



Agenda

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

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

Date: Thursday, 10th March, 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Remote meeting held using Microsoft Teams

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

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

Business

- 1. Welcome and introductions and apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 7 January 2022** (Pages 3 - 6)
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Public Questions or Statements**
Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice and provided the text to Daniel Harry of Democratic Services (contact

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Daniel Harry Tel: 01609 533531
or e-mail daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk
Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

details below) no later than midday on Monday 7 March 2022. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

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

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

- 5. Executive Member verbal update to the committee**
- 6. Traffic safety and calming measures on Sutton Lane** - verbal update - Report of the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services, NYCC
- 7. Stronger Communities and Community Response to COVID19** - **(Pages 7 - 14)**
Report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities, NYCC
- 8. Carbon Reduction Plan implementation update** - Report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities, NYCC **(Pages 15 - 18)**
- 9. Youth Council** - verbal update - Report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, NYCC
- 10. Committee work programme** – Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager **(Pages 19 - 22)**
- 11. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

2 March 2022

North Yorkshire County Council

Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Friday 7 January 2022 commencing at 10.00 am.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE in the Chair and County Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Phillip Barrett, Michael Harrison, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton (Vice Chair), Stanley Lumley, Stuart Martin MBE, Patrick Mulligan, Gillian Quinn, Andy Solloway and David Staveley.

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

Officers present: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager) and Gary Fielding (Corporate Director, Strategic Resources, North Yorkshire County Council).

Other Attendees: The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

142 Welcome and introductions and apologies for absence

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

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

There were no apologies for absence.

143 Minutes of the committee meeting held on 16 December 2021

Considered the minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 16 December 2021.

Resolved -

- a. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 16 December 2021, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

144 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

145 Public Questions or Statements

There were none.

146 Update from RT Hon Julian Smith MP

Considered –

An update from the Rt Hon Julian Smith MP

The committee Chairman, County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE, invited the Rt Hon Julian Smith MP to give an overview to the committee of some of his areas of work, concerns and priorities. The key points are as summarised below:

- The hard work of the County Council over the Christmas period, when responding to the Omicron variant, was praised
- At present, the Government is continuing to follow 'Plan B' but there was a debate as to how long Covid-19 restrictions would remain in place
- There is a need to continue to have measures in place nationally and locally to support the hospitality industry
- There is no appetite for school closures and the Government is working with local authorities to help ensure that they stay open
- There is still a need for people to be encouraged to be vaccinated.

There followed a discussion, during the course of which County Councillors made the following points:

- The supply of Lateral Flow Test kits had been disrupted over the Christmas period, with none being available in pharmacies
- People need to have the confidence to go about their business as normal and testing kits can enable this.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE thanked the Rt Hon Julian Smith MP for attending the meeting and answering questions from the committee members.

The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP left the meeting at 10:20am.

147 Executive member update to the committee

Considered –

Updates from Executive Members present at the meeting.

The update provided by County Councillor Carl Les is as summarised below:

- The Area Constituency Committees have helped to promote local councillor engagement with the MPs. This is something that will be important as the new unitary authority is established
- The severity of illness associated with the Omicron variant is less than previous variants but more people are catching it and more people are having to self-isolate. This then has an impact on the staffing of adult social care services
- The 'Make Care Matter' campaign has been put in place to address some of the staff shortages in adult social care
- We all have a role in encouraging people to get vaccinated
- The work of volunteers in supporting the delivery of the vaccination programme was praised
- Good progress is being made by officers in working up some models for how key aspects of the new unitary could be delivered. The decisions around what models will be adopted will be made by the new administration after the May 2022 elections
- Some frustrations over the slow start to devolutions talks with Government.

County Councillor Carl Les left the meeting at 10.30am.

The update provided by County Councillor Michael Harrison is as summarised below:

- The increase in staff sickness and absence associated with the Omicron variant has led to 15% of adult social care staff being unavailable
- A number of care homes have had outbreaks of Covid-19
- Daily calls to care homes have been re-started, as part of a wider package of support
- Staff within Health and Adult Services have been re-deployed to front line roles
- The County Council has a good supply of Lateral Flow Tests.

The update provided by County Councillor David Chance is as summarised below:

- The Community Support Organisations will be retained for at least the next 12 months. Their role is increasingly focussed upon supporting people in financial difficulty
- A hotel in Scarborough is being used as a dispersal centre for people who have crossed the Channel and are seeking asylum. The Home Office plays the lead role in the management of the hotel and the resettlement programme. There are some concerns about an associated increase in community tensions locally.

The update provided by County Councillor Patrick Mulligan is as summarised below:

- The Council is working closely with schools to help ensure that they continue to stay open and that any disruption to children's education is minimised
- Testing, social distancing and masks remain in use at schools
- Clean air machines are being applied for through the Government scheme
- It is too early to know what the impact of the pandemic will be upon staff absences in schools.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE thanked the Executive members for their updates and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

148 County Council Budget 2022/23 - Briefing presentation by the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources, North Yorkshire County Council

Considered -

A presentation by Gary Fielding (Corporate Director - Strategic Resources) regarding the Council's budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast.

Some of the key points highlighted in the presentation by Gary Fielding are as summarised below:

- A general working balance of £27million was available for emergencies, such as dealing with the pandemic and finding capacity to deal with local government reorganisation
- Use of reserves can be a sensible approach as it helps to protect services in the longer term
- There is a difficult decision to be made regarding the level of Council Tax increase that is set. Large increases can have a negative impact upon household income but help protect services, particularly adult social care
- Inflationary pressures are significant and have been taken into account as part of the budget. These pressures are not a uniform 5% across the board but vary widely. For example, the price of gas has increased by 55.8%
- The inflationary increases has had a positive impact on the Council's investments. The Council had no capital debt on variable interest rates so an increase in inflation would have no impact on such debt
- The financial pressures caused by the pandemic are long term. In addition to the need

to respond to the pandemic, there is significant pent up demand for services that will have to be met over the next years

- The 2023-24 annual budget will be determined by the new administration. It will include a savings plan and Council Tax harmonisation will be a key element
- The Government Settlement is welcomed but there remain some significant cost pressures, including: inflation; pay claims; National Insurance contributions; home to school transport; and hospital discharge into social care services.
- The reform of adult social care funding is needed but will be complex
- Schools funding in the constituency area remains an issue, as the national funding formula does not take into account the issues facing rural schools. The Department for Education are being lobbied and have been receptive to the arguments put forward.

There followed a discussion with the key points as summarised below:

- The catchment areas of the secondary schools in the constituency area needed to be reviewed
- The fall in the school roll for many primary schools in the area is having a significant impact upon their financial position
- School closures can have a negative long term impact upon an area, as it discourages young families from moving into the area
- The roll out of free WiFi in the area was welcomed but a query raised as to whether that funding could have been better spent on tackling 'not-spots' and areas of poor reception in the county.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE thanked Gary Fielding for attending and answering the questions of the committee.

Resolved –

- a. That the presentation on the annual budget be noted and the comments of the committee members be taken into account in the final version of the budget paper that goes to the Executive for recommendation on to the meeting of the County Council on 16 February 2022.

149 Committee work programme

Considered -

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

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

Resolved –

- a. That the committee work programme be reviewed by members.

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

There was none.

Meeting ended at 11:40am.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SKIPTON & RIPON AREA CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE – 10th March 2022
Stronger Communities and Community Response to COVID19 Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on the Stronger Communities Programme and the support provided to and by local communities in response to the COVID19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, and an overview of progress made in the Skipton & Ripon Constituency area.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In March 2020, the Stronger Communities Team were tasked with developing and mobilising community support infrastructure in response to the COVID19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. With a national lockdown imminent and those classified as clinically extremely vulnerable being advised to shield, it was imperative that a 'safety net' of community based support and assistance was in place for people who did not have friends, family or neighbours to call upon.
- 2.2 Working with 23 key trusted voluntary sector partners across the County and drawing upon the existing, sound working relationships in place, the community support infrastructure was mobilised in four days. The 23 Community Support Organisations (CSOs) were requested to act as the single point of contact within a locality, and in conjunction with local networks, commenced coordination of a variety of volunteer led support services. This included the collection and delivery of shopping and prescriptions, caring for pets, offering regular social contact by telephone, and acting as a local agent for the COVID-19 Self-Isolation Grant. The CSO also provided support to local networks and action groups (for example Mutual Aid Groups) that had come together to assist in their communities, providing information, advice and guidance to ensure that all activity was delivered as safely as possible for both the volunteer and the beneficiary.
- 2.3 In addition to this, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) extended opening hours to include weekends and public holidays to ensure that support was in place 7 days per week between 8.00am and 5.30pm. This has been primarily delivered by the Customer Service Centre and Stronger Communities, in conjunction with Team North Yorkshire Volunteers and NHS Responder Volunteers where appropriate.
- 2.4 Alongside intensive support from their local Delivery Manager, funding has also been provided to all CSOs, using national Covid outbreak management grants, which has enabled them to continue to operate and has ensured that support has been available to residents throughout the pandemic. Although the generic support offer is universally available across the County, the model of delivery varies dependent on local need and community assets available. A number of CSOs have evolved their delivery model; either reconfiguring their services, or developing new ways of working in order to continue to provide support within the varying levels of restrictions we have seen over the last two years.

2.5 Despite the ever-changing landscape, community support infrastructure through the CSO network has remained in place since March 2020. Following the national lifting of restrictions on 24 February regarding self-isolation requirements discussions are in place with the CSOs regarding either winding down or scaling back their pandemic response activities. This may see some CSOs winding down their pandemic services in a managed way however a majority are interested in building on the successful model and developing it further as an effective place based 'hub' that contributes to health and well-being services and pressures. Provision is in place to continue to work with the network of CSOs over this coming months to support them through this transition.

3.0 Community Support Organisation Performance (2021/22)

3.1 Since the mobilisation of the community support model in March 2020, the following activity has been recorded via the 23 CSOs across North Yorkshire to date, primarily facilitated by approximately 203,272 volunteer hours:

- 23,301 prescriptions delivered;
- 36,288 shopping deliveries made;
- 61,319 befriending calls and 33,990 phone check ins made;
- 17,311 transport requests fulfilled; and
- 48,923 meals delivered and 11,281 food parcels distributed.

3.2 As part of the community support offer, CSOs administer the Covid19 North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) grant; this was set up as a way of addressing emergency food and utility support needs for individuals and households isolating or shielding across North Yorkshire during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This financial year, the scheme has received 391 applications, and has approved 375 of these (96%), totalling £42,615 of expenditure.

3.3 In addition to this, Stronger Communities have distributed £119,599 in Covid19 Community Grants (to date in 2021/22). This investment has allowed communities and charities to respond to the needs of their communities during periods of heightened restrictions; examples of which have included support services to help people to self-isolate, have access to food and supplies, and stay connected to people through technology. Grants have also been used to support groups to re-open some services and activities where they were able to confidently operate in a Covid-safe and compliant way, helping people to regain confidence and independence, and to re-engage in their communities.

4.0 Covid19 Related Work

4.1 Sustainable Food Support

In 2020/21, the County Council was awarded £532,000 via the Defra Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential supplies to support those facing financial hardship because of the pandemic. 48 grants (investment of £277,000) were made available over two funding rounds, to further support and expand the direct

provision of food for people experiencing financial hardship. Additional capacity was also put in to Citizens Advice Mid North Yorkshire's Money and Benefits Advice Service and North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF).

In summer 2021, additional funding was secured to deliver the Food for the Future programme, which aims to embed local sustainable food support options, which also support beneficiaries to build their levels of confidence and independence. An additional 19 awards were made to voluntary and community sector partners across the County through this programme.

In order to better understand the food insecurity landscape in the region, Stronger Communities are currently scoping a joint piece of insight work with City of York Council. Initial discussions on this with Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and Hartlepower (a Hartlepool based organisation currently developing and delivering a similar piece of research) have taken place and further work will commence shortly.

4.2 Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Stronger Communities continue to lead on the delivery of this programme, which was 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 has been undertaken by North Yorkshire Together who in conjunction with a network of locally placed clubs and community organisations, deliver a range of enriching activities over holiday periods. This is alongside a host of online resources being made available for families to enjoy. Over the festive break, 2221 children benefitted from activities delivered through the Programme.

In December, the Department of Education confirmed funding for the continuation of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (FEAST) until March 2025 and plans are underway with Children and Young People's Early Help team to deliver the programme over the next three years.

4.3 Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund administered by The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) aims to assist households who may need support with food, energy and essential living costs whilst the economy recovers from the pandemic. NYCC was allocated £3.54 million to provide support over the winter period (from October 2021 to March 2022), which is structured in to four main areas of provision in North Yorkshire:

- E-Voucher Direct Award – a total investment of £2.68million to make a £275 shopping voucher available to all households in receipt of means tested Council Tax Relief (CTR) with a child under 19.
- Food Bank Winter Support Fund – an investment of £145,000 to 14 organisations across the County to increase the capacity of food supply to those in need.
- Warm and Well – an additional £220,000 for Warm and Well to provide energy top up vouchers / direct supplier payments to those in need.

- North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) – increasing the NYLAF budget by £250,000 in order to uplift the number of applications to a maximum of four until the end of March 2022.

Interim monitoring undertaken in January 2022 showed that 12,083 households have benefitted from the various support strands of the Household Support Fund so far.

4.4 Digital Inclusion

Work on Reboot North Yorkshire continues to progress with a particular focus on enlisting 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. Working with internal colleagues and external partners, 415 devices have been gifted to socially isolated individuals to date, with an additional 200 devices distributed to school children.

Reboot North Yorkshire continues to work closely with Citizens Online (CO) and their Digital Champion Coordinator for North Yorkshire. The partnership with CO continues to grow and has been extended for another 12 months until Feb 2023.

5.0 **Wider Stronger Communities Programme Work**

5.1 Children and Young People

The Stronger Communities programme, in conjunction with Children and Young People Service (CYPS), continue to lead and coordinate the school readiness pilot 'Grow and Learn' in Ryedale and Scarborough, with 50 small scale grants awarded to date this year.

The team also continues to work with the Early Help team from CYPS to develop and deliver a project that seeks to grow community capacity by working alongside and with our communities to stimulate, support and develop activities that enable children, young people and their families to be happy, healthy and achieving. In autumn 2021, Stronger Communities supported the launch of CYPS' Get Going Grant, seeking expressions of interest from community-based groups to deliver activities for young people, or families with young children.

5.2 Health and Wellbeing

Stronger Communities continues to strengthen its relationships with NHS partners and has administered a range of NHS mental health grants for the last two years, including grass roots suicide prevention, a self-harm co-design project and postvention support. The Suicide Prevention Grants Programmes for the Humber, Coast and Vale Integrated Health Care System, and Harrogate and Craven were launched by the team last year; 43 grants were awarded in early 2022, 32 of which are in North Yorkshire. The programme is also supporting the transformation of Community Mental Health programme in partnership with North Yorkshire and Vale of York CCGs.

Stronger Communities also continues to develop strong working relationships with social care colleagues, with sustained involvement in the Health and Adult Services (HAS) Transformation Programme.

5.3 Capacity Building

In parallel to COVID-19 community response work, the Stronger Communities Programme has continued to strengthen local community assets and infrastructure; this has included continuing to encourage relationships and collaborations between voluntary and community sector organisations as well as stabilising, and / or building capacity within them if required. Since March 2020, the Programme has provided specialist support to assist 14 VCSEs with work areas such as restructuring their organisations, re-modelling their services and providing additional capacity for fundraising; all of which have been crucial in trying to ensure their future sustainability, in one of the most challenging times for the sector in recent years.

6.0 **Planning for 2022/23**

6.1 Independent Evaluation

The Stronger Communities Programme is subject to a 5-year independent evaluation, conducted by Skyblue Research. Evaluation of the CSOs has now been encompassed within this, alongside continuing to develop our 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 has been accelerated by the needs presented by Covid19 and the mobilisation of the CSOs; the fourth phase of evaluation with CSO volunteers commenced in late 2021, with some dedicated volunteer focus groups anticipated to take place in summer 2022.

7.0 **Local Area Information**

7.1 Craven CSO Data

Craven CSO's are:

- Grassington Hub
- Skipton Step into Action
- Age UK North Craven.

They are relatively small organisations, each with a large volunteer base and few staff and are rooted in their community, with connections to other community groups across their patch. They have worked collaboratively and supportively together, sharing information, skills and resources, including volunteer training sessions.

The data below is broadly comparable with Richmondshire and Ryedale, where there is a similar population size and geography to Craven.

In 21/22:

- 305 people who identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable were supported
- 2,117 people were provided with practical and emotional support
- 2,955 befriending calls were made
- 624 food shops and 186 prescriptions were delivered
- 515 people were provided with advice and guidance
- 366 people had help with transport, and 85 people were taken to vaccination clinics

- 729 people had help with pet care / dog walking
- 61 food parcels were delivered and 484 meals delivered
- 912 volunteers provided a total of 10,015 volunteer hours.

More recently, the CSO's have been supporting people to regain their confidence and independence by volunteers accompanying people to go shopping, get their prescription, walk the dog and join social activities in their community. Some people have required just a little support to become more independent again, and smaller numbers of people have, and continue to, require support that is more intensive.

Numbers of volunteers dropped as people returned to work, and as people got Covid, but new people have subsequently volunteered, and volunteer capacity appears stable and sufficient.

Key areas of note: achievements, challenges, areas of focus in 22/23.

In January 2022, Age UK North Yorkshire & Darlington made the difficult decision to close its Skipton office and leave Craven. The organisation had held the HAS Wellbeing & Prevention contract to deliver a Good Friends Scheme. The departure enabled a fresh approach to be piloted in Craven, based on the CSO model and local networks, and the three CSO's are collaboratively delivering a Craven Healthy, Independent and Connected project for the whole of Craven district. This project is an exciting combination of direct delivery of activity together with working with and enabling local grassroots support and delivery, using the knowledge and relationships that has been strengthened during Covid.

A key achievement has been the recognition of Skipton Step into Action as a significant local asset by other voluntary sector colleagues, who supported the organisation to secure winter pressures health funding to deliver out of hours support via a wellbeing café in Skipton.

Nidderdale, Masham & Ripon CSO areas

The CSO's are:

- Nidderdale Plus
- Masham Community Office
- Ripon Community House.

These organisations have worked collaboratively across their local areas other voluntary organisations and community groups sharing information and utilising local assets to meet local need.

The data below captures the work of the CSO's and the wider family of organisations they are collaborating with;

In 21/22:

- 2,511 people were provided with advice and guidance

- 841 individuals were provided with practical and emotional support
- 2,100 befriending calls were made
- 1,050 food shops
- 416 prescriptions were delivered
- 1,255 people had help with transport, and 85 people were taken to vaccination clinics
- 385 people had help with pet care / dog walking
- 207 food parcels were delivered and 939 meals delivered
- 1,005 volunteers provided 9005 volunteer hours including volunteer support to vaccination clinics across the Harrogate District.

More recently, the CSO's have been supporting people to regain their confidence and independence.

Numbers of volunteers have remained consistent, some have returned to work whilst new volunteers have subsequently volunteered to support the vaccination clinics.

Key areas of note; achievements, challenges, areas of focus.

Since January 2022 the CSO's have collaborated to work in partnership with the Yorkshire Health Network to supply volunteers to all the vaccination clinics across the district. This has involved a considerable commitment from the organisations and their volunteers providing on average 28 volunteers for each session. The organisations are proud to have supported the national vaccination programme.

Demand for Community Transport has increased throughout the last year, enabling access to vaccination clinics and health appointments. There was a significant increase in requests for this service between; Dec 21 – Feb 22 because of reduced capacity in the Passenger Transport services provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service coupled with high levels of self-isolation, there was at this time a significant strain put on providers. These capacity issues eased when army resources were deployed within the Yorkshire Ambulance service. Demand for community transport services remains high.

The Stronger Communities programme has awarded £3982 in Small Grants to support recovery activities as lockdown measures have eased, the national shielding programme came to an end and voluntary sector organisations and community groups restarted their services in a safe way. These have enabled people to feel confident, to re-connect with their communities, and to start to regain their independence.

8.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

Marie-Ann Jackson
 Head of Stronger Communities
 North Yorkshire County Council
 1st March 2022

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Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

10 March 2022

Report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities, NYCC

Carbon Reduction Plan Implementation Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the NYCC Carbon Reduction Plan and examples of activity from the Skipton and Ripon area.

2.0 Key Background Information

- 2.1 The Council committed to an aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by, or as close to, 2030 in July 2019 and its Carbon Reduction Plan was agreed in July 2021.
- 2.2 An officer group - the Beyond Carbon Board - meets regularly to review the Plan and to develop proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across its own estate and operations. This focusses on:
- Reducing our CO₂e emissions, energy and water consumption.
 - Minimising waste - reduce, re-use and recycle.
 - Rationalising our property and managing our land sustainably.
 - Procuring in a way which balances economic, social and environmental factors, and seeks to increase social value.
 - Ceasing unnecessary travel and reducing the impact and cost of necessary travel.
 - Supporting and encouraging our staff, schools and residents to take similar actions.
- 2.3 In addition, NYCC is working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver the ambition for York and North Yorkshire to be the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040. These ambitions were endorsed by the leaders of the councils of York and North Yorkshire through the submission of devolution asks in December 2020 aimed at achieving a carbon negative region.
- 2.4 From April 2022 this plan will be integrated into the Council Plan and reviewed annually. Progress will be regularly monitored as part of our corporate performance management framework including quarterly performance reports to Management Board and Executive.

3.0 Delivering carbon reduction ambitions

- 3.1 NYCC has undertaken many initiatives to deliver its carbon reduction ambitions both as specific projects and as a 'business as usual' approach embedding carbon reduction into everyday decisions. The following are examples:
- i. The Beyond Carbon Board continues to develop our approach to climate change and deliver low carbon projects for our operational activity. To support co-

ordination of this essential work, NYCC has recently appointed a Climate Change Policy Officer, within the Strategy and Performance team.

- ii. Property upgrades are essential to decarbonising heat and buildings:
 - SmartCampus proposals for County Hall to integrate energy generation and storage and low/zero carbon heat options are being worked into the County Hall master plan.
 - Over £500K has been secured from Central Government to support decarbonisation of NYCC Property. Window replacement works have been funded by the Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme as well as funding to install air source heat pumps in three corporate properties. Schools in the area to benefit include:
 - Christ Church CE VE Primary School, Skipton
 - Ingleton Primary School
 - Settle College
 - Sutton in Craven CPS
 - Ripon Grammar
- iii. Fleet: More recently, the Beyond Carbon Board recommended NYCC Carbon Reduction pump priming funding be awarded to two EV pilot programmes – to support home charging installation for domiciliary care workers to charge NYCC provided EVs as part of their job roles and secondly, to start to replace the ‘pool car’ fleet with EVs and to encourage services to trial the use of EVs to overcome ‘range anxiety’ in everyday use. Plans are being developed for EV Charging facilities at County Hall, Northallerton.
- iv. Reducing emissions from our consumption of goods, works and services:
 - A West, York and North Yorkshire Sustainable Procurement Toolkit has been completed to help commissioners and procurement officers utilise low carbon and circular economy procurement techniques.
 - North Yorkshire Highways have produced a carbon management plan setting out an approach to manage and minimise whole life carbon, to align with the County Council’s aspiration net zero date of 2030.
- v. Staff training: NYCC has worked in partnership with the Y&NY LEP and Local Authorities to develop a climate change awareness module for the Learning Zone platform to ensure all staff can understand the implications of their everyday decisions on greenhouse gas emissions.
- vi. In supporting residents and businesses to decarbonise, we have also ensured a focus on the ‘just transition’ – to ensure that all members of society are able to participate and benefit from activities.
 - The EV Infrastructure Rollout Strategy is currently in development and we are working with partners across the County. It is expected to be complete in June 2022 and deliver a 10 year plan. This highlights rural areas where commercial provision of public access chargers is less likely.
 - Through the Government’s Sustainable Warmth Programme NYCC has been successful, with three district councils; Scarborough, Ryedale and Hambleton, in bidding for nearly £4m to support low-income households heated by mains gas. For the Skipton and Ripon areas, this process was led by City of York and Leeds City Region and is delivered through the

Better Homes Yorkshire partnership. [Better Homes Yorkshire - Insulation, Heating, Renewables](#)

- Encouraging a greater number of public transport trips, NYCC has piloted the 'Yorbus' scheme around Ripon, Masham and Bedale. The YorBus project won the 'Improving Customer Experience' award at the Innovation Awards ceremony. [YorBus - Connecting North Yorkshire | North Yorkshire County Council](#). Following the positive reception of the pilot and the higher than expected take up, the project board are now in the early stages of considering rolling the service out more widely to other parts of North Yorkshire. This is subject to securing sufficient funding and an amount has been requested from the Department for Transport via the Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.
 - To enable 'active travel' (cycling and walking), Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plans are in development phase for Ripon and Skipton.
 - Officers from a range of NYCC services have been working closely with partners to support Ripon Renewal Town Masterplanning exercise (led by Harrogate Borough Council) which has included climate change mitigation and adaptation at the heart of its proposals.
 - The County Council's Energy Team were successful in winning the 'Best Climate Action Initiative' award at the National Association for Public Service Excellence in September 2021 for their work with schools.
- vii. Carbon capture and storage: Carbon sequestration (locking away greenhouse gases in trees and soils) is promoted through our partnerships work with White Rose Forest and Yorkshire Peat Partnerships. NYCC is in the final bid stage for £30K for a Treeplanting Supply Chain study which will look at the all the elements required to reach carbon sequestration targets (land, tree supply, forest management) and how these can benefit the NY economy.

4.0 County and region wide activities

- 4.1 Working with our neighbouring authorities and wider regional networks is an essential part of the climate change agenda, to collaborate at scale and avoid duplication.
- 4.2 We are engaged on County and region wide activities such as the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and with the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership on the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative, Local Area Energy Plan and 'Greener Fairer Stronger Economic Plan' which are in development stages. These documents will be instrumental in investment decisions for low carbon infrastructure and devolution plans, highlighting areas for economic opportunity and investment. We continue to work closely with the National Parks and City of York on this agenda.
- 4.3 We are also working collaboratively with the 7 District Councils on ensuring that Local Government Reorganisation workstreams have climate change agenda considerations included in their 'business as usual' as well as transformational services plans. Through this partnership activity we will be developing climate change policy for the new Authority to consider.

5.0 Human Resources

- 5.1 There are no human resources implications of this report.

6.0 Legal

6.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

7.0 Equalities

7.1 There are no equality impacts of this report.

8.0 Environmental Impacts/Benefits including Climate Change Impact Assessment:

8.1 The report is for information and outlines the impact of service delivery on climate change implications.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 NYCC is making progress towards its carbon reduction ambitions. The area of Skipton and Ripon presents both strengths and weaknesses in terms of climate change.

- a. The area is essential to climate change mitigation and adaptation locally and nationally through its capacity for carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.
- b. Its rurality is reflected in its high carbon emitting housing stock, distance to services and facilities (thereby dis-incentivising active travel), energy grid capacity and challenging access to public transport.

9.2 It is critical then that that the 'just climate transition' is delivered in this area, so that economic and community opportunities that are available across the climate change agenda are exploited and delivered effectively.

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 To note the contents of this report.

Author – Jos Holmes, Climate Policy Officer, Strategy and Performance.
Date – 01.03.2022

Background papers relied upon in the preparation of this report: - None

For further information contact the author of the report

Key Implications

Local Member

If any particular Ward(s) are affected, state these. If none, say none.
It could be that it is an issue that affects all Wards. In which case tick box

All

North Yorkshire County Council Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee 2pm 10 February 2022

Committee work programme

1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

2.0 Remit of the committee

2.1 The Area Constituency Committees:

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

3.0 Recommendations

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

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
28 February 2022

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

**Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee
Work Programme 2021 to 2022 – dated 28 February 2022**

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

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

10am on 2 September 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting

Committee discussion with local MP	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency
Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Highways	Operation of the permit scheme for highways works and the quality of work undertaken by utilities companies – six month update – Business and Environment Services, NYCC
Community safety	Overview by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner – Philip Allott
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area

10am on 16 December 2021 – live broadcast remote meeting

Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Sustainable schools	Annual Education Report – Children and Young People Services, NYCC
Rural Commission	Overview of Report and Recommendations
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area

10am on 7 January 2022 – live broadcast remote meeting

Budget consultation	An opportunity for committee members to review the annual council budget and its implications for the area covered by the committee, ahead of the Executive meeting in January 2022 and County Council in February 2022.
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2pm on 10 March 2022 – live broadcast meeting

Committee discussion with local MP	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency
Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area
Climate Change and the environment	Update on progress with the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan
Petition on road safety	Sutton Lane, Petition for Footway and Road Safety Measures – update following the committee meeting on 16 December 2021
Stronger Communities	Stronger Communities update - Stronger Communities Programme, NYCC

10am on 7 June 2022

Committee discussion with local MP	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency
Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area
Schools	Regulation of and support for home schooling – Children and Young People Services, NYCC
Transport	Digital Demand Responsive Bus Service – Business and Environment Services, NYCC
Governance	Appointments to committees and outside bodies – Legal and Democratic Services, NYCC

10am on 1 September 2022	
Committee discussion with local MP	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency
Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area
Community safety	Overview by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
10am on 15 December 2022	
Committee discussion with local MP	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency
Executive Member update	An opportunity for committee members to discuss issues of key concern in the constituency committee area
Sustainable schools	Annual Education Report – Children and Young People Services, NYCC
Rural Commission	Update on the progress with the implementation of the report recommendations
Youth Council	An opportunity for a member of the Youth Council to engage with the committee on key issues for young people in the area

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 Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
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