local Offer for Care Leavers is the core of our work. An elected member is lead for each of the seven strategy principles, gathering information by maintaining regular contact with the officer and/or team responsible. This undertaking has been invaluable when assessing what has been achieved.
- 2.2 Some highlights from our work:
  - There is a strong commitment to involve children in discussions about their needs and their future, and help them contribute to care plans and reviews.
  - Support begins with a thorough assessment of their emotional and mental health needs.
  - The priority on local placements is producing better outcomes.
  - The need for a strong integrated approach to sexual exploitation through multi-agency working is well recognised.
  - Kinship care is being properly explored.
  - We can see a clear preference for foster rather than residential care.
  - Support services are designed to increase resilience and reduce problems.



- Young people move to independence only when they are ready. Young people are being prepared in a variety of ways, especially essential life skills - budgeting, loans, benefits, cooking and what to do in an emergency.
- The third annual CareleaversCan2020 conference went virtual with support from the University of York in October, and was a huge success reaching young people who previously had not attended.
- We applaud the commitment to hold A Virtual School Graduation

2.3 Overall, the group believes council can be pleased with significant progress against all 7 principles.

2.4 We look forward to being involved in the intended refresh of the strategy later this year. In the meantime, as we continue to review progress, aspects we will look at closely include:

- The performance or health assessments, data immunisation and dental checks
- How young people are encouraged to express their views about their experience in care and how they can be engaged in wider council services and issues.

### **3.0 ELECTED MEMBERS AS CORPORATE PARENTS**

3.1 Member and officer attendance levels over the last year at group meetings has been good. A positive step of note has been the willingness of individual members to take a lead role on the principles, and a renewed commitment from all members to be involved in inspections of our children's homes and residential establishments.

3.2 Councillors supported four care leaver Christmas lunches held across the county from their locality budgets and helped build the sense of community with our care leaver population, linking in with their local areas. During the first lock down members supported the distribution of care packages to our care leavers. These included advice on keeping safe and healthy, some individual treats and a reminder of the support available and website help lines in a card from the team and members.

3.3 The council will be greatly encouraged to hear that we believe the concept of corporate parenting - the collective responsibility across services and across local authorities to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children - is well established within NYCC. We have asked that the name of our group be changed to not only reflect that, but to make it more in line with current thinking about the terminology we use when referring to the children we care for.

3.4 In this context, you might be particularly interested in Paragraph 5 of the Annual Report where we discuss how we ensure that role is promoted across the wider council membership.

### **ALL MEMBERS OF CORPORATE PARENTING GROUP**

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON

Background documents - Nil

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 2021

### STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

#### **Covid-19 – impact on schools and early years**

Schools have remained open to all pupils since March and attendance figures across the county have been positive. Schools have continued to manage risks relating to Covid cases and only a very small number have needed to close, sometimes this has been due to operational issues (eg when staff are isolating). Alongside this, school leaders have tried to balance work on their school improvement plans; Ofsted inspections of schools have recommenced and a number of schools have already had visits this term.

As we approach stage 4 of the road map, the guidance for schools has been updated and current models are expected to change after the end of term. Control measures in terms of hygiene, cleaning, ventilation and working with colleagues in Public Health will be continued into the new school year. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should access two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term - schools can stagger return times to cope with this as they did in March. Following this, home testing for staff and students will be in place, until the end of September at which point it will be reviewed.

#### **Covid Local Grant Scheme and Holiday Activities & Food programme (known locally as FEAST”**

Through DWP funding the local authority has provided funding to schools, academies, colleges and early years providers to purchase supermarket vouchers for potentially vulnerable households. The scheme started during the Christmas holiday period in 2020 and has continued through each school holiday period. I am pleased to confirm that eligible households will again receive up to £75 support through the school summer holiday period and I am grateful to our school, college and early years providers in helping to ensure that funding reaches those families most in need.

Alongside the Covid Local Support Grant, we will implement our FEAST programme of holiday activities over the school summer holiday period, providing enriching activities (including some face-to-face), nutritional advice, digital resources and food. This follows our Easter programme where up to 11,000 activity packs were distributed to eligible school-age children across the county.

#### **Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision and Selby Free School**

Over the past year, progress has continued to be made on the implementation of the SEND Strategic Plan which was approved in late 2018. The plan sets out in detail a number of key developments in provision for Children and Young People with SEND in response to the rapid growth in demand we have seen since 2015.

In September 2021 the restructure of SEND and Inclusion support services was implemented as planned. The restructure has allowed the creation of locality based Hubs of specialist practitioners to support children, schools and families to receive the right support for their needs and ensure they can continue to be educated within their own local

community. Throughout the pandemic staff within the Hubs have continued to maintain an offer of support to children in what has been an uncertain year for all.

The Pupil Referral Service began operating its new model of provision under new funding arrangements in September. The changes have allowed young people to access support prior to exclusion and new local area partnership arrangements are allowing those with the greatest need to be prioritised for this support. The new funding arrangement means that the commissioning of places is a joint endeavour between schools and the LA and allows children to remain part of their local school community whilst receiving flexible support.

Demand for more Special School Places continues to grow and this year over 1000 places have been commissioned in our special schools. This has been possible due to a number of small to moderate investments utilising the limited capital resources allocated to the County Council by the Department for Education. The most significant investment has been the development of a new satellite site of Mowbray School in Ripon. The LA have invested over £700k and supported the school to develop a superb facility for up to 60 children with Communication and Interaction Needs. Despite these investments we continue to see demand increasing and the current special school estate has limited capacity to expand further.

A further significant development continues to progress after the Council's successful bid for a Special Free School in Selby. The council is working with the DfE and Wellspring Multi Academy Trust to design the school which will be subject to planning approval. This special school is much needed in the Selby and will provide 100 additional places for children in the district. At present Selby does not have any special school provision so families will see the added benefits of being able to access this support much closer to home and without the need for children to spend extended periods travelling out of the area. All partners remain committed to delivering the new school as soon as possible.

### **New Schools**

The new school proposals for both Knaresborough and Northallerton have progressed during the recent period. Applications from a number of Academy Trusts who wished to operate the schools were assessed during February and March. The Regional Schools Commissioner confirmed the appointment of the successful Trusts in early May, with Elevate Multi Academy Trust appointed for Knaresborough and Dales Academies Trust appointed for Northallerton. Issues relating to the land transfer for each site resulted in NYCC being unable to commence construction in summer 2021 as was planned, and therefore the target opening date for the schools has been revised to September 2023.

### **Kell Bank CE VC Primary School**

On 23 March 2021 I determined the closure proposal for Kell Bank CE VC Primary School. There were no objections received during the representation period and therefore the School will close at the end of the current academic year.

### **Outdoor learning service**

The strategic review is continuing. Extensive data from the service and the views of many stakeholders have been gathered in order to secure a full understanding of the current service offer and operating model. Both sites at East Barnby and Bewerley Park have been visited to assess the condition of the property. An outline business case for the future of the service is scheduled for the September Executive meeting.

### **School funding**

2021-22 represents the second year of a three-year funding settlement for schools and we await the publication of indicative funding allocations from the national funding formula for the financial year 2022-23. We expect these to be published during summer 2021 along with the outcome of a national consultation on sparsity funding which will potentially assist a number of North Yorkshire's schools. Indicative allocations are also expected for High Needs funding. In line with the national trend, North Yorkshire continues to experience significant financial pressure in this area although the Strategic Plan for SEND seeks to deliver a number of actions to mitigate demand pressures (e.g. building a new free special school in Selby, increasing the number of commissioned places in North Yorkshire special schools).

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 2021

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

#### Highways

##### **A59 Kex Gill Diversion**

This £61.6m scheme has continued to progress since the DfT's approval in February of our Outline Business Case (OBC). Planning permission was granted by our planning committee on 27 April. The planning conditions for the scheme require that the County Council undertake updated ecological and archaeological surveys, which have begun.

The tender documents were published on 23 June with a latest return date of 15 September. The Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Orders have been published with a formal consultation period until the end of August. The project programme without a Public Inquiry indicates that construction could start this autumn. On the other hand, if a Public Inquiry is required, the start of works could be delayed by up to 15 months.

Construction is expected to take up to 18 months.

##### **A19 re-opens**

As members will know, we were able to re-open the newly-constructed A19 between Chapel Haddlesey and Eggborough on 21 June, and I thank the Chairman for attending the event and cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

This occasion was the culmination of extensive civil engineering works to reconstruct the highway and its embankments which had all suffered severe damage following prolonged rainfall and high winds brought by Storm Dennis in February 2020.

The sudden, unplanned closure of this key route caused considerable inconvenience to the travelling public, and had a severe impact in the local area and beyond. The County Council and its contractor Balfour Beatty deployed significant resources to get these major engineering works completed as quickly as possible. The work was carried out in compliance with the Covid-19 restrictions at all times. Further storms and flooding at the start of this year did threaten delays in the construction programme. Fortunately, the newly constructed causeway stood up well to the challenges of the weather, and with the provision of some late additional funding to accelerate matters, we were able to open the road to traffic five days ahead of schedule.

I thank most sincerely all those involved in the project for their hard work and dedication throughout the 16-month closure. I also recognise with gratitude the patience and understanding of local residents and businesses throughout the period of reconstruction.

##### **NY Highways**

NY Highways, the new trading company in the Brierley Group, was launched successfully on 1 June. This represents our largest ever commercial start-up project, in which 198 members

of staff were transferred, 196 vehicles were handed over, and 100 procurement contracts were awarded.

### **Transforming Cities Fund**

Work on the Transforming Cities Fund Gateway schemes for Harrogate, Selby and Skipton continues following a period of public consultation in April. At its meeting in May, the Executive approved further design work for all three schemes. Subsequently, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority considered the Outline Business Cases for Harrogate and Skipton, and released additional funding £3m for Harrogate and £2m for Skipton. The Selby OBC will be considered by the Combined Authority in the autumn to allow for further work on cost, scope and land acquisition to be undertaken.

Further public consultation on the more detailed designs will take place in the autumn before final business cases are confirmed. The Executive will be asked to approve the final schemes before construction starts in 2022/23.

### **Bus Services**

In response to the National Bus Strategy published by Government in March, the Executive determined last month to pursue the option of an Enhanced Partnership with local bus service operators. Our public transport team will now work with local bus service operators to establish a Bus Service Improvement Plan to be submitted to Government by October. It is likely that this Plan will form the basis of a bid to the Government's £3bn budget to improve bus services.

A new, digital demand responsive bus service commenced this month in an area covering Ripon, Masham, Bedale and surrounding villages. The YorBus pilot scheme is a flexible service allowing users to book travel to and from anywhere in the zone using an app. The service operates six days per week, significantly improving travel options in the area. It can be used by anyone wishing to travel in the pilot area, including visitors. The pilot will be reviewed at regular intervals and, if successful, may lead to many more similar schemes elsewhere in the county.

### **Broadband and mobile telephony**

The Mobile Access North Yorkshire 5G project will go live in Coverdale next month. The project team is keeping the local community regularly updated on progress. Over 50 local residents attended a face-to-face drop-in session in May, and many expressed a keen interest in using the technology on offer.

After the launch of our free public WiFi scheme in Leyburn and Northallerton, the first phase of this service has now been introduced for Scarborough's seafront. The second and third phases covering the town centre and shopping area will start in late summer.

In due course, our free public WiFi project will benefit at least 16 town centres throughout North Yorkshire.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 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 have been two meetings of Scrutiny Board since my last statement to Council.

The meeting of Scrutiny Board on 21 May 2021 focussed upon the scrutiny of the Q4 Performance and Finance Management Report, ahead of the members of the Board attending the meeting of the Executive on 25 May 2021. Some of the issues raised at the Executive meeting by members of the Scrutiny Board are highlighted below:

- The Covid-19 vaccination rate in the county and whether there are significant numbers of people declining to have the vaccine. If so, then what is the Council doing to improve the take up.
- What more could the Council do to help ensure that NHS Health Checks are optimised and so more prevent some long term health conditions emerging in people who may be at risk.
- Concern that inequalities may be increasing as a result of the pandemic and successive lockdowns as a number of factors coincide. Such as, economic hardship and uncertainty, children falling behind at school during two periods of sustained home schooling, access to health and social care services being limited or avoided.
- Whether the Council can do more to create career paths for young people in the Council.
- Recognition of the huge effort that has been maintained by Technology and Change at the Council in sustaining 1,000s of staff working from home over the past 15 months and also enabling them to adopt new ways of working.
- The benefit of remote working over the past 12 months in terms of time, cost and carbon dioxide emissions.
- Whether the sustained working from home has led to a better work-life balance or whether employees now facing even greater demands and longer hours.
- The impact upon adult social care services of the reduction in contacts with NHS and social care services over the past year, as a result of the pandemic and the long waiting lists for elective procedures at hospital.
- A concern as to whether, with all of the changes to the OFSTED inspection regime, we really understand how well our schools are performing.

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 21 May 2021, members also discussed: the work that the overview and scrutiny committees are doing on the recovery from the pandemic and how it has changed the way that some services are delivered; the way in which overview and scrutiny committees could be held going forwards (in-person, remotely, hybrid or a

combination thereof); and the committee work programmes over the next 3 cycles of committee meetings prior to the May 2022 Council elections.

Scrutiny Board also met on 23 June 2021 to review a draft Carbon Reduction Plan for the Council, which is due to be considered at the meeting of the Executive on 13 July 2021. Whilst Scrutiny Board is a private meeting and not a formal meeting of the Council's scrutiny function, it gave the Chairs of the committees an opportunity to review the draft plan and comment ahead of the Executive meeting. Board members welcomed the plan and highlighted a number of issues, as follows:

- Acknowledgement that carbon reduction technology will advance rapidly over the next 10 years and that the shape and form of this may yet be unknown
- Concerns that there was a significant challenge in providing a comprehensive car charging infrastructure, particularly in rural areas and also in urban areas where on street parking is the norm
- Whether national power generators and suppliers will be able to cope with the increase in demand for electricity as people switch from fossil fuels
- What work is being done by the Council to exploit renewable energy sources across the county and whether greater use could be made of Council owned property and land as a site for some of these technologies
- Concerns about increasing inequalities and whether people on low incomes will be able to adapt to climate change (making the move to electric cars or electric domestic heating, for example), without financial support, most likely through government loans and schemes
- Whether Brierley Homes is being adventurous and inventive enough in constructing properties bearing in mind future opportunities that may arise from improvements in both the Building Design and Technology sectors.

Scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan, once agreed, will be led by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (TE&E OSC). Scrutiny Board will help co-ordinate the scrutiny of any matters that require specialist input outside of the TE&E OSC.

Members of Scrutiny Board are next due meet in mid-August 2021. At that meeting, the Executive Q1 Performance and Finance Management Report will be scrutinised. Further consideration will also be given to the way in which Scrutiny Board can access additional sources of information and intelligence to help inform the development of the committee work programmes.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN  
Chairman of Scrutiny Board  
30 June 2021

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Since my last statement to Council in May 2021, the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once on 7 June 2021.

At the meeting, the Committee received a number of annual updates, which included an update on Property Services. Our attention was focussed on the impact of Covid on the Council's rationalisation projects and the remodelling of the Brierley Building, and the ongoing work to improve energy efficiencies and reduce consumption. We noted the support that had been given to staff working from home and the re-opening of workspaces in offices – we were pleased to note the clean bill of health given to us by the HSE following spot checks on our buildings. We also discussed the potential impact of the Local Government Review e.g. the preparations required for the change in the Council's building portfolio

We also received an update on the delivery of the Community Safety Plan and the ongoing partnership working in support of its delivery. Unfortunately, the Partnership Chair was unable to attend the meeting at short notice, so the Committee requested a written response to a list of questions. The committee will continue to receive bi-annual updates and we have asked that next time the report focus on LGBT Groups and hate crime.

The Committee received an update on Library Services, which provided an overview of the adaptations made to service delivery since March 2020 in response to Covid. The update detailed the successful steps taken to deliver services online and reassured us that financially the libraries had weathered the storm reasonably well. We were pleased to note the close working with stronger communities and the be-friending work undertaken throughout the pandemic. Also, the success of the Select & Collect service, introduced in response to the pandemic and the plan for its continuation post-Covid. We therefore focussed our attention on the challenges ahead which include rebuilding customer confidence to come back in to our library buildings and maintaining volunteer numbers.

Finally, the Committee received its annual update on Locality Budgets. We were disappointed to note that there were two Councillors who had not spent any of their budget in the last year. We also noted the mixed picture in regard to seed funding.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman  
Chair of Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
12 July 2021

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## North Yorkshire County Council

21 July 2021

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

#### Chairman's Statement

##### Mid cycle briefing – 1 June 2021

An open invite was made to all Members of the Committee to attend the mid-cycle briefing on 1 June 2021.

We were appraised about the planned launch in July 2021 of the Demand Responsive Bus Service (DRS) in the Ripon area. We sought clarification that the service would not be in direct competition with commercial services and were informed that where a direct journey could be made on a commercial bus service, people would not be allowed to use the DRS. We made various suggestions about how the DRS could be publicised. Council staff will undertake a communications review four weeks after the launch of the services.

We were also provided with an overview about the government's national bus strategy ('Bus back better'). The franchising and enhanced partnership options were discussed. It was noted that an enhanced partnership option, as well as the franchising option, would help to reduce the number of instances of commercial bus services competing against each other in an inefficient way of running buses on the same route as each other at the same time. The common goal with operators will be to increase patronage across services. Of course, the challenge will be to change people's mind-sets about buses not being fashionable to use.

##### Committee – 12 July 2021

This report went to print prior to the 12 July committee meeting. However, I will be able to provide an update at Full Council should Members require.

The agenda items included:

Climate Change Assessments	A report on the climate change assessment requirements for inclusion in reports.
Active Travel	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	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  
6 July 2021

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 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 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 last met on 18 June 2021, using Microsoft Teams for a live broadcast meeting. At that meeting, committee members received detailed presentations on: proposed changes to hyper acute stroke services at Scarborough Hospital; developments in mental health services in the county and the response of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections; access to NHS dentistry in the county; the NHS White Paper and the development of integrated care systems and partnerships in the county; the NHS response to and recovery from the pandemic locally; and data on the vaccination programme, infection rates and the number of people hospitalised with Covid-19.

#### Hyper acute stroke services at Scarborough Hospital

The committee has been reviewing the proposed changes to hyper acute stroke services at Scarborough Hospital since May 2020. At that point, the established process of assessment at Scarborough and then referral on elsewhere for specialist treatment was ended. Instead, suspected stroke patients are now assessed at the scene by trained paramedics remotely supported by clinical staff and then sent directly to York (in most cases), South Tees or Hull for specialist treatment at a hyper acute stroke unit.

At the meeting on 18 June 2021, the committee formally endorsed making this temporary change a permanent one. This was on the basis of supporting evidence from a regional clinician-led review of stroke services, NICE guidance, similar changes at Harrogate Hospital two years ago, public statements, and evidence around travel times and the so called 'Golden Hour'. It was noted that the size of population within the Scarborough catchment was insufficient to support a separate hyper acute stroke unit locally. The conclusion was that there was no other viable alternative that would ensure the best outcomes for patients. As such, a formal public consultation is not required by the NHS prior to the proposed service change being considered by the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body at their September meeting.

The committee is aware of the concerns of some members of the public about the proposed change to hyper acute stroke services and the future of some specialist services at Scarborough Hospital in the longer term. The committee will continue to monitor the situation and scrutinise patient outcome data for the new stroke pathway. It is of note, that £47 million of capital investment is going to the development of new urgent, emergency and critical care facilities at Scarborough Hospital and that there is a renewed commitment by York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to developing services and standards across the east coast.

### Mental health services in the county

The committee has also maintained a strong focus upon developments in mental health services across the county, in particular investment in high quality in-patient services and enhanced community services. The committee recognises that the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) has been working hard to correct years of historical underinvestment in mental health services in the county and to ensure that people in need can access the same services in North Yorkshire as they can in neighbouring areas.

The development of new services by TEWV has moved apace, whilst existing services have continued to be delivered and ways of working have been adapted in response to the pandemic. There have been some concerns, however, about the performance of aspects of TEWV as recent CQC inspections have highlighted areas for improvement. An action plan is in place to address issues previously highlighted by the CQC and, at the time of writing, a follow up inspection of the organisation by the CQC is underway. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the action plan and the CQC assessment of TEWV as an organisation and the specific services that it provides. A meeting with the TEWV CEO is scheduled for next month.

### Access to NHS dentistry

The difficulties that people have in accessing NHS dental services across the county are long standing. In the past, the committee has been involved on a number of occasions concerning closure of dental practices and following up on what is being done by NHS England, as the commissioner of NHS dental services, to ensure that access to NHS places is maintained. Recently, concerns have arisen following the closure of a dental practices in Scarborough (Eastfield), Helmsley, Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet.

The committee heard from commissioners from NHS England and NHS Improvement about the plans for the procurement of new NHS dental services in these localities, the constraints of the existing financial and contractual arrangements, and a national review that is underway of NHS provision and the national contract for general dental practitioners. It is anticipated that this review will lead to changes in commissioning that increases the number of NHS dental places available. It is acknowledged, however, that this will take time as the review has only recently started and primary legislation would be required to implement a new system.

The committee will continue to follow up on the response to the specific concerns in Eastfield and other areas of the county, progress being made with the national review, and the possible impact of the NHS White Paper changes (see below).

### NHS White Paper

The committee has followed developments in the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Partnerships that cover North Yorkshire over the past 2 years. The Integrated Care System model has great potential to drive collaborative working within the NHS and also with other commissioners and providers of services that promote population health and wellbeing. The NHS White Paper formalised much of the work that has been done to date across the country and set-out the legislative reforms needed to enable the ICS model to be fully implemented.

The committee heard from the North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about some of the changes that were going ahead, in advance of the White Paper going through the legislative process. Most significant of these is the removal CCGs, with the ICS taking on their commissioning responsibilities as well of some of the commissioning responsibilities of NHS England and Improvement. If the legislative programme proceeds as previously outlined, then



the White Paper will become an Act of Parliament in January 2022. It is too early to know whether the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, will affect progress with these NHS reforms and the addressing of wider needs across health and social care.

#### Committee meeting on 10 September 2021

The next meeting of the committee will be at 10am on 10 September 2021. At this time, the items for consideration at that meeting are as follows: the NHS response to and recovery from the pandemic; Covid-19 vaccination rates across the county; an update on Harrogate and Rural Alliance; an update on the development of the Catterick Integrated Care Campus; and progress with the implementation of improvement plans by TEWV following recent CQC inspections.

#### Hemingbrough GP branch surgery

In June, I was made aware by the Vale of York CCG that there was a consultation underway on the proposed closure of the Hemingbrough GP branch surgery, outside Selby. Over the past 18 months, there have been proposals put forward for a number of GP surgery closures. The common theme has been that the existing branch surgery is not suitable for modern primary care as it is difficult to manage infection control and to provide specialist treatment and assessments. Typically, the proposal is that the patients are provided for at a central site, with better facilities. It is much the same case with the Hemingbrough GP branch surgery, with patients being transferred to the Posterngate practice in Selby, about 4 miles away.

Whilst the response to pandemic has not been cited as a reason for the proposed closure in this case or the other cases considered over the past 18 months, it is apparent that the pandemic and the new ways of working that have been adopted in primary care have led to a review of existing facilities and how they are managed. The rationale for the decisions made appears logical and seems to have a strong focus upon patient outcomes and efficient and effective working. It is yet another example, however, of health services being more centralised and becoming more removed from local people. This is something that has always been of concern to the members and of the committee and something that we will return to.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN ENNIS  
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee  
30 June 2021

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

#### YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

##### Outdoor Learning Service

1. I reported last time on the committee's interest in Outdoor Learning Provision and plans for the two key properties - East Barnby and Bewerely Park. We were happy to support the Executive's decision that, rather than mothballing, both sites be protected as soon as possible. At our last meeting, we considered what the intended longer-term strategic review must address, and how it will go about its work.
2. The project to ensure a long-term sustainable operating model inevitably started with a comprehensive assessment of those two key properties. Progress has also been made in consulting with young people, schools, users and staff local representatives. Many individual conversations and meetings have been held with staff groups, NY Sport, Head Teacher Network and School Governors.
3. We could see that there has been an effective data gathering exercise, assessing the customer base, use of the service, activities offered and costings.
4. We are pleased with how the project has progressed thus far. Whilst the committee has not pressed for involvement in the next steps - Modelling of options and Preparation of the Outline Business Case, it does intend to consider proposals as they emerge in September this year before the Executive decides the future of the service.

##### SEND Strategy Update

5. The committee has maintained a close interest in the SEND Strategic Plan for Education Provision 2018-23 since being involved in its formulation. At our last meeting we looked again at trends in numbers and type of SEND, how the locality based infrastructure was settling in, and, more broadly, the means by which the SEND Strategic Plan was being implemented.
6. The increase in numbers is dramatic. As of the end of March 2021, there were 3574 EHC plans funded by North Yorkshire. This is a 102% increase on the same point in 2015. Total EHC plans funded by North Yorkshire have increase two-fold between 2015 and 2021.
7. The percentage of children with EHC plans in schools in North Yorkshire has historically been lower than the national rate. In 2020, 1.5% of children in mainstream schools in North Yorkshire had an EHC plan, the rate nationally was 1.8% (1.7% in Yorkshire and Humber). The rate in North Yorkshire in 2021 is now 1.7%
8. The percentage of children recorded as SEN Support has also been historically lower, 11.2% in North Yorkshire mainstream schools in 2020 compared to 12.1% nationally

(11.4% regionally, Yorkshire and Humber). The rate in North Yorkshire in 2021 is now 11.5%.

9. Fundamental to responding to this increase is the locality based approach. We supported the introduction of SEND hubs when originally proposed in the strategy; we can see now how effective these have been. The approach has resulted in increased support for families - alongside Early Help, Children and Families and NHS colleagues.
10. The system of locality boards is operating successfully, allowing local leaders to be involved in developments at local level and ensuring 'join up' across education leaders. They are providing the framework to enable dialogue and collective responsibility for performance at local level, sector led improvement and shaping provision and developments in the area on an ongoing basis.
11. Locality Inclusion Panels, which take responsibility for oversight of educational provision for vulnerable children at primary and secondary, are progressing well and, as intended, are addressing need directly.
12. The establishment of Parent Carer Voice in 2019 as the recognised SEND Parent Forum is ensuring we have a locality based model of parent/carer groups in partnership with the local authority. The level of user involvement in key reviews of services e.g. social care support for disabled children, development of the new SEND Local Area strategy, is especially welcome.
13. The investment in capacity for Specialist Provision will increase Special School places to over 1000 by Sept 2021, representing a 25% increase since 2017. Capital investment has been made creating Mowbray School at Ripon, with Selby Free School now at design phase, and £ 250k investment in Springwater on track for delivery Sept 21.
14. Overall, members were impressed at what has been achieved in developing the continuum of education provision across the county for now and the future.

### **SACRE Annual Report**

15. A number of members of this committee serve on the North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. At a recent SACRE meeting, its Annual Report for the School year 2019/20 was agreed for publication.
16. The SACRE Chair and supporting officers wanted to raise awareness of the work SACRE does. The Annual Report was an ideal starting point and was therefore taken to a members' briefing in May.
17. We will arrange a similar exercise again next year – possibly at a full committee meeting. This would certainly raise awareness and the profile of SACRE, and it should allow for a more in-depth, informal discussion on matters relating to Religious Education. The overriding view was that the investment the council makes in supporting SACRE is good value, especially as RE has a key role to play in encouraging a broad and meaningful understanding of different faiths and views.

18. So the agreed action was:

- **Raising the profile** – this committee take the Annual report next year. Having a slot in the members seminar programme was also suggested.
- **Scrutiny Work** – should at some point the committee look at wider issues around community cohesion, in a county with not a great deal of racial diversity, what role can RE play promoting tolerance and tackling racism and hate crime.
- **Joint working Opportunities** – being alert to the benefits and opportunities of helping each other out on areas of mutual interest.

### Looking Ahead

19. 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. Since then we have seen a significant rise in the numbers of parents opting for EHE.

20. I have asked that the committee be enabled to review:

- the circumstances around these figures;
- the steps taken to strengthen our capacity to support and assist parents to make an informed choice; and
- known factors behind the notable increases in numbers of parents opting for EHE during the Covid 19 pandemic and the questions that poses for the authority.

21. We have asked for an update on the latest financial position in relation to local authority maintained schools and an overview of the management actions undertaken during the financial year to date to support schools in financial difficulty. More widely, we also want to revisit an analysis of the areas presenting with the most significant financial pressures facing CYPS and the management action that has been taken in response to the pressures.

22. Items in the planning stage for our next meeting in September are:

- The Medical Education Service more than one year on from when the service was reshaped.
- Annual Attainment report.
- Shaping future education provision and the issues and challenges for school place planning in North Yorkshire.
- Professor Maggie Atkinson, Chair of North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership returns to present her Independent Scrutineer's Annual Report.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANET JEFFERSON**

6 July 2021

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2021

### STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

#### CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

##### User Participation and Engagement

1. The current COVID-19 pandemic creates unusual challenges for engaging with users of our services. The committee wanted to understand how the pandemic has affected user voices and participation. We rearranged our meeting dates so that we could hold an informal, virtual meeting, with user representatives from the North Yorkshire Disability Forum and the North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board. What we heard and learned was both heartening and reassuring.
2. These groups contain hard-working and committed community representatives, who - prior to lockdown – held regular face to face meetings across the county – at least one meeting somewhere in the county every week. They are not talking-shops; they look at work plans, strategy delivery, and projects in local communities. They are coproduction in action.
3. They also link to other forums and groups so meeting them in a virtual meeting was always going to give us an up to date, informed picture of how successful people had been in adjusting to the constraints of the pandemic.
4. The concern of members was that many people could have “lost confidence” and were not sure they would be able to engage during the pandemic. Yet from the start of lockdown, both forums quickly adapted by staying in touch via Facebook, zoom meetings, phone and post. Videos and podcasts were other ways that people shared their views. A good deal of support was provided to develop digital skills and confidence - from the P&E Team and our commissioned self-advocacy support service.
5. Many moved online to hold group meetings, including regular joint forums Q&A sessions with the HAS Corporate Director and Public Health; these Q&A sessions involved representatives of older people’s and mental health forums as well. In particular, user representatives praised Richard Webb for his willingness to meet with them, and were pleased that this is set to continue.
6. Digital meetings can be convenient, but they do not work for everyone – at least, not right away. People’s experience of digital meetings and problems coming to terms with the technology will be familiar to all of us - chairs cannot “read the room”, it is not easy to tell whether an aspect of a presentation raises confusion or objections among the attendees, managing the mute button. Quizzes, for example, helped people to be confident - not just with the platform, but also with the atmosphere and the purpose of the meeting.
7. People’s voice and involvement has had a positive, tangible impact:
  - People have responded in a way, which suggests the whole experience has been empowering.

- Many groups support their members successfully and can campaign effectively – the group established to look at and campaign for safe Care Homes visiting is an example.
- Concerns about Do Not Resuscitate Orders and emergency care legislation shared with NHS colleagues.
- Creation of an accessible Covid communications library for information and advice.
- Helped to inform HAS colleagues about concerns around support during Covid, and people of the support available e.g. Personal Assistants, emergency contact, PPE, Outbreak Management Plan.
- Raised awareness of the importance of accessibility for disabled people locally and via NYCC Communications.
- Issues raised have been fed into the North Yorkshire and York Vaccine Response Group and Locality Groups.

8. Our impressions and conclusions from this meeting:

- When running an event all opinions and diverse views are encouraged and respected.
- Participants know that their contribution is being sought and is appreciated by all involved.
- The directorate has worked with (not to or for) people to give them a voice.
- It showed how most people have adapted to the innovative thinking.
- The range and diversity of options and avenues chosen to bring people in and give them the means to represent themselves is impressive; it means more people can find at least one method that works for them.
- The range of views that people are able to express shows that people feel comfortable in raising issues both big and small, personal and service orientated.
- Leadership commitment is strong - Richard Webb making himself available is good in itself but it sets the tone, the culture: “We are all in it together”.

9. It is clear that people have continued to speak up and influence despite the challenges of Covid and remote meetings. Some described how, because of social distancing, they were missing the physical contact with others that they had relied on before the pandemic. However, no matter what other cultural changes come about, most agree that digital meetings and different ways of being involved are here to stay and, used well, they can enhance service users’ voices.

### Looking Ahead

10. 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.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR KARIN SEDGWICK**  
5 July 2021